

# SCOTT PLACE PLAY EQUIPMENT REPAIRS

## AGENDA ITEM No. 11

---

**MEETING:** RECREATION COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024

**REPORTED BY:** GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES CO-ORDINATOR

---

### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to request an additional budget approval to repair and renovate the large Kompan 'Galaxy' climbing frame unit located in Scott Place Play Area.

### 2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Kompan Galaxy climbing frame unit in Scott Place was installed in 2006, and replacement is not planned in the Asset Management Plan until 2031/32.

2.2 As part of the regular maintenance and inspections of the play equipment it was recently highlighted that the rubber mounts, joining the posts together, were deteriorating.



2.3 During periods of warmer weather the rubber becomes tacky. There is evidence on the post where the rubber has stuck to children's fingers and has been 'smeared' onto the posts.

2.4 The deterioration of these rubber joints does not currently pose a safety issue but is unsightly and may cause staining to the clothes of users of the equipment.

### **3.0 Current Situation**

- 3.1 The play equipment provider, Kompan, was contacted for their advice as to a potential solution.
- 3.2 The local representative attended the site to see the issues first hand and took a series of photographs to pass on their technical team.
- 3.3 The response from their technical team was, *“yes, from time to time we do see a similar problem...”* and went on to say, *“...the root of this problem is WEAR AND TEAR, the upper hard rubber layer was removed and the rubber under that is soft and can (melt) like is shown on provided photos. The ONLY solution here is replacement.”*
- 3.4 The technical team offered two remedies to the issues: -
1. The whole unit to be stripped down, so that replacement connectors can be fitted, at a cost of £5,212.67.
  2. The connectors to be ground off and then replacements can be installed in half sections that are bolted together, at a cost of £10,549.14
- 3.5 Replacement of these connectors would extend the expected life of the equipment beyond the anticipated renewal date in 2031/32.
- 3.6 While Option 2 will save approximately one day in labour charges when completing the tasks, the separated connecting balls are £481 each, which is 500% of the cost of the standard fittings included in Option 1. The only advantage to Option 2 is that if the connectors were to fail/deteriorate, replacement connectors could be installed by the Council’s own staff.
- 3.7 Due to the additional cost of the separated connectors it is felt that any advantage to Option 2 would not be financially viable, and given the remaining life expectancy of the play area as a whole, Option 1 should be the preferred option.

### **4.0 Policy Implications**

- 4.1 This complies with the Council’s Aims and Targets No. 2: -  
*“To Manage the Council’s Finances and Assets in a Responsible Manner”.*

### **5.0 Staffing Implications**

- 5.1 None.

### **6.0 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 As highlighted above, the quotes for the repairs are as follows:

Option 1: £5,212.67  
Option 2: £10,549.14

- 6.2 The cost of these repairs far exceeds the existing Play Equipment Maintenance Revenue Budget of £4,250, with spend against this budget at the end of July already at £1,622. It should also be noted that it is still early in the financial year therefore it is very likely that there will be additional spend from this budget before the end of March 2025.

- 6.3 The full cost of the repairs identified is therefore an unbudgeted cost.
- 6.4 If it is agreed to progress with the repairs, the Council would need to agree an additional capital allocation to the value of the repairs. This would need to be referred to and approved by the Policy and Resources Committee.

## **7.0 Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 7.1 None.

## **8.0 Equal Opportunity Implications**

- 8.1 None

## **9.0 Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change Implications**

- 9.1 None.

## **10.0 Risk Assessment**

- 10.1 It is not considered that the matter contained in this report poses a risk to health and safety of staff or to the financial or public standing of the Council to a degree that a risk assessment should be appended to this report.

## **11.0 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

- 11.1 Is any personal or sensitive data required for this proposal which may have any implications for GDPR? **NO**

## **12.0 Recommendations**

- 12.1 It is recommended that: -

- i) Members receive the report,
- ii) Members consider the options for the repairs and agree to support Option 1 as highlighted in paragraph 3.4.
- iii) Members consider the funding of the cost of the repairs and agree to refer and additional capital budget request to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

**Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator**