

DECISION NO:	
---------------------	--

For Member Services use only

Concurrence No:	066364
-----------------	--------

APPROVAL FOR ALLOCATION OF CAPITAL GRANT TO FUND A PROJECT

ACTION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE (Cabinet Minute 8: 2016)

PROJECT: Old Highway Outdoor Gym Equipment

In February 2019 the Council received funding of £15,188 from the government to be used to undertake remedial work and renovation of existing parks to enhance the green space available to their local communities.

Some examples given included:

- Renovating children's play areas, particularly where they have fallen into disuse or disrepair or where health and safety may be an issue;
- Replacing essential footpaths and benches that are potentially dangerous or represent a health and safety risk;
- Undertaking essential improvements to infrastructure – including the installation of gates and other barriers to address health and safety concerns;
- Improving areas in parks which are known to attract antisocial behaviour, graffiti or present other community safety concerns;
- Improving access to parks for all sections of the community – including disabled people;
- Improvements to maximise opportunities for local people to take part in physical activities – including multi-use games areas, improvements to playing fields and increasing opportunities for sports;
- Creating inclusive spaces that encourage people to interact and meet, contributing to community cohesion.

The grant has been put into Capital Grants Unapplied whilst a plan for spending it was formulated. There is currently £9,960.50 of the grant that remains unspent.

As part of this programme provision of adult outdoor gym equipment at Old Highway Recreation Ground in the Age of Play area, could be installed.

Park gym equipment has risen in popularity because it provides a wide range of benefits for individuals, communities and the park itself.

By providing park gym equipment, it can help to encourage people to live a healthier lifestyle, by exercising in an enjoyable, open-air environment.

Free park gym equipment also helps to encourage those who have never exercised before to give it a go, without having to commit themselves to a gym subscription fee. Outdoor gym equipment is accessible to all, and is easy to use without

supervision from fitness experts or trainers.

Outdoor fitness equipment for adults is also a way to increase social interaction and encourage friendships. Encouraging friendship is beneficial to communities, and helps to make the area a friendlier place to live.

Park gym equipment promotes the growth of a healthy community, encouraging fitness and social interaction to create a beneficial environment for all.

Park gym equipment is specifically designed and manufactured to be extremely durable to the rigours of outdoor life. This means it is resilient to the wear and tear that comes with constant use, as well as adverse weather conditions, including rain, snow, wind and heat.

As a result of being highly durable, outdoor fitness equipment is extremely eco-friendly, as it is very low maintenance and requires very little human resources to run. The materials used, including steel, will last for many years, and are recyclable when they eventually need to be replaced. There will be no additional revenue costs associated with this installation.

Outdoor fitness equipment also requires no electricity to run, meaning it has a very low carbon impact.

Park gym equipment has a wide range of benefits for individuals, the wider community, and the park itself, and makes a fantastic addition to any modern park environment.

These works were procured using the SupplyHerts portal and will be awarded to Wicksteed.

BUDGET ALLOCATION REQUESTED: £9,936.00

FUNDING AVAILABLE: £9,960.50

(To be completed by the Group Management Accountant)

Financial Services Manager

Date

Director of Finance

Date

THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE

Officer decisions are available for public inspection, both at the Borough Offices and on the Council's website, for a period of six years after the decision is made. Background papers are available for four years.

