

**To:** Policy Resources and Personnel Committee

**From:** Simon Llewellyn, Maintenance and Works Supervisor

**Date:** 04 August 2021

**Subject:** To consider removal of play area equipment at Wessex Close and at Great Elms Close

### **1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To inform Councillors of the condition of playground equipment at the above sites.

### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 That Council agree to remove one piece of play equipment at Wessex Close and one piece of equipment at Great Elms Close

### **3. Background and information**

3.1 Wessex Close play area – the wooden panelling, steps and deck of this equipment are deteriorating rapidly, resulting in an unrepairable product in a safe and compliant manner. The only way to extend the life span of this equipment would be to completely dismantle, discard all wooden items and replace with new at a cost of £1730.84, then to re-erect.

3.2 The equipment at Wessex Close was installed in 2008; it is the only item of play equipment on site. If renewed then it is considered the replacement may have the same life span, meaning that this replacement cost will be incurred again.

3.3 Great Elms Close - safety surface is a continual issue with ground movement due to water retention and old existing rubber tiles warping creating trip hazards. The only way to eradicate this problem would be to remove the existing rubber tiles and dispose (£270) and install a new substrate with a rubber mulch safety surface at a cost of £90pm2 (total £1620) total works expenditure £1890.

3.4 Installation date of the play area equipment at Great Elms Close is unknown.

3.5 The annual budget for play area maintenance is £4000.00; this needs to cover work that arises from the annual play area inspection report.

### **4. Reasons for recommendations**

4.1 Removal needs to take place urgently due to the poor condition of the equipment and the absence of cost-effective repairs.

4.2 Minute 20/49 agreed by Council September 2020 states that all current expenditure on non-essential work related to play areas is placed on hold until the financial impact of Covid - 19 on the council's budget can be fully assessed.