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## **CRANNAFORD PLAY PARK – PATH REMEDIATION**

### **Introduction**

The Committee considered path remediation at Crannaford Play Area at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023, Minute A/23/35 refers. Gravel is migrating from the perimeter footpaths onto the wet pour safer surface and following the Committee's recommendation advice was sought from the play equipment contractor but the response was limited and did not provide a solution to the issue.

### **Background**

The Committee will recall that the surface installed at Crannaford Park is Wet Pour. The wet pour surfacing, being a blended mix of rubber granules bound as a continuous surface, free of seams and joints is regarded as one of the safest surfaces used in play area design.

The perimeter footpath to the play area is made up of 10mm gravel mixed with 6mm down to dust. The gravel is migrating onto the playing surface and over time is likely to cause premature deterioration of the safer surface as the gravel becomes imbedded in the wet pour. This could potentially reduce the overall standard and performance of the play area surface.

The Council's Ground Maintenance and Landscaping Contractor were consulted on the options for remediation and these were reported to the Meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> May together with likely costs for their proposed sweeping of the area. The Committee expressed concern that this may not fully remediate the issue.

Further monitoring of the play area shows that gravel continues to migrate, not entirely by pedestrian traffic, but it has resulted in accumulation of gravel beneath the play equipment and up onto play surfaces and the litter bins.

The Committee previously deferred a decision on the remediation subject to advice from the play park contractor, however since this did not provide a solution, further advice was sought from the Council's Ground Maintenance and Landscaping Contractor as to a practical way forward.

At a recent site meeting the Council's Landscaping contractor demonstrated the impact of the gravel migration and provided clarification and further explanation on the recommendations for remediation. Members are invited to reconsider the options for remediation in light of the updated position.

### **Options**

1. The aim would be to try and stop 10mm gravel migrating on to the playing surface by removing the larger loose gravel. This would be carried out by sweeping the gravel from the wet pour play surface and sweep the paths to remove the loose 10mm gravel.

The extent of the works would be to at least 3 metres beyond the boundary of the wet pour surface. Having removed the 10mm gravel the paths would be topped with a fine 6mm dust and compacted.

It was noted that potentially the area may need to be swept twice, the price includes the second sweeping. As part of the contractor's weekly maintenance any dust that continues to migrate onto the play area surface would be blown back to the paths. Since the works now include further remediation they are subject to a revised quotation which will follow and be reported to members at the Committee Meeting.

2. An alternative would be to lower the path and resurface with tarmac. However this will not allow for shrinkage between the tarmac and wet pour over time and a gap will appear between the two surfaces. This is not recommended as a viable solution as it presents the risk of a trip hazard.

### **Recommendation**

**To approve the remediation of the perimeter footpath at Crannaford Play Park and instruct the Council's Ground Maintenance and Landscaping Contractor to carry out the sweeping of loose gravel and replacement with finer compacted dust as presented in Option 1 above, the revised cost *to be advised*.**