

The Hillingdon Council Chrysalis Scheme

Committee name	Residents' Services Select Committee
Officer reporting	Neil O'Connor / Natasha Norton, Transport & Projects
Papers with report	Appendices - Chrysalis articles, Chrysalis criteria.
Ward	All

HEADLINES

An overview of the Council's Chrysalis scheme

The Chrysalis scheme was established on 15 February 2000 following a decision of the Policy Committee at that time. Each year a set amount is allocated to the Chrysalis Scheme. Applicants can apply for anywhere between £5000 and £100,000, provided the application meets the criteria clearly outlined on the webpage.

At the end of the calendar year, the Cabinet Member is presented with the complete list of applications, and from that will select which projects they wish to proceed with in the next financial year. The Transport and Projects Community Officers are responsible for managing the Chrysalis scheme, from receiving the applications to completing the project.

The current Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Scheme is Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Community & Environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Residents' Services Select Committee notes the information provided and submits any comments to the Cabinet Member for consideration.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The information found in this report is to assist the Select Committee in obtaining a clear understanding of what the Chrysalis scheme is and how it works.

Introduction

The Chrysalis scheme, created 25 years ago, provides one-off capital funding for the improvement of Council-owned assets such as renovations of community facilities, parks improvements, and sporting facilities. The scheme currently distributes £1.5m, which can go anywhere across all areas of the Borough, giving residents the opportunity to create clean and attractive communities and assist the Council with meeting the Council Strategy 2022-2026. Around £12.5 million has been spent on improving Council assets since the Chrysalis Scheme

began 25 years ago.

Every year the Chrysalis Scheme is over subscribed. The list of projects presented to the Cabinet Member in 2024 was estimated at over £1.7million. In 2023 the projects were estimated at over £1.8 million. Since 2024, the Cabinet Member has allocated £1million to improve five parks per year across the Borough. This includes for example, replacing bins, benches and noticeboards, planting Spring flowering bulbs, resurfacing paths, and works specific to each individual site, such as refurbishing the bandstand at Barra Hall Park.

There can often be quite a variation between projects within the Chrysalis Scheme, with each one creating its own unique set of challenges. As well as working with residents and community groups, officers also need to work with a number of departments within the Council; this too adding to the complexities of the Chrysalis scheme. These departments can include; Green Spaces, Capital Programmes, Planning, Property Services and Highways.

Timeline

The Chrysalis scheme continually rolls, with applicants able to submit suggestions at any time. Work on projects takes place throughout the year. There are, however, key dates, which are outlined below:

- December - Applications are presented to the Cabinet Member.
- February - When selected applications are often announced.
- April - The start of the new financial year when work on the selected projects begins.
- Mid-Summer - Should the budget allow, the Cabinet Member is once again presented with the Chrysalis applications, to select further projects.
- March – The end of the financial year. Where possible the Council aims to complete the majority of projects by the end of March, (although this is not always possible.)

Promotion

Although the Chrysalis scheme is always oversubscribed, demonstrating its popularity, it is important to ensure the end results are showcased, thus promoting the scheme. Appendix 1 contains articles in Hillingdon People, highlighting the Chrysalis scheme and the many wonderful improvements made because of it. As well as using Hillingdon People, word of mouth is a powerful tool in promoting the Chrysalis scheme.

To assist those looking to submit an application, there is a simple one-off application form on the Council's website. The criteria are also listed there and are set out in Appendix 2 to this report.

Match funding

There are situations where projects are estimated at costing more than £100,000. In situations such as this match funding can be an option. An example of this is the resurfacing of the Green Spaces car park at Kings College Playing Fields. The project estimate came in at just over £174,000. Being £74,000 over the maximum that the Chrysalis scheme can offer, the only way to complete the work was to seek additional funding. This was achieved with the help of Eastcote

Hockey Club, who applied for £75,000 of HS2 funding. Officers worked closely with the hockey club manager throughout, and were successful in the bid, securing the extra funding. After nearly two years of work, the Council was able to transform what was an unsafe, unmarked gravel car park, full of potholes and suffering from constant pooling, into a newly resurfaced car park, which includes a drainage system, replacing the chain link fencing with hoop top railings and gate to match, and road markings to maximise the amount of parking available. This work not only improved the overall aesthetics of the site but also made it safer to use.



PERFORMANCE DATA

Below outlines what officers deem to be the key performance indicator data that is collected as part of the Chrysalis Scheme, starting from the application through to completion of the project. As each project is managed on a case-by-case basis, the type and amount of key performance indicator data can and does vary.

Pre-selection

Overall Budget

The overall budget allocated to the Chrysalis programme for the current financial year.

Application form

This contains contact details, location and description of the suggestion, and what benefits the suggestion would bring to the community. This information is recorded on a spreadsheet that continues to be updated throughout the process.

Applicant / stakeholder requirements

Meetings will be held with applicants, stakeholders, and contractors to go over the proposal, and plans will be written up. This information allows officers to get a thorough understanding of the applicant's expectations, what is realistically possible, and how the work will best be carried out.

Project budget estimate

Approximately, how much will the project cost, ensuring it is above the minimum £5K, and does not exceed the maximum £100K. We do ask applicants if they can provide a cost estimate; sometimes they have this information to hand. It is, however, not mandatory, and officers themselves will seek this information.

The above information will be used to create a PID (Project Initiation Document,) a briefing note that is presented to the Cabinet Member to help them with their selection.

Post Selection

The next section outlines the type of data that is recorded following the selection of the applications:

Quotations

How much will the project cost, to ensure it is kept within budget.

Timeframes

How long will the project take to complete, when can the work begin and when will it finish.

Invoice

The final invoice is used to keep an accurate budget.

updates / feedback

Throughout the process, any updates or feedback will be saved within the project folder. This could be at any time, and from any source. This feedback could be used to shape the current project, to help make future improvements to how we operate, or could simply be compliments on a job well done.

RESIDENT BENEFIT

The Chrysalis scheme provides those who are aged over 18, and live or work in Hillingdon Borough with an opportunity to apply for funding to improve Council owned assets.

Residents are encouraged to make suggestions for Chrysalis funding as the most effective way for local people to identify environmental and community safety projects, demonstrating how all residents can play an active part in decisions, making them proud to live in Hillingdon.

Around £12.5 million has been spent on improving Council assets across the Borough, with funding available ranging from £5,000 to £100,000.

Working towards the Council's vision of putting residents first, many of the Chrysalis projects meet the commitments of "The Strategy."

Provided the suggestion meets the criteria, which is clearly laid out on the web page just before the link to the application form, officers will do as much as they can to ensure the process is as simplistic as possible for the applicant. Some applicants have a connection to their suggestion, for example they might be a member of a community centre, meaning they can provide far greater detail, whereas others may have seen an asset they would like improved, such as their local playground. Overall, we aim to make the process as straightforward as possible, reducing the burden of responsibility on those applying for Chrysalis funding.

Following receipt of an application, various tasks need to be carried out before the PID is presented to the Cabinet Member. Each application is managed on a case-by-case basis. A non-exhaustive example of the types of tasks can be found below:

- checking on the logistics of the suggestion.
- liaising with other departments.
- holding meetings, internally and on site.
- sourcing quotes.
- drawing up plans.

Regarding those projects that are selected to progress with, once again the level of applicant involvement varies. Some applications require minimal applicant involvement, with officers completely managing the project themselves, whereas others may see the applicant taking full control, such as receiving a grant to manage the project themselves. In this case officers are still there to offer assistance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Each year a set amount is allocated to the Chrysalis scheme. Last year it was £1.5 million, with a proportion of this being spent on improving five parks. The year before it was £1million. As Chrysalis funding is Capital, the projects must go through the normal Governance process before

any work can commence.

As stated in the criteria, suggested projects must be no less than £5K and no more than £100K, except for exceptional proposals which in particular demonstrate a significant contribution towards the Council's 2030 carbon neutral commitment. In these circumstances the Cabinet Member would decide whether the application can be considered.

Applications must not create any additional on-going financial commitment from the Council.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

As Chrysalis funding is Capital, a Capital Release Report will be submitted to Legal Services for review and approval.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Chrysalis Articles in Hillingdon People

Appendix 2 – Chrysalis criteria

Appendix 1: Chrysalis articles in Hillingdon People:



IMPROVED The refurbished bandstand at Barra Hall Park

Enhancing your parks

Work has begun on a £1 million enhancement programme to deliver improvements to several green spaces across the borough.

In February last year, the council announced its intention to invest £1 million on a park enhancement programme as part of plans to mark the borough's Diamond Jubilee, which takes place next year.

The funding will be split across five green spaces with improvements across each site, including replacement waste bins, dog waste bins and benches, upgraded pathways and the planting of thousands of bulbs to create more than three square kilometres of daffodil and crocus displays each spring.

Other improvements will be tailored to the individual parks and are being finalised.

The five parks included in the programme are:

- 1 Barra Hall Park, Hayes
- 2 Bessingby Park, Eastcote
- 3 Churchfield Gardens, Ruislip
- 4 The Closes, West Drayton
- 5 Fasnidge Park, Uxbridge.

The first park to benefit from the new programme was Barra Hall Park, where the bandstand underwent a

full refurbishment, completed just in time for the Mayor's Picnic in the Park event in June.

Works were also undertaken to improve the adjacent sunken garden and plans are also being considered to demolish the old, closed toilet block building to return it to park space. Further improvements are being scoped and finalised.

Works as part of the park enhancement programme are set to get underway next at Bessingby Park.

This location is earmarked for a range of upgrades, including improvements to its pathways, more seating for visitors and new signage at the entrance.

At Fasnidge Park, the council is exploring a potential refurbishment of the outdoor gym that was installed in 2012, as well as moving some of the hanging basket poles which are currently obscured by trees to ensure their displays can be fully appreciated.

Works for the park enhancement programme are scheduled for completion by the end of the financial year.

Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services, said: "We're continuing to create a greener future for current and future generations of residents. Our park enhancement programme will further improve the experience for those visiting our parks and builds on the hard work we've established over the past decade to deliver some of the best parks in the country."

Improvements in numbers

Through the programme, the council will deliver:



Top spot for Green Flags

The council has received the most Green Flag Awards in the UK for its parks and green spaces for the twelfth year in a row.

The annual awards recognise parks with the highest standards for facilities, cleanliness and environmental friendliness.



Cllr Lavery and green spaces officers

Find your nearest park or discover new ones to explore at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/local-parks

A green and sustainable borough

September / October 2024

Enhancing your community facilities

Each year, the council invests £1 million into improving local community and leisure facilities through its Chrysalis scheme. Residents are encouraged to suggest refurbishment projects, such as path, playground and outdoor gym upgrades, community centre works and new sports facilities for all to enjoy.

During the 2023/24 financial year, the scheme has funded 17 projects, including improved allotment facilities at various locations across the borough, a new playground and outdoor gym for West Drayton and Yiewsley residents, and a refurbished car park at Kings College Playing Fields in Ruislip.

Playgrounds at Stockley Recreation Ground

Managed through the Chrysalis programme with funding from the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund, improvements were made to the play facilities at Stockley Recreation Ground by installing a family fun play area for younger children, and a new trim trail for older children to enjoy.

A play zone for infants and pre-schoolers has been installed which includes a set of swings, see-saw, roundabout and a multi-play area with a slide. Children can enjoy

imaginative play with colourful play panels featuring a shop front and a train, and the area has been fenced to offer peace of mind to parents and guardians.

Local resident, Amina Malik, said: "I live nearby, and this park is fantastic for my two-year-old daughter. I bring her here every day and the range of equipment is perfect for her age range."

Imtiaz Raja added: "The new playground flooring is a wonderful addition to the park as I know my children can enjoy themselves safely."

The existing play equipment for older children is still in good condition and an adventurous trim trail has been added to offer more variety. The playground facilities were opened on Wednesday 15 November by the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Shehryar Ahmad-Wallana, Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services, and ward councillors Jan Sweeting and Mohammed Shoful Islam.



Ivy Gutierrez, aged 7, at Stockley Recreation Ground

Stockley Country Park outdoor gym

The pre-existing outdoor gym at Stockley Country Park was unfortunately targeted with graffiti and vandalism, leaving most of the equipment damaged beyond repair.

The new outdoor gym area is larger than before and caters for a range of users, featuring robust equipment such as callisthenic bars, plyometric platforms, a balance beam and benches. There is also a dedicated cardiovascular zone and a running track around the gym.

Peter McCready, from West Drayton, said: "The outdoor gyms across Hillingdon are fantastic. It's great to hear that the one near me is being refurbished and I can't wait to use the new equipment."

The new facilities were completed in December.

Kings College Playing Fields

Eastcote Hockey and Badminton Club received £100,000 Chrysalis funding, in addition to £75,000 from HS2, to refurbish the car park at Kings College Playing Fields. Works will be carried out in the summer.

Rob Riddleston, Chairman of Eastcote Hockey Club, said: "The car park has fallen into a poor state of repair with the increasing numbers of leisure and sporting users of Kings College Playing Fields in recent years. In the winter and at times of high rainfall it becomes unusable and puts pressure on car parking elsewhere."

"This grant is fantastic news and will help the local community improve a rundown car park facility."

"We've been working in close cooperation with the council and are delighted with the award from HS2."

To suggest a community refurbishment project, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/chrysalis

Cllr Lavery said: "It was a pleasure to officially open the playgrounds at Stockley Recreation Ground and to meet the families who are already benefiting from the upgraded facilities."

"We are committed to creating safe and strong communities and these schemes do just that. Our Chrysalis fund empowers residents to put forward local improvement projects that matter to them and our alley gating scheme continues to keep residents safe."

"We will also soon be launching a £1 million park improvements scheme."

Protecting residents' alleyways from intrusion

Homes with access to private alleyways can sometimes be at risk of burglary, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour, so the council offers financial and administrative assistance to residents wishing to install their own vehicle and pedestrian gates.

The council's alley gating scheme has been running for nearly 20 years, and this year, we have invested more than £11,000 into installing three new lockable gates and three refurbished gates to enhance public safety.

In October, the council invested £2,573.55 (covering 90 per cent of the total cost) for the installation of a vehicle alley gate that would benefit and protect 11 households in Yeading from anti-social behaviour. Following multiple concerns

regarding graffiti, littering and burglary, **lead resident Cornel Hewey** applied for funding. Cornel said: "In addition to increased anti-social behaviour, vehicles were using our shared alleyway unauthorised, especially during term time as the alleyway is next to a school. We were eager for gates to be installed as it was becoming dangerous, and one of our neighbours' children was almost hit by a car driving down the alley."

"Since the gates have been installed, we have all felt much safer and this has added much more security to the properties that back onto the alleyway. The scheme has been a wonderful experience from the onset, and we are happy residents."



Find out more about the alley gating scheme at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/alleygatingscheme



Stockley Recreation Ground playground opening ceremony



Stockley Recreation Ground



Stockley Recreation Ground



Delivering improvements in a neighbourhood near you

In February, work completed at two playgrounds which were put forward for upgrades by residents as part of the council's Chrysalis programme. Find out more about these projects as well as the 11 new projects which will be funded in 2023/24.

The playgrounds at West End Road, Ruislip Gardens and Heathrow Close, West Drayton, underwent complete refurbishment totalling £190,000 last month. The playgrounds were officially opened on Tuesday 14 February by the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Becky Hagger, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services, Cllr Eddie Lavery, and Cllr Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education.

Contemporary play equipment was installed at both sites, providing local children with a welcoming space to make friends, have fun and exercise.

Nicola Ayonoadu (pictured right), from Ruislip Gardens, recommended the play area at West End Road for an upgrade. She said, "A

new children's playground will draw in lots of local children who previously had to travel to get to a nice park.

"I'm delighted that the new play area caters for children of all ages and is a much more pleasant environment for everyone to enjoy."

The new-look playground has been divided into two sections and on the outside a zipwire and large multi-play climbing frame caters for older children. The inside fenced area has a colourful butterfly theme and equipment includes toddler swings, a puzzle board, a roundabout and a seesaw.

Jay Kaur, from West Drayton, put forward the playground at Heathrow Close. She said, "It is just what the area needs as the previous play area was very dated."

"With lots of new families having moved to the area, it is a much-needed resource as it's really important for children to have a safe space to play outside."



Nicola Ayonoadu and Jacob, aged 6

In keeping with the area's connection to the airport, the new play area's theme is 'soaring like a plane' and boasts an attractive sky-themed surface and an aeroplane-themed multi-play climbing frame. Other highlights include a log swing, fireman's pole, balance rope and a seesaw.

These two schemes were part of last year's £1 million Chrysalis investment programme, which encourages residents to suggest ideas for providing or enhancing facilities on council-owned land.

As well as enhancing playgrounds, the scheme funds improvements to outdoor gyms, allotments and upgrades to sports clubs and community centres.



The new play area at Heathrow Close



March April

Latest projects funded

In January, Cllr Eddie Lavery selected the latest raft of Chrysalis projects for 2023/24. Funding for a further three projects has been approved (subject to match funding) and we'll update you on these later this year.

The projects being funded for 2023/24 are as follows:

Allotments

- Replacing the perimeter fence and installing a new gate at Stafford Road allotments (South Ruislip, £60,000)

Community centres

- Roof repairs to Charville Lane Community Centre (Charville, £17,000)

Highways/pathways, hard landscaping

- Planting wildflowers, daffodils and trees at Rabourntwood Drive (South Ruislip, £10,000)
- Improving 150 metres of pathway at Stafford Road Open Space (Ickenham and South Harefield, £26,000)
- Connecting Woodville Gardens to the Celadivine route (Ruislip, £35,000)

Outdoor gyms

- Improving Stockley Recreation Ground's park and playground (West Drayton, £99,000)
- Repairing and refurbishing the outdoor gym at Stockley Common (Yewley, £45,000)

Sports clubs

- Rewiring the clubhouse at Rosedale Bowls Club (Wood End, £41,250)
- Refurbishment works to improve the security within Northwood Football Club's stadium (Northwood, £100,000)

Tennis courts

- Resurfacing the tennis courts at Cavendish Recreation Ground's tennis courts (Eastcote, £70,000)
- Refurbishing and resurfacing the tennis courts at Court Park (Hillingdon East, £80,000)

Cllr Lavery said: "The Chrysalis scheme has been running since 2000 and gives you the opportunity to have a say on how money is spent locally."

"This year, we've approved a range of different projects which will have a positive impact on communities across the borough."

If you have an idea on improvements that can be made to facilities on council-owned land, I'd urge you to put your proposal forward!"

"It's a lot better now, because there used to be a really big climbing frame that was really hard to climb up and down. I like this one, I do a lot of gymnastics and it's fun to swing around on." Aila, 10



Cllr Lavery, the Mayor of Hillingdon and Cllr O'Brien open the new Ruislip Gardens playground

To suggest an improvement via the programme, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/chrysalis



Funding for community projects



KEEPING FIT Outdoor gym for Churchfield Gardens park in Ruislip

The council has unveiled the latest raft of new projects put forward by residents as part of its Chrysalis programme for 2022/23. Read about the improvements happening near you.

The schemes are part of this year's £1 million investment programme, that encourages residents to suggest ideas for providing or enhancing facilities on council-owned land.

This year a range of projects will benefit from the initiative which has been running since the year 2000. The programme includes improving playgrounds and allotments, building outdoor gyms, supporting sports clubs and upgrading community centres.

In April, the council's Cabinet approved the first nine projects which will benefit from the scheme in 2022/23. Funding for additional initiatives will be released throughout the year.

Highways/pathways, hard landscaping

- A path to link Vernon Drive's access point to the outdoor gym in Harefield Village Green (Harefield Village, £24,000)
- Construction of a footpath within the large tree-lined central reservation along Colham Avenue (Yewsey, £30,000)
- Widening and resurfacing the path from Marvell Avenue to The Greenway (Yeading and Belmore, £68,000)
- Dowding Park – new footpath to connect the north of the site to the south (Hillingdon West, £32,000)
- Stafford Road Open Space – installation of a picnic area (Ickenham and South Harefield, £13,000)

- Eastholme Green, Hayes – to install a path and planting scheme (Hayes Town, £7,000)
- Kings College Playing Fields – replacement chain-link fencing along the boundary with Park Avenue (Ruislip, £40,000).

Sports club

Rosedale Bowls Club – To re-level the sloping edges of the green (Wood End, £10,000).

Allotment

To improve the drainage at Moor Lane Allotments (Heathrow Villages, £15,000).

Clr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services,

said: "The Chrysalis scheme puts residents in the driving seat on deciding how money is spent locally.

"The pathway upgrades will improve access for pedestrians and the other projects will greatly enhance the environment within our parks and green spaces, as well as a much-loved allotment.

"If you have an idea on improvements that can be made to facilities on council-owned land, I'd encourage you to put your suggestion forward."

Chrysalis funding in action

Located just off Ruislip High Street, Churchfield Gardens is a much-loved park with a popular play area, tennis courts and landscaped green space.

Local people felt that the park could benefit from an outdoor gym and several residents put forward a Chrysalis application.

Julie Cunningham, from Ruislip, said: "As the cost of living increases, it's great that our council is continuing to invest in accessible facilities that help our fitness and mental health.

"The new outdoor gym is a wonderful addition to our park."

Works completed in early April and the gym boasts callisthenic bars and a range of equipment to aid cardiovascular and muscle exercise. This includes a skier, cycle bike, hand cycle, plyometric boxes, push up bars, surfer, chest press and pull-down combo and double leg press.

Margaret Hallam, from Ruislip, said: "It would be of benefit to the many users of the park. I have used the gym at the Lido, but it is too far away to be of regular benefit to me.

"It is a very busy and well-used park in a central location in Ruislip and I feel it would encourage local people to get fitter if there was an outdoor gym."

To suggest an improvement via the programme, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/chrysalis

June 2022 HILLINGDON people

June 2022

Appendix 2: Chrysalis criteria:

Anyone who is 18 or over and lives, works or studies in Hillingdon can propose an improvement. Parents, guardians, teachers and youth leaders are welcome to make a submission on behalf of younger people provided that the adult's contact details are submitted.

Funding criteria

1. Proposals for Chrysalis funding must clearly demonstrate an improvement to Council-owned assets to benefit the local community and will need to support priorities set out within Hillingdon's Strategic Climate Change Plan.

This could include:

- funding energy efficient measures and improvements to Council owned assets
- investing in allotments whereby residents - particularly those who may not have gardens themselves - can be encouraged to grow their own food and compost organic waste where possible
- continuing to add value to programmes improving town centres and local parades across the Borough, particularly in terms of improvements to help mitigate against flooding, as well as measures that encourage residents who want to walk or cycle to local facilities
- focusing Chrysalis investment on refurbishing and renovating the many existing playgrounds and outdoor gyms throughout the Borough to ensure that these continue to provide residents with free, quality, and convenient community amenities.

2. The proposal should be for one-off capital funding of at least £5,000 to a likely maximum of £100,000 to enhance a community facility without creating any additional on-going financial commitment from the Council.
3. Exceptional proposals, in particular those that demonstrate a significant contribution towards the Council's 2030 carbon neutral commitment may also be considered in excess of the £100k threshold.
4. Proposals from voluntary organisations, community groups etc to enhance a Council-owned asset must have appropriate and current lease/license arrangements in place and not be in financial arrears to the Council. The proposal should demonstrate a clear benefit to the wider community (as per the item a above) and local support.
5. Local authority community-maintained schools, that can demonstrate a wider public benefit of the Chrysalis funding, (over and above educational merits expected from a school), can apply, provided that the proposal meets all other relevant criteria.
6. Buildings or facilities managed through Hillingdon Housing services, and their partners are

not eligible for Chrysalis funding. Neither are proposals that would undermine the Council's Strategic Climate Change Plan, such as introducing new lighting into parks and open spaces or using Council-owned green spaces to create new parking facilities.

Chrysalis cannot fund events, activities or furniture and equipment.