

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**24 September 2026****Decision Report**

Recommendation that the Council approve the virement of a part budget from Governance into Environment to assist with works on allotments and play areas.

Ward(s)

All

Risk Management

A budget of £8k is available for allotment capital works and £20k for play area repairs in 2026/27. There is currently an estimated underspend within the salaries budget due to staff vacancy.

Objective

Promoting the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the town and its community.

Crime Prevention

None.

Public Sector Equality Duty

No impact.

Report

Within the Environment committee there are budgets for allotment capital works and play area repairs and these are £8k and £20k respectively. There is also an amount of up to £5k available for minor repairs and enhancements.

Officers, and some of the members, have seen areas within allotment sites that are in need of improvement e.g. pockets of land which has previously encouraged fly tipping along with overgrown vegetation within the lanes. Regarding play areas the officers have drawn up a list of essential works, and it is in the process of being actioned, and desirable, aesthetic repairs within play areas.

The current budgets allow for improvement to allotment standpipes and the level of play area repairs normally expected. The projected value of this work should exceed the budgets available.

The budget identified within Governance Committee is the Staffing Budget where salary savings are resulting through staff vacancy. The virement requested is £13K and I have discussed the principle of this with the Chair of Governance Committee. Financial Regulations and delegation arrangements require that virement over the value of £2k are reserved for Full Council.

Malcolm Wilkinson
Town Clerk

10 September 2026