

# MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: Cllr Mrs Terri Beer

Date received: 09 October 2025

To the Cabinet Member for: mark.lowry@plymouth.gov.uk

Question: I appreciate that you are the member for finance but can you tell me what funding is in place to update aging play parks at St Maurice and Yealmpstone Farm? In Plympton Erle

Answer:

Thank you for your enquiry around finance for playgrounds.

The Improving Outdoor Play programme has delivered citywide capital works to PCC owned play spaces between 2017 and 2024 to significantly improve the quality of outdoor play space provision across the city. A total of £2.54M has been invested to date.

Since 2017 there have been 3 phases of delivery focusing on play areas in most need of upgrades. The 2017 Play Assessment was used as the basis to score and RAG rate all 127 play areas in all wards across the city.

Phase 1: £500k Corporate Borrowing, £283 External

Phase 2: £800k Corporate Borrowing, £357k External

Phase 3: £380k Corporate Borrowing, £220k External

Our approach to investment included:

- Priority spend in poorer quality play spaces
- Investing in good/high quality play spaces to ensure they remain good quality
- Using S106 funds for play investment, where geographically applicable
- Promoting inclusive play for a range of ages/abilities in or near greenspaces

To ensure that we delivered the range and type of play facilities that local communities wanted we carried out a range of consultations focusing around:

- Onsite discussions and events to facilitate consultation with local people, families and children
- Onsite posters/social media
- Visits to schools and sessions with schools, youth groups and local Councillors
- Work with local partner organisations and community groups such as Plymouth Community Homes, Neighbourhood Watch, Plympton Podcast etc to reach communities

Within Plympton Earle Ward specifically Yealmstone Farm and Plympton St Maurice play areas both had updates in Phase 1, with Plympton St Maurice receiving further improvements in Phase 3 totalling £30,300.

Any remaining amounts in the Improving Outdoor Play Phase 3 capital budget (£139,651.25) is primarily made up of S106 and external income allocated to specific sites. There is also a maintenance budget of £50,000 for inspections, safety assessments and maintenance of all play areas but this is fully committed.

We are very aware that there is a continuing need to maintain and improve our play areas and to look for new funding to support this. To help plan for future investment a new Play Assessment 2025 has been devised online to update and reassess the state of our play provision. The assessment data collected will be used along with other play data to inform future priorities and locations.

In addition, you are welcome to raise any specific maintenance issues or requests via the Cllr Casework process and officers will assess. For example, there may be options involving use of your Community Grant allocation that can be discussed.

Your ongoing support for local play is greatly appreciated and officers would be happy to join you for a site visit at any time.

Signed:

Date: 17 October 2025

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M. 10' followed by a long horizontal stroke.