



Briefing Note – Flying Fox

Date 22 September 2025
Prepared by Town Clerk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Cable Way (also known as the Zip Wire or Flying Fox) is situated in the Rainbow Park at Sandham Grounds.
- 1.2. It was installed prior to the 2018 refurbishment and was not replaced at that time.
- 1.3. Cables have been known to fail under load due to wear and corrosion. This is generally where the cable enters into a tube, top bar, sleeve or similar, where the wire is in contact and wears and frays over time, but can happen anywhere on the cable. They also require periodic re-tensioning.
- 1.4. It is important to inspect any hidden parts at least annually. This cannot be determined during an annual inspection by ROSPA and quotes were obtained by a third party to undertake the inspection.
- 1.5. The works required to repair the Cableway in line with current standards are significant and would require the replacement of nearly all parts.
- 1.6. As such the Cableway has reached the end of its viable life and requires replacement.
- 1.7. The safety surface underneath the equipment is also in need of replacement. The ground in that location is subject to significant flooding and erosion due to flooding in the winter months.
- 1.8. The old equipment and safety surface would need to be removed and disposed of within legal guidelines.
- 1.9. Any new equipment will need to take into account the coastal location and conditions.
- 1.10. Matting over grass is considered a more appropriate safety surface.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1. Initial enquiries indicate the project costs will be in the region of £25,000. This includes
 - Removal and disposal of old equipment and safety surface
 - Purchase and delivery of new equipment
 - Replacement of safety surface

- 2.2. There is £50,000 in the Capital Reserves earmarked for the replacement of equipment, which this project could appropriately draw on to fund this project.

3. LEGISLATION

- 3.1. There is a significant amount of legislation that applies to Playgrounds.
- 3.2. The following legislation is particularly relevant in relation to the Flying Fox:
- 3.2.1. Children Act (1989) (and amendments)¹
Children's welfare
- 3.2.2. Occupier's Liability Act (1957, Revised 1984)²

This Act requires that people can expect to be reasonably safe when using the playground. Greater care is required where children are concerned. There is a limited duty of care to trespassers. Notices have limited applicability.

- 3.3. The following Standards also apply:

- BS EN 1176 (Play Equipment)³
- BS 7188 and BS EN 1177 (Surfaces)⁴⁵.

4. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

- 4.1. The Cableway is not an accessible piece of equipment.
- 4.2. There are no reasonable steps which can be made to make the equipment accessible.
- 4.3. The Council should therefore give consideration to the sufficiency of alternative accessible equipment at the Playground which currently includes
- An accessible slide
 - An accessible Roundabout
 - Sensory Boards.

5. CRIME AND DISORDER

- 5.1. Equipment which is out of use or in poor repair can have a "broken window effect" and lead to increased vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity.

¹ [Children Act 1989](#)

² [Occupiers' Liability Act 1957](#)

³ [BS EN 1176 - Playground equipment and surfacing](#)

⁴ [BS 7188:1998+A2:2009 - Impact absorbing playground surfacing. Performance requirements and test methods](#)

⁵ [BS EN 1177 - Impact attenuating playground surfacing. Methods of test for determination of impact attenuation](#)

6. BIODIVERSITY

- 6.1. There are no direct biodiversity considerations as the equipment is being replaced like for like.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- (i) THAT authority be delegated, with a budget envelope of up to £25,000 to officers to replace the equipment and safety surface before Spring 2026.
- (ii) THAT officers seek to achieve the best possible value for money, breaking down the project into different work elements if this secures better value for money.