

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	6.
Date:	4 th January 2010	Status	Open
Category	Key Decision included in Forward Plan		
Subject:	Bolsover District Play Strategy		
Report by:	Special Projects Officer		
Other Officers Involved	Head of Leisure		
Director	Neighbourhoods		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Social Inclusion		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities

Contribute to improving the health of the district. Develop vibrant town centres. Develop flourishing rural communities.

SOCIAL INCLUSION – Promoting fairness, equality and lifelong learning

Ensure all our services are provided in a fair and equitable manner. Promote the development of skills and learning within communities.

ENVIRONMENT – Promoting and enhancing a clean and sustainable environment

Protect, enhance and improve the natural and built environment in a sustainable way.

CUSTOMER FOCUSED SERVICES – Providing excellent customer focused services

Strengthen community consultation and involvement. Design and deliver services to meet the needs of customers.

COMMUNITY SAFETY – Ensuring that communities are safe and secure

Tackle Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) and its causes.

TARGETS

This strategy will contribute directly to the delivery of Community Safety, Environment, Regeneration and Social Inclusion priorities and targets within the Council's Corporate Plan.

VALUE FOR MONEY

Working collaboratively is a guiding principle running through our Sports Development and Sports Facilities Strategies, the same is proposed throughout the Play Strategy. This approach will enable partners to deliver economies of scale by pooling resources and enable partners to work more efficiently together by avoiding duplication and waste as well as improving overall effectiveness by working to shared aims and adding value to each others work.

THE REPORT

As part of Bolsover District Council's application to the Big Lottery Children's Play Programme in 2007, a Play Strategy was produced by an external consultant. This work was funded by SMP Playgrounds Limited as part of the three-year partnering agreement.

The Council was notified in 2006 that £200,000 had been allocated for Bolsover district by the Big Lottery Fund, from their Children's Play Programme. However to access the funding the Authority had until 10th September 2007 to undertake a number of key actions. These were as follows:-

- identify a lead officer and elected member 'play champion'.
- form a multi-agency play partnership to develop a 'Play Strategy' for the District.
- from the strategy identify and agree a portfolio of partner projects (either capital or revenue).
- submit an application to the Big Lottery Fund to draw down the £200,000
- subsequently project manage any successful bid on behalf of the partnership.

Executive at its meeting of 20 August 2007 considered and approved the draft portfolio of projects for Bolsover district for submission to the Big Lottery (minute number 273/07 refers).

The Council was successful in securing £200,000, which is currently being invested in a number of new play facilities across the district.

However, the play strategy has to date not been formally adopted. On re-reading the strategy it became apparent that some sections have required re-writing and updating, this along with departmental resource issues has delayed the presentation of the strategy to date.

STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The Bolsover District Play Strategy has been developed to address the issues that prevent children and young people aged 0 to 19 years from playing naturally and to support the establishment of high quality and diverse play environments for all of the children and young people who reside within the district.

The Play Strategy also recognises the role of adults in supporting and encouraging play as a range of activities that children and young people partake in for their own intrinsic enjoyment.

The strategy has been developed around the following principles:

- Play is fundamental to children's health and well-being throughout their childhood and during the transition to adulthood.
- Play is critically important to children's development and learning.
- Play is a natural and universal activity. It is a process with no necessary outcome.
- It is recognised that children and young people want to play and are entitled to do so, in a variety of public spaces near to their homes. This includes both places designated for play and shared public space.
- Adults, including play workers, childminders, nursery staff, classroom assistants, teachers, head teachers, governors, youth workers and other professionals, volunteers, parents, carers, enforcement agencies, relatives and friends have a significant role in supporting and enabling children's play.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Objective 1:

Improve the public realm as a child friendly environment, ensuring that parks, thoroughfares, housing estates and other public spaces across the District are as conducive as possible to play for all children and young people.

Objective 2:

Promote the importance of play in relation to children and young people's health, well-being and personal development, to all those that have an influence.

Objective 3:

Develop a joined up approach to the distribution of play resources, striking a balance based on need between supervised and unsupervised provision.

Objective 4:

Work to reduce the barriers that prevent children and young people from accessing and playing in the general public domain

Objective 5:

Aim to offer all children and young people the chance to encounter acceptable risks in stimulating and challenging play environments

The Play Strategy focuses on children of all ages, from the early years, through the middle ages and right into young adulthood. It will take account of children's different abilities, their age, gender, cultural background, social, family, economic and environmental situation.

The strategy will therefore benefit:

- Children and young people, their parents and communities as services and facilities are improved and developed to address their needs.
- Members and officers of Bolsover District Council by creating the basis for more efficient, effective and co-ordinated play provision.
- Those officers responsible for the development of opportunities for play by bringing clarity to their daily working environment, allowing good practice to be shared and providing consistency.

Attached at appendix 1 is the play strategy for consideration and approval.

OUTPUTS TO DATE

Outlined below are the key achievements since the draft strategy was produced in September 2007.

Objective / target		Action
Objective 1: Playable Spaces	1	<p>The current shortfall in both formal and informal play provision has been identified, based on the NPFA Six Acre Standard as well as an analysis of local need.</p> <p>An improvement programme has been developed and funding for this was secured through the Big Lottery Children's Play Programme. Performance will be monitored and reported back to the Big Lottery and through the Play Partnership.</p> <p>To date, two play areas have been developed, at Shuttlewood (MUGA) and Tibshelf. Three play areas will be developed in 2010 (provisionally Clowne, Pinxton, Shirebrook) and a further two in 2011 (provisionally Barlborough and Whaley Thorns).</p> <p>A number of other play areas are likely to be developed in 2010 / 2011 that are not funded through the Big Lottery Children's Play Programme and these include proposed play areas at Bolsover, Clowne, Creswell, Doe Lea, Glapwell and Shirebrook.</p>
Objective 1: Giving children and young people a greater say	2	<p>Children and young people have been consulted as part of the development of the play strategy and have been, and will continue to be, given the opportunity to help shape their future playable spaces.</p>
Objective 1: Local and national quantitative / qualitative standards	3	<p>Work has started to review the use of the NPFA Six Acre standard, to agree new local standards and to develop supplementary planning guidance in respect of future open space provision, including children's play provision.</p>
Objective 3: Neighbourhood Play Fund	8	<p>A 'Neighbourhood Play Project' has been developed, which is funded to the tune of £30,000 through the Big Lottery Childrens Play Programme.</p> <p>This includes £3,000 towards the cost of 10 'play bags' by use by community and voluntary groups a 'Neighbourhood Play Fund' of some £18,000 towards the cost of providing activities for children and young people.</p> <p>The remaining £9,000 is being used to fund staff costs and other costs associated with the delivery of training to volunteer play leaders through a Community Sports Leader Award (CSLA) course. To date two courses have been run, with over 20 people benefiting to date.</p>

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Members are asked to adopt the Play Strategy.

If approved, the strategy will be reviewed and monitored via the quarterly performance management tool 'PERFORM'.

IMPLICATONS

Financial: The creation of the draft Play Strategy has enabled our district to secure £200,000 from the Big Lottery Children's Play Programme for investment in play. Other up front discounts, financial incentives and match funding have been brought into the District as a result of entering into a three-year partnering arrangement with SMP Playgrounds Limited and the creation of the 'Bolsover District Play Partnership'. This comprises of a range of individuals and organisations from both within the statutory and voluntary sectors and the wider community including Bolsover District Council. This group will oversee the delivery of the strategy which will assist with the future funding and co-ordination of play provision throughout the district.

Legal: None

Human Resources: Leisure Services has already committed resources to the formation and co-ordination of the Bolsover District Playground Partnership and the portfolio of projects funded by the lottery are already being managed through existing arrangements.

RECOMMENDATION(S) that;

- (1) the report be received,**
- (2) Executive approves the Play Strategy.**

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

To adopt a Play Strategy for Bolsover District

ATTACHMENTS: Y
FILE REFERENCE: None
SOURCE DOCUMENT: Background papers held by Head of Leisure.