

EXECUTIVE

**4TH JANUARY 2010
AT 1000 HOURS**

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Minicom: 01246 242450 Fax: 01246 242423

Sherwood Lodge
Bolsover
Derbyshire
S44 6NF

Date: 16th December 2009

Dear Sir or Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Executive of the Bolsover District Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, on Monday 4th January 2010 at 1000 hours.

Members are reminded that under Section 51 of the Local Government Act 2000 the Bolsover Code of Conduct was adopted by the Council on 16th May 2007. It is a Councillor's duty to familiarise him or herself with the rules of personal conduct by which Councillors must conduct themselves in public life. In addition, Members should review their personal circumstances on a regular basis with these rules in mind and bearing in mind the matters listed on the Agenda for discussion at this meeting.

Copies of the Bolsover Code of Conduct for Members will be available for inspection by any Member at the meeting.

Register of Members' Interest - Members are reminded that a Member must within 28 days of becoming aware of any changes to their interests under paragraph 14 or 15 of the Code of Conduct provide written notification to the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

Members are reminded of the provisions of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the responsibility of Members to make a declaration at this meeting if affected by the Section and not to vote on any matter before this meeting which would have an affect on the Council's budget.

You will find the contents of the agenda itemised on page 55.

Yours faithfully,



Chief Executive Officer

To: Chairman & Members of the Executive

Tel 01246 242424 Fax 01246 242423 Minicom 01246 242450 Text 07729 421737

Email enquiries@bolsover.gov.uk Web www.bolsover.gov.uk

Chief Executive Officer: Wes Lumley, B.Sc.,F.C.C.A.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

EXECUTIVE

DATE: 4th January 2010

NAME OF MEMBER- _____

Levels of Interest 1. Personal
 2. Personal and prejudicial

Nature of Interest _____

AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	LEVEL OF INTEREST
Signed		
Dated		

Note

Completion of this form is to aid the accurate recording of your interest in the minutes only. This form, duly signed, should be provide to the Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting.

Good practice to give nature of interest – without declaring any confidentiality.

It is still your responsibility to disclose any interests which you may have at the commencement of the meeting, and before the relevant item on the agenda is discussed.

A nil return is not required.

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, on Monday, 30th November 2009 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor E. Watts – Chair

Councillors J.E. Bennett (left during Minute No 508), K. Bowman, A. J. Hodkin, D. Kelly, D. McGregor, B.R. Murray-Carr, A. Syrett and A.F. Tomlinson.

Officers:-

S. Tomlinson (Director of Neighbourhoods), S.E.A. Sternberg (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), J. Brooks (Director of Resources), P. Campbell (Head of Housing), D. Hill (Head of Finance and Revenues)(from Minute No 506)), B. Truswell (Head of Shared Procurement)(from Minute No 506)) and A. Bluff (Democratic Services Officer).

494. APOLOGIES

W. Lumley (Chief Executive Officer).

495. URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

496. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made.

EXECUTIVE

497. CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

To alleviate waiting time for Councillor Wallis, the Chair consented to a change in order of business on the agenda. Item 6; recommended item from Scrutiny Committee; Fees and Charges Budget Review and item 9; recommended item from Scrutiny Committee; Joint Scrutiny Spotlight Review of Shared Procurement would be heard after item 4.

498. MINUTES – 2ND NOVEMBER 2009

Moved by Councillor D. Kelly, seconded by Councillor E. Watts
RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on 2nd November 2009 be approved as a true record.

499. RECOMMENDED ITEM FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 13TH OCTOBER 2009 – MINUTE NO 392; FEES AND CHARGES BUDGET REVIEW.

Policy and Performance Management Group 2 had carried out a review of the Authority's fees and charges. The report had been presented to Scrutiny Committee on the 13th October 2009.

Councillor Wallis, Chair of PPMG2, presented the detailed report. She advised the meeting that significant issues had arisen out of the review and these were flagged up in the report.

Members asked questions.

Councillor Watts suggested that the findings and recommendations of PPMG 2's review of the Authority's fees and charges be taken forward and considered as part of the budget review process.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor A.M. Syrett
RESOLVED that the findings and recommendations of PPMG 2's review of the Authority's fees and charges be taken forward and considered as part of the budget review process.

(Cabinet / Director of Resources)

Reason for decision: To ensure that any potential savings or income from PPMG2's review of fees and charges can be captured as part of the budget process.

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500. RECOMMENDED ITEM FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 10TH NOVEMBER 2009 – MINUTE NO 476; JOINT SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT REVIEW OF SHARED PROCUREMENT.

Councillor Wallis presented the report, which gave details of a joint scrutiny spotlight review of shared procurement carried out with Chesterfield Borough Council and North East Derbyshire District Council. The report had been presented to Scrutiny Committee on the 10th November 2009.

Councillor Wallis advised the meeting that many positive issues had arisen out of the review and it had been considered by the Group that the Shared Procurement Unit was cost affective and a good use of resources to the three authorities.

Members asked questions and discussion took place.

Councillor Watts suggested that the findings and recommendations of the joint scrutiny spotlight review of Shared Procurement be taken forward and considered as part of the budget review process.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor J.E. Bennett

RESOLVED that the findings and recommendations of the joint scrutiny spotlight review of Shared Procurement be taken forward and considered as part of the budget review process.

(Cabinet / Director of Resources)

501. RECOMMENDED ITEM FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 13TH OCTOBER 2009 – MINUTE NO 390; REVIEW OF EXPENDITURE WITHIN PPMG1'S REMIT.

Policy and Performance Management Group 1 had carried out a review of the expenditure budgets for ICT, Democratic Services, Legal Services and Finance. The report had been presented to Scrutiny Committee on the 13th October 2009.

Councillor Gilmour, Chair of PPMG1, presented the detailed report.

The aim of the review was to identify possible savings within the remit of PPMG1. The review covered the expenditure budgets of ICT, Democratic Services, Legal and Finance.

Members asked questions and discussion took place.

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Councillor Watts suggested that the findings of PPMG1's review and recommendations be taken forward and considered as part of the budget review process.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor A.F. Tomlinson
RESOLVED that the findings of PPMG1's review and recommendations of expenditure budgets be taken forward and considered as part of the budget review process.

(Cabinet / Director of Resources)

Reason for decision: To ensure that any potential savings or income from PPMG1's review of expenditure budgets can be captured as part of the budget process.

502. RECOMMENDED ITEM FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 13TH OCTOBER 2009 – MINUTE NO 392; CAPITAL BUDGET REVIEW.

The report gave details of a review undertaken by Policy and Performance Management Group 3 to identify savings in the Capital Budget. The report had been presented to Scrutiny Committee on the 13th October 2009.

Councillor Bowler presented the report on behalf of Councillor Ward, Chair of PPMG 3.

Members asked questions.

Further to discussion taking place, it was agreed that recommendation 2; 'that PPMG 3 be presented with complete pre-budget funding figures before they are submitted to Council so that they can be scrutinised with a view to finding savings in the next budget period', be removed as the pre budget figures were presented to Scrutiny Committee as part to the budget process.

Councillor Watts suggested that the findings and recommendations of PPMG 3's review, (with the exception of recommendation 2 as above), be taken forward and considered as part of the budget review process.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor A.F. Tomlinson
RESOLVED that the findings and recommendations of PPMG 3's review, (with the exception of recommendation 2 as above), be taken forward and considered as part of the budget review process.

(Cabinet / Director of Resources)

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503. RECOMMENDED ITEM FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 10TH NOVEMBER 2009 – MINUTE NO 478; PROGRESS ON REVIEWS – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT.

The report gave details of the review undertaken by Policy and Performance Management Group 4 on the Housing Revenue Account. The report had been presented to Scrutiny Committee on the 10th November 2009.

Councillor Dooley, Chair of PPMG 4, presented the report.

PPMG 4 had reviewed the current Service Plan for Housing and had identified a range of questions, for example, performance on repairs and maintenance, the eviction process and anti-social behaviour. The Head of Housing, Head of Community and Street Services and the Customer Contact Manager had been interviewed by PPMG 4 Members to answer the questions raised by the Group, along with Councillor Bowman, Portfolio Holder for Housing Management, and Councillor Murray-Carr, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety.

Members asked questions.

Councillor Watts suggested that the findings and recommendations of PPMG 4's review be taken forward and considered as part of the budget review process.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor D. Kelly
RESOLVED that the findings and recommendations of PPMG 4's review be taken forward and considered as part of the budget review process.

(Cabinet / Director of Resources)

504. WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 2.

The Director of Resources presented the report on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer. This was the second quarterly monitoring report of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund and covered the period July to September 2009.

Members asked questions.

Moved by Councillor A.F. Tomlinson, seconded by Councillor E. Watts
RESOLVED that the report be received.

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505. RENEWAL OF INSURANCE POLICIES.

The Director of Resources presented the report.

The report gave details of the outcome of the recent insurance renewal process carried out under powers delegated to the Director of Resources. The delegation had been given in order to obtain the most economically advantageous outcome without the restrictions imposed by meeting deadlines.

Members asked questions and discussion took place.

Moved by Councillor A. Hodkin, seconded by Councillor E. Watts

RESOLVED that the actions of the Director of Resources under delegated powers be endorsed.

Reason for decision: **The Council has assessed value for money, quality and service issues, together with the preferred risk transfer method and selected the option financially beneficial to the Council.**

The Head of Shared Procurement and the Head of Finance and Revenues entered the meeting at this point.

506. BUDGET REPORTS - 2009/10 REVISED AND PROVISIONAL 2010/11 ONWARDS.

The Director of Resources presented the report which gave details of the assumptions that would be made for the budget for 2010/2011 onwards.

The impact of the economic downturn had lead to an increase in demand for some Council services and a significant reduction in demand for others.

Council Tax increases would be a matter for Council to determine and the report presented a table which illustrated the impact of different increases assuming there was no increase in the tax base.

The refinement of the budget to the Council's level of available resources and to its priorities would be on an ongoing basis in consultation with Cabinet and updates to the Policy and Performance Management Groups leading to future reports to Executive and then to Council.

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Members asked questions and lengthy discussion took place.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor A.F. Tomlinson

RESOLVED that 1) the assumptions detailed in the report be noted,

2) indicative levels of Council Tax are noted and inform future decisions for Council Tax setting.

(Director of Resources)

Reason for decision: The Council's budget needs to reflect local decision making.

507. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor A.F. Tomlinson

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the stated Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and it is not in the public interest for that to be revealed.

508. MOBILE WORKING EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 3

The Head of Shared Procurement presented the report which gave an update to Members on the outcome of the tender evaluation for the Mobile Working project.

The report also included the evaluation matrix used to objectively evaluate the tender submissions.

Councillor Bennett left the meeting at this point.

Members asked questions and lengthy discussion took place.

Further to discussion, Members suggested that recommendation 2 be amended to read; 'delegated power is given to the Solicitor to the Council, *in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder*, to agree the terms of the contract plus any ancillary agreements with 1st Touch and to sign the contract plus ancillary agreements'.

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RESOLVED that 1) in accordance with the Evaluation Report, 1st Touch are appointed the preferred bidder and negotiations commence with them to draw up an appropriate contract,

2) delegated power is given to the Solicitor to the Council, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder, to agree the terms of the contract plus any ancillary agreements with 1st Touch and to sign the contract plus ancillary agreements.

(Head of Shared Procurement / Solicitor to the Council)

Reason for decision: **To ensure the Contractor appointed is the one that best meets the evaluation criteria.**

The meeting concluded at 1205 hours.

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	5.
Date:	4 th January 2010	Status	Open
Category	Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	ICT Strategy		
Report by:	Senior IT Projects Officer		
Other Officers Involved			
Director	Director of Resources		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Efficiency		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

CUSTOMER FOCUSED SERVICES – Providing excellent customer focused services by providing increasingly more efficient mechanisms for the public, or elected Members and our Employees to access services.

STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Continually improving our organisation by supporting it in the changes that are required.

TARGETS

The IT strategy assists in enabling the Council to meet its targets as set out in the Corporate Plan.

VALUE FOR MONEY

ICT provides a means to generate efficiency savings across the organisation.

THE REPORT

The attached strategy builds upon the previous strategy that was written in 2007 and expired in 2010, it extends it to bring it in line with the Corporate Strategy 2007 – 2011.

Despite employee shortages the ICT team have worked well and had notable achievements.

Virtualisation of servers and the introduction of a storage area network has been substantially completed, this will bring efficiency savings.

The Government Connect code of connection has been achieved, this required 91 different tasks to be completed.

The CRM system had a major upgrade which included the re-writing of all the scripts.

Disaster Recovery arrangements are now in place.

A network link to Chesterfield is in place and the Council is about to be joined up with all the Derbyshire Councils through the Derbyshire wide area network.

The focus for the ICT team for the next fifteen months will include the possible joint service with North East Derbyshire District Council, the continuing delivery of service with reduced staffing and the identification of efficiencies to assist the Council.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Whether to accept the revised Strategy.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial: None

Legal: None

Human Resources: None

RECOMMENDATION(S)

To adopt the Strategy

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

To ensure that the Council's strategic development of computer systems in support of the Corporate Plan continues.

ATTACHMENTS: Y

FILE REFERENCE:

SOURCE DOCUMENT:

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

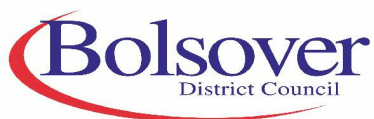
ICT Strategy 2009 - 2011

December 2009

This Strategy addresses the following Corporate Aims:



**CUSTOMER
FOCUSED SERVICES**



**STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

The District of Bolsover Equalities Statement

Bolsover District Council is committed to equalities as an employer and in all the services provided to all sections of the community.

The Council believes that no person should be treated unfairly and is committed to eliminate all forms of discrimination in compliance with the Equality Strategy.

The Council also has due regard to eliminate racial discrimination and to proactively promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups when performing its functions.

This document is available in large print and other formats from any of the Council Offices or by contacting the Chief Executives Directorate on 01246 242323. Please bear in mind that we will need a few days to arrange this facility.

If you need help to read this document please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our Equality and Diversity Officer can be contacted via email or by telephoning 01246 242407.

Minicom: 01246 242450

Fax: 01246 242423

Details of Document	
Title	ICT Strategy
Document type –	draft
Location of Strategy	L:\sups/computer/policies_strategies_and_plans,/ICT strategy2009-2011
Lead Author of Strategy	Senior IT Projects Officer
Member route for Approval & Cabinet Member concerned	Executive Cllr Alan Hodkin
Reviewed by Director of Strategy	
Date Risk Assessment completed	In progress
Date Equality Impact Assessment approved	In progress
Consultation Undertaken (Internal or External) if required	ICT Department, Extended Management Team, Senior Management Team, IT Strategy group
Partnership Involvement (if applicable)	
Strategy Approved by	Executive
Date Approved	
Strategy Review Date	
Date forwarded to CSPD (to include on Intranet and Internet if applicable to the public)	

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Principles of the Strategy

The Council is committed to improving services for local people, local businesses and visitors to the District to ensure they are of the highest standard. This is reflected in the Council's vision 'to improve the wealth profile of the area known as the District of Bolsover and enhance and improve the quality of life and well being of its communities' and in the aims of "providing excellent customer focused services" and "continually improving our organisation".

The purpose of the strategy is to build upon the previous ICT Strategy 2007 – 2010 and to ensure that it meets the requirement of the Council enabling it to meet its targets as set out in the Corporate Plan 2007 - 2011. As such this strategy supports all corporate aims and objectives. The strategy needs to be adaptable to be able to take account of changing circumstances and unexpected events.

Introduction

The purpose of ICT in a modern Local Government organisation, is to provide increasingly more efficient mechanisms for the public, our elected members and our employees to access services.

In order to support the organisation to make the changes that are required by a "transformational government" agenda, ICT systems need to be:

- easily accessible,
- secure
- resilient,
- with sufficient capacity to support new developments in technology.

In addition ICT services need to provide a means to:

- generate efficiency savings across the organisation
- allow joint working with partner organisations
- reduce the use of carbon resources (fuel, use of paper etc.)
- share information held by the organisation in a way compatible with legislation
- support accessible systems both "out of hours" and for those with disabilities
- enhance the quality and speed of service delivery.
- improve services to the Council's customers

The findings and recommendations / action plans have been created based on consultation carried out during 2009. Existing documentation was utilised to ascertain gaps and requirements from the following areas:

- The Customer Service and Access strategy 2009 - 2011.
- The current IT strategy 2007-2010.

The GIS strategy 2008 – 2010

The draft Address Management strategy 2009 - 2011

A review of the current state of ICT in the Council

A variety of strategy and business plan documents produced by the service areas of the Council consolidated in service plans.

A review of current systems, projects and the activities currently being undertaken.

Input from current and future working practices including IDeA, SOCITM, other Local Authorities and a number of suppliers.

One of the key drivers of the previous IT strategy 2007 - 2010 was the transformation agenda and this is still relevant today. Transformation of the Council includes the opportunities for shared service delivery and engaging more effectively with the local community.

Other key drivers are:

The management of information.

The management of change

Sir Michael Bichard has said that “it is inconceivable that public services will be transformed without the imaginative use of ICT and the effective management of information”¹.

Change comes about through the introduction of new technologies such as mobile working which support new ways of working and lead to increases in productivity

The emphasis of this strategy is looking at improving service provision and exploiting the systems, processes and people we have in order to deliver and meet the demands.

Scope of the strategy

The strategy applies to all Departments of the Council and to Elected Members. Working with the Customer Service and Performance Department some technology may be developed to support the external customer.

The Strategy

Review of the previous strategy

The previous strategy was written in 2007 and followed on from the successful implementation of e-government. At that time the IT team were regrouping and were looking forward to a period of consolidation as well as change under the leadership of a newly formed post, the Head of ICT.

¹ Modern public services: a role for change – the CIO as agent of transformation, A Socitlm Insight publication

Unfortunately circumstances changed and the Department has had to work without a permanent, full time Head of ICT. Despite this the IT team have worked well and had notable achievements:

Virtualisation of servers and the introduction of a storage area network has been substantially completed

The Government Connect code of connection has been achieved

The CRM system has continued to be developed

Disaster recovery arrangements are in place

Network link between this Council and Chesterfield Borough Council

Achievements such as the Government Connect code of connection have been substantial pieces of work, requiring 91 areas to be complied with. It has meant the introduction of many new technologies such as two factor authentication and encryption. Work within this project will continue for at least the next year.

There were issues to do with being fully staffed and this has meant that there are some areas where the identified improvements of the previous strategy have not been met and these will be given a high priority within this strategy.

Current corporate ICT objectives

These are:

To develop the role of technology very much as a means of enhancing and transforming Council activities.

To ensure the systems are able to operate over sound and resilient infrastructure without jeopardizing effective current working practices.

To ensure the services ICT implements abide to Government legislation i.e. green computing, efficiency savings and flexible working directives.

To ensure we are getting the best service from suppliers and partners through continuous supply chain analysis to achieve cost effective solutions.

To have the ability to re-align technology quickly.

To move forward with mobile working.

To encourage home working.

To work closely with all Departments to assist in the development of solutions.

Tracking and applying trends in technology rather than being at the leading edge which can be costly and risky.

Building on and enhancing current use of technology in response to needs and feasibility.

To build a mature approach to ICT provision, creating clear business cases to demonstrate need, compatibility and efficiency.

To continue to be involved in the possible development of a shared ICT service with North East Derbyshire and Derbyshire Dales Councils.

Efficiency

Following on from the success of the Gershon Efficiency Review, there is now the Government's Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP). There is no doubt that, along with other Councils, this Council has to find a large number of efficiency savings.

The Council has already used external consultants to deliver major BPR exercises in both Revenues and Planning, with the Revenues BPR delivering £50,000 over 3 years. Towards the end of 2008 some employees received Business Process Improvement (BPI) training, including one from ICT. It is anticipated that when this is implemented within the Council that opportunities for ICT to deliver cheaper, alternate methods of working will be identified.

Current systems will be reviewed as their annual support becomes due and analysis undertaken as to whether there is a cheaper way of delivering the service. For example, it has been decided that the website will be developed using open source software eliminating the need for a support and maintenance contract with an external supplier.

Transformational Government

Three key transformations are required:

1. Services enabled by ICT must be designed around the citizen or business, not the provider, and provided through modern, co-ordinated delivery channels.

ICT will work closely with CSPD in the development of delivery channels. In particular it will ensure that the web site becomes transactional. The Department has and will continue to, work with CSPD, to be involved in the setting up of the joint service centre at South Normanton.

2. Government must move to a shared services culture – in the front office, in the back office, in information and in infrastructure – and release efficiencies by standardisation, simplification and sharing.

ICT has been working closely with partners in Derbyshire and in particular the North East Derbyshire, Chesterfield and Bolsover Consortium to ensure that infrastructure is standardised and where possible joined up. Currently there is the possibility that the ICT Department may join with the IT Department in North East Derbyshire to provide a joint IT service. Purchase of systems at Bolsover should continue to be subject to the ICT strategy Group approval to ensure that standardisation remains. CRM development will continue and in particular the integration to back office systems.

3. There must be broadening and deepening of government's professionalism in terms of the planning, delivery, management, skills and governance of ICT enabled change.

ICT staff will be encouraged to follow continued professional development training. Reviews of service provision will take place on a regular basis with Heads of Service. Change control will be introduced in relation to software and hardware changes.

The success of transformational government will be built on effective engagement, creation of sound business case, strong project and change management and rigorous assessment of the ensuing benefits. We recognise the need for a high level of cooperation with our partners and a good fit with regional and national strategies if we are to be successful.

Procurement and Replacement

Equality and diversity issues will be considered prior to all procurement to ensure that issues of accessibility are addressed.

a. Desktop Systems

As no major systems purchases were planned in the last two years, it was decided to extend the PC replacement programme from four to five and then subsequently six years, creating an efficiency saving and also a green saving. Research will be done into how many of our PCs are failing and whether there is a need to re-introduce the replacement programme starting in 2010. If that is the case, then it is likely that virtual PCs will form the replacements as they are cheaper. Monitors will continue to be LCD flat panel (low energy use) models and generally retained when PC base units are replaced. A standard build will be introduced.

b. Server Systems

Virtual servers have now been introduced and there will continue to be a programme of replacing all physical servers were possible.

c. Software

All computer software will continue to be purchased centrally through the ICT Department. This is to ensure that ICT is aware of all licensing issues. Where possible no more than two versions of any one piece of software should be allowed to exist across the organisation, with appropriately newer versions being withheld or older versions upgraded to avoid having too many different versions to support.

d. Network Infrastructure

Resilience has been built into the network, no further work is planned in that area. The Derbyshire transformational government partnership is organising the installation of a Derbyshire Wide Area Network (DWAN), this is due to be completed in 2009.

e. Joint Procurement

Procurement plans will be shared with North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield Councils. Where possible joint procurements will take place and where not possible, contracts will allow for the opportunity for these partners to purchase the same system at a later date. Weighting when scoring procurements will have a bias towards systems already in place at either Council subject to satisfactory references. Proposals from the Derbyshire transformational government partnership will also be given priority where this Council doesn't currently have a system in place.

Skills Development

a. ICT Professionals

It is vital that ICT professionals are able to follow a programme of Continued Professional Development (CPD). Currently the tendency is to use Microsoft certified qualifications. Investigations will take place into the British Computer Society (BCS) qualifications and the Skills for the Information Age (SFIA) framework.

b. Elected Members

Elected Members are required to be proficient in the basic use of ICT. The ICT Training and Support Officer is one of the posts that has been vacant throughout 2009, it is anticipated that someone will be in post during November 2009, although the post will become part time. In the meantime the ICT Help Desk will assist elected Members wherever they can. The support for elected Members will be reviewed to ensure that they are receiving the support that they require.

c. Employees

Introduction to ICT policies will be provided by employees within the ICT first line support function as part of the Corporate Induction process. Courses will continue to be offered in Microsoft applications as soon as the new ICT trainer starts.

Information Management

Much of the responsibility for Information Management is with the Customer Service and Performance Department. They manage the information that is publicly available via the web site and the information that is available to employees and Elected Members via the Intranet. Additionally they manage the Freedom of Information requests, the retention of information guidelines, the accessibility of and the quality of information. The Senior Risk Information Owner is the Head of Customer Service and Performance and it is anticipated that they will be producing an Information Management Strategy in 2010. ICT expect to have an input to this.

CSPD will be introducing data classifications, e.g., restricted, confidential in 2010. This will fit with Government Connect.

ICT has a role to play in ensuring that information is available to standards such as the property one, BS7666 and the people one, BS8666. It has to ensure the most efficient storage and retrieval of information. One of the improvements that we had planned in the previous strategy was to investigate the options for introducing a structure that allows just one copy of any document. This will be given a priority in this Strategy's improvement plan.

Green Issues

The use of ICT can be both a cause for the increased use of resources and the single best way of saving resources (financial/energy/consumables). Modern ICT equipment requires significant electrical power in order to function. Although energy saving monitors mitigate this to some extent, the power of ICT to reduce emissions is in its ability to prevent travel and save on printing paper. In order to realise these benefits business practices must change. Emphasis over the life of this strategy will be given to "self service" systems both for citizens and for staff, to cut down on paper use and travelling costs.

The implementation of multi function devices is about to happen.

The virtualisation of servers will have led to a reduction in electricity usage. There will be research into whether the air conditioning can be turned down and whether all equipment can be located in one server room, again producing a reduction in electricity usage.

The Department will continue to work with the Climate Change group to see what other savings can be made.

The roll out of an Electronic Document Management System has seen a decline in the use of paper but this has been a disappointing amount, (it may be that there was a corresponding increase in the use of paper by other projects within the same time frame).

The introduction of mobile and remote working has the possibility of reducing the need for office space for jobs whose main function is, or could be, “off site”. Ultimately this could potentially realise financial benefits from the reuse of rentable office space and save on heating and light costs, but has the instant return of reducing the amount of mileage and time required to commute to and from the office. The dynamic scheduling system will allow more efficient routing of Council vehicles.

All ICT devices will continue to be disposed of in accordance with relevant legislation and the WEEE directive from the EU concerning the disposal of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment. This directive requires that as much of the equipment as possible is recycled with licensed disposal companies.

Mobile and Home working

Mobile working currently exists for the Rangers and is about to be introduced within Housing repairs. It is anticipated that Housing will lead on this project.

Smartphones have been introduced and their continued roll out is subject to Business cases.

The mobile communication market is continually developing and the annual review will continue. The Council is currently tied in to a two year contract with Orange.

The Council has no strategy to encourage home working. It is anticipated that this may change in the future as there are green advantages to this. The infrastructure is in place to allow this to happen securely, requirements of Government Connect mean that anyone working from home can only do so on Council supplied equipment.

The issue of ICT support to home workers will be addressed if this appears to be an issue. Currently phone/email support is provided and this is considered to be sufficient.

In the event of a disaster where Sherwood Lodge is unavailable to employees it is envisaged that the SSL vpn would be available to all critical staff so that they could work from home.

Access to systems

Access to systems is controlled at the top level by ICT and within Departments by systems administrators. In the case of corporate systems,

such as CRM, Uniform, Document Management, the systems administration will continue to be performed by ICT.

Implementation of the ICT Strategy

The ICT Strategy is managed operationally by the Senior IT Projects Officer. They report on progress to the ICT Strategy group on a quarterly basis. The ICT Strategy group is responsible for monitoring the Improvement plan attached as appendix B.

Performance management

The responsibility for ensuring ICT is deployed economically and efficiently within a service lies with the managers responsible for those services. This responsibility includes the collation and analysis of appropriate management information and data, for example:

Efficiency gains, as appropriate to the activity
Cost per unit of activity of ICT systems used

ICT will work with Departments to define and agree the areas of responsibility that ICT will deliver.

The use of the IT Infrastructure Library (ITIL) service management methodology is still being explored.

Appendix A

Mission statement

To provide, maintain and support ICT systems to facilitate the Council consistently delivering excellent, modern, joined up services for all our customers. To ensure that services are delivered with the highest level of customer service.

Purpose

To ensure ICT Projects are delivered on time and budget to the required standard.

To provide GIS guidance and provision to its customers.

To audit ICT Security on behalf of the Council.

To provide ICT support to the Members and their ICT equipment.

To provide mobile communications as requested/authorised.

To provide ICT training to Members, Officers and Staff of the Council.

To ensure the Council complies with the Mapping Service Agreement.

To ensure the ICT provision to the Council is efficient and effective.

To ensure electronically stored corporate data is backed-up.

To provide 1st Line ICT Support to the Council for all applications and hardware.

To carry out preventative maintenance of the network/systems to ensure the minimum disruption to its customers.

To provide fixed line telephone communications.

Appendix B

Improvement/Action Plan

Improvement	Lead Officer	Target Date	Expected Outcome	Resources	Progress Update	Actual Outcome
Regular service review meetings with Heads of Service	Senior IT Projects Officer	Ongoing	Allowing service improvements to be clearly measured and communicated to each department.	Staff time		
Continue involvement with Derbyshire Tgovernment Partnership	Senior IT Projects Officer	Ongoing	To help develop shared and joint working practices amongst the partnership as well as to bring economies of scale	Staff time Contribution to partnership		
Implementation of GIS Strategy 2008 -2010	GIS officer/ Senior IT Projects Officer	December 2010	To exploit the existing GIS data and encompass it to integrate with key information systems to aid e-delivery	Staff time		
Transactional web site	Web Development Officer/Senior IT Projects Officer	March 2010	Customers able to report problems on line. Increase in web transactions, reduction in higher cost telephone and face to face contact.	Staff time		
Continued professional development for ICT	Senior IT Projects Officer	March 2010	Staff with relevant professional qualifications	Staff time		

Improvement	Lead Officer	Target Date	Expected Outcome	Resources	Progress Update	Actual Outcome
staff						
EU Services Directive	Senior IT Projects Officer/ Legal Licensing Officer	December 2009	Payments linked to online licensing in compliance with EU legislation	Staff time		
Introduction of change control	Senior 1 st Line support officer	December 2009	Improved planning of work	Staff time		
Information managed effectively by holding only one copy of a document	Senior IT Projects Officer	September 2011	Feasibility study, contribution to the CSPD Information Management Strategy	Staff time		
Annual review of mobile communications	Senior 2 nd Line Support Officer	March 2010 and yearly thereafter	Report to IT strategy	Staff time		
Extended access channels	Senior IT Projects Officer	March 2011	Contribute to the CSPD Access Channel strategy	Staff time		
Home working	Senior IT Projects Officer	March 2011	Reduced journeys to work Flexible workforce	Staff time		
Review of support contracts	Senior IT Projects Officer	Ongoing	Savings in the cost of support and maintenance	Staff time		
Analysis of machine rooms use – air conditioning and having just one server room	Senior 2 nd line Support Officer	March 2010	Reduced use of electricity	Staff time		
Review of SAN capacity	Senior 2 nd Line Support Officer	December 2009	System that is correctly sized to meet business needs	Staff time		

Improvement	Lead Officer	Target Date	Expected Outcome	Resources	Progress Update	Actual Outcome
Disaster recovery test	Senior 2 nd Line Support Officer	March 2010	Assurance that DR plans are viable	Staff time		

Appendix C

Development of Systems

a. GIS Development

A GIS strategy has been produced, the outstanding improvements have been included in this strategy's improvement plan allowing for the monitoring of them by the IT strategy group.

Management of the legal agreement with the IDeA (the Mapping Services Agreement - MSA) will continue to be overseen by the GIS Officer.

b. Corporate Gazetteer

The Authority has a BS7666 compliant gazetteer and this is maintained in relation to new properties by ICT. A draft address management strategy is in place and once approved the improvements will be included in this strategy's improvement plan.

b. Document Management

The corporate Document Management System (supplied by Comino – now Civica) is well embedded. Housing are currently implementing it in their Department. No further development is anticipated. Only Financial Services are using an alternative supplier.

c. Intranet/Internet Services

Whilst management of the content of the Intranet and Internet is with CSPD, ICT will continue to contribute to the technical development.

A draft website strategy has been developed and this will be reviewed towards the end of 2009. For the Intranet, development of self service systems that interface with existing back office systems will be explored, in particular the HR21 system could be developed to allow for on-line leave requests, on-line expense claims and absence recording.

For the Internet, development of CRM so that self service forms are available over the web that integrate to CRM. The hosting of the Authority web site was shared with Chesterfield Borough Council but this has recently changed so that both Councils are with the same hosting company but on separate servers.

d. E-Payments

Strategic development of the e-payments is with the Financial Services Department but the ICT Department will continue to do software development when required. CSPD are reviewing methods of payment across the Council and ICT will contribute to this as required.

The PCI standard for epayments has not yet been met, this will be done by March 2010.

e. Interactive TV and Other Access Channels

IT will contribute to the Access Channel strategy as required by CSPD.

f. Academy

The Capita, Academy system is used by Council Tax, Benefits and Housing. Upgrades to the system will take place in accordance with the suppliers timetable. Initial discussions indicate that any integration to the back office would be expensive, alternative methods of integration may have to be sourced.

g. CAPS

The CAPS, Uniform system is used by Planning, Environmental Health, Land Charges and Building Control. Integration has already been provided to Environmental Health. Upgrades are applied so that the system is always on the suppliers current version.

h. CRM

The Northgate CRM system continues to be developed in terms of new scripts for Departments. In 2009 it moved to version 3 with the majority of scripts being redeveloped. The development of scripts is done by a resource from CSPD who works two days a week in ICT currently, this will continue for 2009 at least. The continual development of CRM is seen as key to business process improvement and the identification of efficiencies.

i. TOREX

Leisure are continuing to develop the use of this.

j. E-purchasing and FMS

This will be developed as required by the Finance department.

Infrastructure Development

Account will be taken of the infrastructure development at North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield, as this will assist with shared services development. Shared infrastructure may also lead to efficiencies when purchasing equipment.

a. Desktop Systems

i. Hardware

HP hardware will be maintained as a standard environment to maintain consistency for support services. Where present, flat screen monitors will be retained when base units require replacement. It is anticipated that virtual PCs may be introduced in 2010. A standard build has been developed for PCs and this will be applied retrospectively.

ii. Operating System

Microsoft XP will be maintained as the standard operating system, with a review in 2010. At present most third party suppliers of systems to Local Government do not support systems operating on a "open" or Linux based desktop. The use of Citrix or thin client systems will continue to be used for remote offices.

iii. Office Automation

Microsoft Office XP will be used. It is not expected that we would change to a new version within the life of this strategy.

iv. Standard Software

Apart from Microsoft Office the following are regarded as standard packages.

- MS Outlook 2000 or later – e-mail access
- MS Visio – drawing / process mapping tool
- Autodesk AutoCAD – CAD applications
- MS Project – Project management
- Adobe Acrobat – PDF viewing / production

b. Server Systems

i. HARDWARE

Virtual servers will continue to be deployed. A standard build has been developed and this will be applied retrospectively. Narrow height rack mounted units designed to make best use of server room space will continue to be preferred.

ii. Operating System

Microsoft Windows 2003 will remain the standard.

iii. Database Systems

Applications will normally be within one of the three systems depending on size

Oracle – large systems

MS SQL Server – middle size systems

MS Access – small systems

Exceptions will require approval from the ICT strategy group.

iv. Storage & Backup

A storage area network (SAN) is in place and this may be expanded. A review will take place in 2009 allowing for a budget bid in 2010. There is centralised backup in both “nearline” (disk based) and “off line” tape based systems.

v. Resilience & Disaster Recovery

Arrangements are in place with an external company and this will continue to be reviewed. Testing of this needs to take place. Disaster Recovery procedures have been created but should be reviewed annually.

c. Network Systems

i. Capacity

The speed of WAN connections is limited by geographical site, i.e., Bolsover only has BT as a provider. This means we have a 10mb maximum connection over the PBX. There are options to go for a direct Ethernet connection , or wireless and these will be investigated. The four

core routers are 1gb, they have diverse routes between machine rooms for resilience.

ii. Management

In order to provide greater stability, management reporting software was installed on the network during 2007 to alert support staff of problems before they become evident to users of the system. No further work is required.

d. Telecommunications

i. E-MAIL

No changes are anticipated.

ii. Voice Communications Integration

Voice over IP (VoIP) system has been implemented at the Riverside Depot. This will require sufficient Quality and Class of service (QOS and COS) on the network to guarantee levels of voice communications. Although it is possible to introduce this at Sherwood Lodge, the cost may be prohibitive. The benefits of this technology are most cost effective when using call centre technology.

iii. Mobile Devices

This is being introduced in Housing repairs during 2009 and further roll out throughout the Council will follow from that.

iv. Phones at Sherwood Lodge and Contact Centres

A review has been carried out and it is unlikely, due to budgetary constraints, that any changes will be made.

a. Security Systems

i. Firewalls

This remains as Checkpoint, there are no plans to review this within the life of this strategy.

ii. Anti-Virus

F-Secure is in use, there are no plans to review this within the life of this strategy.

iii. Anti-spam

Currently provided by Mailsweeper, this technology will be reviewed annually as the volume of Spam is seen to increase dramatically and the overhead of operating the system becomes larger. Systems need to adequately balance the risks to the organisation of passing on messages / images against Council policy that waste productive time, against the use of ICT resource time administering the system and work generated by “false positives” on business related e-mails.

iv. Software Audit

Centennial is used for this, further work on the use of this is needed.

v. Web Access Control

The Bloxx software was introduced in 2005/06 and currently fulfils the purpose. This will be reviewed in 2009/10.

vi. -Mail Content Filtering

This is provided by Mailsweeper which currently fulfils the purpose.

EXECUTIVE AGENDA

Monday 4th January 2010 at 1000 hours

Item No.		Page No.(s)
	PART 1 – OPEN ITEMS	
1.	To receive apologies for absence, if any.	
2.	To note any urgent items of business which the Chairman has consented to being considered under the provisions of Section 100(B) 4 (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
3.	Members should declare the existence and nature of any personal and prejudicial interests in respect of: a) any business on the agenda b) any urgent additional items to be considered c) any matters arising out of those items and if appropriate, withdraw from the meeting at the relevant time.	3
4.	To approve the minutes of a meeting held on 30 th November 2009.	4 to 11
5.	ICT Strategy.	12 to 36
6.	Bolsover District Play Strategy.	To Follow
7.	Winter Maintenance Policy.	To Follow
8.	Budget Report.	To Follow
	PART 2 – EXEMPT ITEMS <i>The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1, Schedule 12a.</i>	
9.	Tarran Bungalows. Exempt Paragraph 3	To Follow
10.	Creswell Miners Welfare Sports Ground. Exempt Paragraph 5	37 to 54
11.	Tender – Raising Aspirations. Exempt Paragraph 3	To Follow

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	7.
Date:	4 th January 2010	Status	Open
Category	Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Winter Maintenance Policy		
Report by:	Head of Housing		
Other Officers Involved	Patch Management Group		
Director	Director of Neighbourhoods		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Housing		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

CUSTOMER FOCUSED SERVICES – Providing excellent customer focused services

This policy provides clarity over what customers can expect during periods where there is snow and ice.

TARGETS

Not directly.

VALUE FOR MONEY

Not directly.

THE REPORT

Please see attached policy

This covers the role of Bolsover District Council during periods of snow and ice. The main responsibility lies with Derbyshire County Council as the Highways Authority, with other organisations such as Parish Councils having their own responsibility for areas owned by them.

The Head of Human Resources and Payroll has confirmed that there are no JE implications arising from this report and that it is reasonable to ask officers who normally have other duties to clear snow and grit areas. In accordance with the Council's Personnel Business Continuity Strategy the

Council will ensure that it continues to fully discharge its health and safety responsibilities in connection with requests for flexibility by employees.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Whether or not to approve the attached policy.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The cost of installing bins for storing grit – estimated at £250 each (with shovels) – cost is £5,500 or using existing wheelie bins the cost would be about £600

Legal: None.

Human Resources: The Council has a responsibility to staff under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

RECOMMENDATION

That Executive approves the Winter Maintenance Policy.

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

In order to approve the Winter Maintenance Policy.

ATTACHMENTS: Y – Winter Maintenance Policy
FILE REFERENCE:
SOURCE DOCUMENT:

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Winter Maintenance Policy

July 2009



This Policy addresses the following Corporate Aims (show those which are appropriate to the policy only):



COMMUNITY
SAFETY



CUSTOMER
FOCUSED SERVICES



ENVIRONMENT



REGENERATION



SOCIAL INCLUSION



STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Bolsover District Council Equalities Statement

Bolsover District Council is committed to equalities as an employer and in all the services provided to all sections of the community.

The Council believes that no person should be treated unfairly and is committed to eliminate all forms of discrimination in compliance with the Equality Strategy.

The Council also has due regard to eliminate racial discrimination and to proactively promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups when performing its functions.

This document is available in large print and other formats from any of the Council offices or by contacting the Chief Executives Directorate on 01246 242323. Please bear in mind we will need a few days to arrange this facility.

If you need help to read this document please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our Equality and Improvement Officer can be contacted via [Email](#) or by telephoning 01246 242407.

Minicom: 01246 242450

Fax: 01246 242423

CONTROL SHEET

Details of Document	Comments / Confirmation
Title	Winter Maintenance Policy
Document type – i.e. draft or final version	Draft
Location of Policy	
Author of Policy	Head of Housing
Member route for Approval & Cabinet Member concerned	Patch Management
Reviewed by SMT	5 th November 2009
Date Risk Assessment completed	
Date Equality Impact Assessment approved	
Partnership Involvement (if applicable)	
Date added to the Forward Plan	
Policy Approved by	
Date Approved	
Policy Review Date	
Date forwarded to CSPD (to include on Intranet and Internet if applicable to the public)	

Version 1.0 – First draft

Version 1.1 – With comments from ‘gritting group’

Version 1.2 – Comments from PMWG August 2009

CONTENTS

1. The Introduction

The policy is concerned with gritting and the clearance of snow and ice within the Bolsover District Council area.

During periods of snow and freezing weather the Council receives an increased demand for services where people want snow and ice clearing. The Council does not have the capacity to fully meet this demand. The purpose of this policy is to clarify which areas are viewed as a priority for clearance, and which officer has responsibility for each area.

2. The Scope of the Policy.

This policy applies to land and buildings owned and/or operated by Bolsover District Council. This includes office buildings, housing schemes, leisure facilities and commercial property.

3. The Principles of the Policy.

The main responsibility for clearing ice and snow within the District lies with Derbyshire County Council. (The Highways Act 1980 Sections 41 and 58 as amended).

There is no legislation that places any specific responsibility on the District Council in this way. However, the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 emphasises the need for access to and egress from places of work to be kept "safe and without such risks", while the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations specifically mentions keeping floors free from any substance that could cause a person to slip, trip or fall, "as far as is reasonably practicable".

In areas where the Council own pathways, there is a legal duty under the Occupiers Liability Act to take such care as is reasonably possible to ensure that the premises are safe to use. This will apply especially to sheltered housing schemes where tenants are more vulnerable.

4. The Policy Statement

a. Triggers: This policy will be triggered by one of two events.

Firstly, if we are aware from Derbyshire County Council that the weather conditions are such that they have started 'pre-emptive' gritting, and this is during normal working hours we will consider gritting priority one areas marked * only

Secondly, if there is snow and/or ice on the ground, and the weather forecast is that temperatures will remain below freezing for the next 24 hours we will aim to grit priority one areas, and if resources allow continue onto priority two, three, four and then five areas. However gritting and snow clearing activities will be limited to normal working hours, and only when resources allow.

In periods of prolonged cold weather, where there is snow and/or ice present, and the weather forecast suggests that the temperature will remain below freezing for 5 days or more, Senior Management Team may decide to increase resources available by recruitment of Agency staff. This would be funded from reserves or contingencies.

b. Priorities:

It is difficult to give a list of absolute priorities. Periods of bad weather may not lead to an even amount of snowfall or freezing across the District with some areas affected more than others. Similarly, the poor weather is likely to mean that not all employees are able to access their normal workplace, and may not be able to make alternative working arrangements.

Priority has been given to properties where the Council has specific legal responsibilities and/or to allow access to employees, some of whom will be involved in winter maintenance on other areas.

Priority will be given to areas that have previously been cleared where there is a risk of freezing, rather than prioritising clearing snow.

Maps of each area will be included in the appendix, and will focus on entrances and exits from each building.

Bolsover District Council will only clear snow or ice from areas listed below and not from any other area. .

Priority One: (usually within 3 hours)

- Riverside Depot *
- Sherwood Lodge *
- Shirebrook Contact Centre
- Clowne Contact Centre
- South Normanton Contact Centre
- Kissinggate Leisure Centre (Leisure services staff to clear)
- Creswell Leisure Centre (Leisure services staff to clear)

(areas marked * are the only areas where the Council will consider 'pre-emptive' gritting)

Priority Two: (target within 1 working days)

Sheltered Housing Schemes (where elderly residents live in flats or bedsits in one building that also has communal facilities) – main entrance and fire exits only

- Parkfields, Clowne
- Valley View, Hillstown
- Ashbourne Court, Shirebrook
- Woburn House, Blackwell
- Victoria House Creswell
- Jubilee Court, Pinxton
- Alder House, Shirebrook

Priority Three: (target within 3 working days)

Sheltered Housing Schemes (other than those above) – entrances and exits to communal facilities only

- Queens Court, Creswell
- Park View, Barlborough
- Recreation Close, Clowne
- Mill Lane, Whitwell

Community Houses

- 41 Hyndley Road, Bolsover
- 77 Eastfield Drive, South Normanton
- Rotherham Road, New Houghton

Pleasley Mills – fire escapes (following inspection)

Pleasley Mills, main entrance only

Priority Four: (no target – when resources allow)

Council Owned Car parks (entrances only, not individual bays, and not including garage sites)

Pathways to sheltered housing schemes not covered above

Priority Five: (no target – when resources all and other priorities are completed)

Pathways across Council owed land (including housing estates) that provides residents with access to facilities such as shops or bus-stops.

Note: No other work or clearances will be carried out

c. Equipment

Responsible Heads of Service will ensure that sufficient equipment is available on each site to allow for winter maintenance. Street Services will check grit bins and ensure that in each November each bin is reasonably full and will top up bins when requested.

Building	No. Grit Bins	No. Snow Shovels	Responsibility for equipment
Riverside Depot	2	2	Head of Regeneration
Sherwood Lodge	2	2	Head of Regeneration
Shirebrook CC	1	1	Head of Regeneration
Clowne CC	1	1	Head of Regeneration
South Normanton CC	1	1	Head of Regeneration
Kissingate Leisure Centre	1	2	Head of Leisure
Creswell Leisure Centre	1	2	Head of Leisure
Parkfields, Clowne	1	1	Head of Housing
Valley View, Hillstown	1	1	Head of Housing
Ashbourne Court, Shirebrook	1	1	Head of Housing
Woburn House, Blackwell	1	1	Head of Housing
Victoria House Creswell	1	1	Head of Housing
Jubilee Court, Pinxton	1	1	Head of Housing
Alder House, Shirebrook	1	1	Head of Housing
Queens Court, Cresswell	1	1	Head of Housing
Park View, Barlborough	1	1	Head of Housing
Recreation Close, Clowne	1	1	Head of Housing
Mill Lane, Whitwell	1	1	Head of Housing
41 Hyndley Road, Bolsover	1	1	Head of Street and Community Services
77 Eastfield Drive, South Normanton	1	1	Head of Street and Community Services
Pleasley Mills	X	X	Head of Regeneration
Rotherham Road, New Houghton	1	1	Head of Street and Community Services

d. Other issues

The Council will remind commercial tenants of their responsibilities to their employees under Health and Safety legislation to ensure that that the entrances and exits of the leased property are kept clear.

5. Responsibility for implementing the Policy

The responsibility for equipment is shown on the table above.

Responsibility for co-ordinating clearance of ice and snow lies with the Head of Community Services & Street Services with the exception of Leisure Sites (responsibility with Head of Leisure), Sherwood Lodge (Responsibility of Head of Regeneration) and Pleasley Mills (Responsibility of Head of Regeneration). If these officers are not available responsibility will fall on the next tier of management.

In severe weather SMT may decide to close Council facilities, this may be for a number of reasons, these include: where accesses to the building are dangerous; or when there are insufficient numbers of staff to operate the facility safely. Such cases are covered within departmental business continuity plans.

6. Any Target Groups and Key Areas, if applicable

As covered in Section 4, the Council has a legal responsibility for the Health and safety of employees – the Council will therefore prioritise properties where employees work.

Similarly, priority will also be given to ‘schemes’ where the Council has responsibility for the access paths and additional priority will be given to schemes that are occupied by people who are unable to carry out gritting themselves (e.g. sheltered housing schemes).

In other areas the Council will advise residents of Derbyshire County Council’s responsibilities and provide copies or links to the current County Council guidance.

(The web address of the Derbyshire County Council website page about gritting is shown below. However, this may change during the life of this policy)

http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport_roads/roads_traffic/road_maintenance/gritting/

Appendix

The final version of this policy will have plans of the areas referred to in part b. appended to this report.

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.

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Play Strategy

November 2009

This Strategy addresses the following Corporate Aims:



COMMUNITY
SAFETY



CUSTOMER
FOCUSED SERVICES



ENVIRONMENT



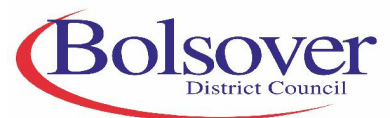
REGENERATION



SOCIAL INCLUSION



STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



The District of Bolsover Equalities Statement

The District of Bolsover is committed to equalities as an employer and in all the services provided to all sections of the community.

- The Council believes that no person should be treated unfairly and is committed to eliminate all forms of discrimination in compliance with the Equality Strategy.
- The Council also has due regard to eliminate racial discrimination and to proactively promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups when performing it's functions.

This document is available in large print and other formats from any of the Council Offices or by contacting the Chief Executives Directorate on 01246 242323. Please bear in mind we will need a few days to arrange this facility.

If you need help to read this document please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our Equality and Diversity Officer can be contacted via **Email** or by telephoning 01246 242407.

Minicom: 01246 242450
Fax: 01246 242423

Details of Document**Comments / Confirmation**

Title

Play Strategy

Document type – i.e. draft or final version

Location of Strategy

Lead Author of Strategy

Simeon Packard (Urban Play Solutions) / Matthew Connley (Special Projects Officer, Bolsover District Council)

Member route for Approval & Cabinet Member concerned

Reviewed by Director of Neighbourhoods

Date Risk Assessment completed

Date Equality Impact Assessment approved

Consultation Undertaken (Internal or External) if required

External consultation undertaken in 2007

Partnership Involvement (if applicable)

Bolsover Play Partnership

Strategy Approved by

Date Approved

Strategy Review Date

Date forwarded to CSPD (to include on Intranet and Internet if applicable to the public)

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A

1. Principles of the Strategy

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 Play Strategy aims to be all encompassing with regard to play in children's and young people's lives and will be delivered within the strategic framework of:

- The Corporate Plan 2007-2011¹
- The Community Strategy 2006-2020²

The adoption of this strategy will support and inform the Sustainable Community Strategy 2006-2020.

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.

Children and young people engage in play for its own sake, not for any external goal or reward; it is a significant part of children's culture.

Play is critically important to children's development and learning. Children and young people exhibit a behavioural imperative and instinctive desire to play.

Through play children learn that which cannot be taught and which can only be learnt through experience, such as self-confidence and resilience. A child's development, and their future capacity as an adult, will be affected by their access to a range of play opportunities.

Play is a natural and universal activity. It is a process with no necessary outcome. Play is freely chosen (i.e. entered into by the child because he or she wishes to do so); personally directed (i.e. under the control of the child playing); intrinsically motivated (i.e. is undertaken because it is satisfying for the child playing).

Through play children and young people find out about themselves, their abilities and interests. Play is therefore crucial for developing children's

self-awareness and an understanding of the world around them. Play helps children and young people to cope with difficult and stressful situations, and fosters social inclusion.

To support the child's right to participate fully in leisure, recreation and play, the child's participation, opinions and views must be sought, listened to and taken into account.

Risk-taking is an essential feature of children and young people's play; children and young people want and need to take risks in order to explore limits, venture into new experiences and develop their capacities

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.

This is based on the understanding that all members of the community, whether young or old should have a mutual respect for each other's individual needs and requirements.

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.

Based on the overriding principle that it is everyone's responsibility to protect children from harm and neglect, ensuring their access to stimulating and challenging play environments is an important objective of the Bolsover District Play Strategy.

Adults have an extremely important role in supporting and encouraging children's natural instinct to play and maximising their use of local play environments.

It is also recognised that:

Children and young people want to play, and should be entitled to do so, in variety of public spaces near to their homes. This should include places designated for play as well as shared public space.

The impact of modern, urban society on children's lives significantly restricts their opportunity to play freely, and has resulted in a poverty of play opportunities in the general environment.

Children, their families and society as a whole, benefit from an environment in which children and young people are able to play in public spaces free from unacceptable or avoidable risks

Adults, in the form of play workers, parents, carers, relatives and friends have a significant role in supporting and enabling children's play.

It is important that all children and young people have access to stimulating and challenging play environments where they are exposed to acceptable levels of risk, but where they are not exposed to unacceptable risks of death or serious injury. This is in line with the policy statement 'Managing Risk in Play Provision', published by the Play Safety Forum and endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive.

Some children, due to their personal or family circumstances, or their social and physical environment, have more limited access to play opportunities than others, and that the play needs of these children must be catered for in the development of the Play Strategy.

2. Introduction

The Bolsover District Play Strategy recognises that play is fundamental to the life of every child, is vital both to children's quality of life during their childhood, and to their development into healthy and independent adults.

The Play Strategy reflects Bolsover District Council's commitment to ensuring that children and young people's needs are central to policy making, and that provision is made to meet those needs and desires.

It seeks to improve children's lives by first establishing a set of values and principles and then sets out a number of proposals for the future development of quality play opportunities across the District.

The development of the Play Strategy began during the spring of 2007 with the creation of the Bolsover District Play Partnership, which comprises a range of individuals and organisations from both within the statutory and voluntary sectors and the wider community.

The role and terms of reference of the Bolsover District Play Partnership is to:

- Assist with the development of the play strategy

- To ensure that children and young people are consulted and engaged in both the development of the strategy and in its implementation

- To ensure that the strategy is inclusive of all children and young people, whatever their particular needs or backgrounds

- To help promote and publicise the strategy process

- To assist with the implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation of the strategy over the next five years

During a launch workshop, the scope of the strategy and a number of key principles and objectives for the strategy were agreed.

Those attending were also given the opportunity to provide their hopes, fears and ideas for the development of play within the District. These are summarised in appendix A.

The following policy statements describe Bolsover District Council's understanding of the role of play in children's lives, and the values and principles that underpin the development of the Play Strategy.

Policy 1: The Play Strategy recognises that play and Informal activity programmes have a vital role to play in improving the health and well being of children and young people

Policy 2: The Play Strategy will seek to protect and improve and play opportunities across the district

Policy 3: Play opportunities across the district will be provided on the basis of a strategic analysis of local needs with the aim of providing an equitable distribution of facilities and services across the district

Policy 4: Children, young people and their families will be actively engaged in the planning and development of play opportunities through appropriate consultation and active involvement.

Policy 5: The Play Strategy acknowledges the vital role played by parish councils and the voluntary and community sector within the district in relation to the provision of play opportunities and we will work to support their efforts

Policy 6: Through the Play Strategy Bolsover District Council's Leisure Services department will seek opportunities to improve and enhance Play provision across the district through planning obligations and Section 106 agreements with developers

The adoption of these policies on play will reflect Bolsover District Council's commitment to ensuring that the needs and desires of children are central to policymaking, and that appropriate provision is made to meet those needs and desires.

The vision for the future of play in Bolsover is:

“Working together to support children and young people and their right to play within their own communities”

3. The Scope of the Strategy (Executive Summary)

The Bolsover District Play Strategy, which has been developed by Bolsover District Council and the Bolsover District Play Partnership, aims to provide a series of key actions that are supported by policies and based on the needs, wishes and ideas of children, young people, parents, carers and adults living and working within the district.

The Play Strategy aims to address the issues that prevent children and young people 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 strategy will also recognise 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 aim of the Play Strategy is ultimately to improve and increase the range and availability of play opportunities and experiences for children and young people.

The Bolsover District Play Partnership will achieve this through the establishment of clear policies for the development and provision of opportunities for play. These will then provide the basis for the development and provision of a range of high quality and accessible play activities and facilities for all its children and young people across Bolsover district.

The development of this strategy has been based on an understanding of the quality and quantity of current play environments, whether they be formal or informal and as well as the barriers that prevent children and young people from making full use of existing play opportunities within their own community.

The strategy contains an action plan, which has clear and identifiable targets and milestones.

The Strategy aims to expand the areas of the public realm where all children and young people can feel safe and welcomed.

The Strategy seeks to meet the needs and desires of children and young people within their local community, including groups that have traditionally suffered exclusion, such as disabled children and young people and those from minority ethnic or refugee communities.

The Strategy seeks to improve the quality of life for the whole community by engaging with its children and young people to challenge negative perceptions and engender shared ownership of, and responsibility for, open space and the built environment.

The following objectives provide scope and focus for the development of the Play strategy and are linked to the priorities identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

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

Throughout this strategy the term children and young people refers to all children and young people aged 0 to19 regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic background or social status.

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.

The most important aspect of a strategy with a focus on play is the provision of a framework for regulation and consistency in offering play opportunities for children and young people.

The development of a play strategy was also a key recommendation of the guidelines provided by the Children's Play Council within the document 'Making a Case for Play' (2002).

'Local authorities should work with partners to develop and promote corporate play policies and strategies which take into account the needs and wishes of children and young people.'

Children's Play Council, Making the Case for Play (2002)³.

The Strategy will enable Bolsover District Council to consider the needs of children, young people and their families across a range of policy and strategy areas.

Development and Implementation of the Play Strategy will also enable Bolsover District Council and its partners to:

- Bring together a range of disciplines, interests and issues to promote closer inter-departmental, inter-authority and community relationships around the key theme of children and young people.

- Provide an evidence base, build strategic partnerships and develop plans to support funding applications to a wide range of potential funders.

- Comply with relevant legislation including the Children Act (2004) and the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)

- Help to meet the requirements for assessments and audits of open spaces contained in Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG 17)

- Promote a more holistic view of play space provision, distribution and quality

- Provide the basis for a consistent approach that contributes to a strategic overview within current priorities

- Identify areas of play space deficiency, gaps in types of provision and the need for improvement

- Assist in the identification of priorities, and in planning for improvements or the creation of new play spaces or services

- Promote / enable better management of assets

Highlight and resolve issues relating to the quantity, quality and accessibility of play provision

Seek opportunities for the development of play spaces through Section 106 agreements with developers

Maximise the effectiveness of budgets through strategically targeted expenditure based on an assessment of need

Assist in the development plan review, development control, decision making and the negotiation of developer agreements

Contribute towards best value reviews and other corporate strategies

Promote partnership working, social inclusion and community involvement.

Everybody within a community will benefit from an environment that supports the development and welfare of children. However, the Play Strategy is predominantly for:

All children and young people aged 0 and 19, their parents, carers and families.

Elected members and officers of Bolsover District Council who have an influence over children and young people's opportunities to play

Those who directly offer services through staff and volunteers to children and their families including nurseries, child minders, play schemes, out of school groups, play buses, open access schemes and youth clubs.

Individuals, agencies or groups who have an interest in the development of quality play facilities and play services for children and young people.

In adopting this Play Strategy Bolsover District Council will ensure that:

All decisions and activities that might affect children and young people's opportunities and space to play should be guided by this strategy

Officers across a range of departments will work together and in partnership with other statutory and voluntary agencies, in order to make the most effective use of resources and ensure that all children and young people within the District have access to the broadest range of environments and opportunities for play.

B: Bolsover District Play Strategy

4 Setting the Scene

4.1 What is play?

Children and our own childhood experiences tell us that play includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

Running, climbing, skipping, hiding, playing with ropes, jumping, practising cartwheels, throwing and kicking balls, making friends, falling out, growing things, telling stories, climbing trees, taking risks, getting wet, exploring nature, building dens, getting dirty, dressing up, keeping animals, digging holes, swinging on tyres, shouting, fighting, inventing games, making things, painting pictures, talking with friends or just sitting .

Although we all recognise it when we see it, play is actually very difficult to define. The national occupational standards of the playwork, childcare and early years professions define play as:

'freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. It can be fun or serious...by playing children learn and develop as individuals and as members of the community'.

The report 'Getting serious about play', published by DCMS in 2004⁴ uses the straightforward description of play as:

'What children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests in their own way and for their own reasons'

The Play Strategy recognises the diversity, complexity and richness of children's play.

These definitions all suggest two things:

That play is instinctive, arising from children's innate need to express themselves and explore their world.

That the benefits of play for children's development derive from them choosing it and doing it for themselves.

The adult role in play provision is to enable rather than to direct.

4.2 The Benefits of Play

4.21 Play is a Part of Education

Play allows children the chance to explore their environment, to learn how it works and how they relate to it.

Play fosters the development of a range of personal and social skills and can be used as a vehicle to address deficits in child development, particularly social inclusion.

Play presents a child with the opportunities of choice, freedom and control as well as a wide range of physical, social and intellectual experiences.

To a child, play can present benefits both at the time of play or as the play evolves. Over time play can enhance self-esteem, respect, social inclusion, wellbeing, healthy growth, creativity, knowledge and understanding.

4.22 Play is Essential for the Physical and Mental Health of the Child

Play is an active and healthy pursuit enabling and promoting physical mobility. It is through play that children develop and learn basic motor skills and improve co-ordination, balance and dexterity.

Play can allow children to deal with certain situations and feelings using play in a spontaneous way to work through emotions, possibly retelling and sometimes reworking experiences through their pretend play, story creation and artwork.

When playing, a child demonstrates independence and imagination to present themselves and their character. Play allows children to test themselves and become aware of their physical strengths and limitations.

4.23 Play is an Essential Part of Family and Community Life

Play is a social activity that allows for interaction with other children and adults. It helps children gain understanding and experimentation with different social roles and integrating with others. This has benefits to the child in sharing ideas and responsibilities whilst also communicating their thoughts and feelings for desired outcomes.

The benefits of child's play extend to the wider community in tackling issues such as countering anti social behaviour, community safety, youth crime and other common community problems.

Play can also bring community benefits in terms of employment, volunteering and training for those working with children and young people.

4.3 Barriers and Social Exclusion

4.31 Barriers to play

“Children are being poisoned by a ‘junk culture’ of processed food, computer games and over-competitive education. There is less room for reading, for dreaming, for music, for drama, for art, and simply for playing.”

Michael Morpurgo, children’s author⁵

Children and young people commonly identify many barriers to play, recreation and their enjoyment of public space.

These include fears for their safety, especially from bullying, traffic, dirty, boring or run-down play areas and parks, lack of choice and lack of access.

Parents and the wider community strongly believe that children today have fewer opportunities to play than they did as children, and are spending too much time watching television or using computers.

This is a serious concern for many adults.

A 2001 MORI poll cited activities for teenagers as people’s top priority for local improvement, ahead of crime reduction, road repairs and better transport. Next was the provision of more and better facilities for younger children.

Studies show dramatic decreases in children’s independent mobility, a major factor in their access to play opportunities. For example, the proportion of seven and eight year olds walking unaccompanied to school fell from 80% in 1971 to 9% in 1990.

While fear of ‘stranger danger’ is often cited as a major reason, other studies have shown that traffic is a more significant factor.

One study demonstrated that, where traffic is slower, parents allow their children to play outdoors in much greater numbers than in similar streets where it is faster. The same study concluded that fear of abduction was more of an effect of children not being allowed to play outdoors than its cause.

Children and young people themselves talk about being prevented from playing out in public.

In the 2003 Playday Survey⁶ of 7 to 16 year olds, two thirds said they like to play outside daily, mostly to meet friends, but:

- 80% said they had been told off for playing outdoors
- 50% said they had been shouted at for playing outdoors

- 33% of 7 to 11 year olds said that being told off stopped them playing outdoors
- 11 year olds said that they were told off more than any other age group.

4.32 Inequalities and Social Exclusion

'Inclusive play provision is open and accessible to all and takes positive action in removing disabling barriers so that disabled children and non-disabled children can participate'.

Alison John, for Kidsactive and the Better Play Awards⁷

For disabled children, negative attitudes and inaccessible physical environments compound the general problems experienced by most children, creating enormous social and physical barriers to the enjoyment of their right to play independently.

Throughout the UK, there is evidence that disabled children do not enjoy equality of access to play and leisure activities. A recent survey of 1,000 parents of disabled children demonstrated how their children were excluded from ordinary leisure opportunities.

Parks and playgrounds were the least user-friendly, with few facilities for people with disabilities.

4.33 Negative Perceptions about Children and Young People

Groups of children or young people 'hanging out' in the public domain are often characterised as posing a threat or a nuisance, even when they are simply enjoying being together. Many children and young people complain that they do not have access to space that is theirs, or which they are welcome to share with adults, and that they are consequently scapegoated.

'Young people are often represented as the perpetrators of crime, and yet it is clear that in terms of parks and green spaces they see themselves as the victims. They suffer anti-social behaviour in the form of bullying from other age groups but also on the part of adults – ranging from the possibility of attack in unlit areas to adults allowing their dogs to roam loose in children's areas. Contrary to expectations, young people are also very concerned about issues of maintenance in parks and green spaces.'

A report by Groundwork for the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce, 2002⁸

4.34 Managing Risk or Managing the Risk of Litigation?

There is an increasingly growing culture of blame and litigation.

This has left providers of play facilities more and more concerned about minimising the chances of even minor accidents for fear of being taken to court.

It is widely recognised that play facilities which don't offer an element of challenge cannot contribute much to a child's development, quickly become boring, under used and ultimately a waste of valuable resources.

Worse still, this scenario could cause children to seek excitement elsewhere often at much greater danger to themselves and other people. This is an obvious possible result when play facilities lack challenge, are closed because of fear of litigation or because insurance premiums have been increased.

Consultation carried out as part of the Play Review 2004 revealed strong concern about the damaging impact of an overly cautious approach to safety. The fundamentals of play involve creativity of thought, challenge, fun and excitement for those engaged.

“Play areas may become so boring that children seek excitement elsewhere often at a much greater danger to themselves and other people”

‘Getting serious about play’, DCMS 2004⁴

Play, which is internally focused, fosters a degree of risk and experimentation, which will actively involve children and young people for large periods of time.

However, with growing concerns about children's safety, play providers are becoming lost amidst increasing fears of litigation from even the most minor of accidents.

This fear has a jeopardising effect on children's play opportunities and child development, as a play area with no element of challenge will hold no benefit to its users.

‘Sensible health and safety is about managing risks, not eliminating them all. The HSE is not in the business of stamping out simple pleasures wherever they appear and at whatever cost. We recognise the benefits to children's development of play, which necessarily involves some risk, and this shouldn't be sacrificed in the pursuit of the unachievable goal of absolute safety.’

Health and Safety Executive, 2005⁹

Bolsover District Council has signed up to the Health and Safety Executive's Sensible Risk Campaign. The principles of sensible risk management are set out below.

1. Sensible risk management **is** about:
 - Ensuring that workers and the public are properly protected
 - Providing overall benefit to society by balancing benefits and risks, with a focus on reducing real risks – both those which arise more often and those with serious consequences
 - Enabling innovation and learning not stifling them
 - Ensuring that those who create risks manage them responsibly and understand that failure to manage real risks responsibly is likely to lead to robust action
 - Enabling individuals to understand that as well as the right to protection, they also have to exercise responsibility
2. Sensible risk management **is not** about:
 - Creating a totally risk free society
 - Generating useless paperwork mountains
 - Scaring people by exaggerating or publicising trivial risks
 - Stopping important recreational and learning activities for individuals where the risks are managed
 - Reducing protection of people from risks that cause real harm and suffering

The principles were launched by Bill Callaghan, Chair of the Health and Safety Commission in August 2006

4.35 Position Statement: 'Managing Risk in Play Provision', Play Safety Forum

Children and young people need and want to take risks. Concepts of "acceptable risk" and "unacceptable risk" are critical to making informed judgements about what constitutes a best possible play environment.

This Strategy supports the Play Safety Forum Position Statement 'Managing Risk in Play Provision' (Play Safety Forum 2002)¹⁰ and therefore strives to ensure that risks are managed and controlled so far as is reasonably practicable while allowing the potential benefits to be delivered.

All children and young people both need and want to take risks in order to explore limits, venture into new experiences and develop their capacities. It is the job of all those responsible for children at play to assess and manage the level of risk, so that children are given the chance to stretch themselves, test and develop their abilities without exposing them to unacceptable risks. If we do not provide controlled opportunities for children to encounter and manage risk then they may be denied the chance to learn these skills. They may also be more likely to choose to play in uncontrolled environments where the risks are greater.

Therefore it is acceptable that in play provision children may be exposed to the risk of minor and easily-healed injuries such as bruises, grazes or sprains. On the other hand, play provision should not expose children to significant likelihood of permanent disability or life-threatening injuries. However, it may on occasions be unavoidable that play provision exposes children to the risk – the very low risk– of serious injury or even death.

Providers should strike a balance between the risks and the benefits. This should be done on the basis of a risk assessment. Crucially, this risk assessment should involve a risk-benefit trade-off between safety and other goals, which should be spelled out in the provider's policy.

Managing Risk in Play Provision (Play Safety Forum 2002)¹⁰

4.4 The National Context for the Play Strategy

Whilst play alone is an important factor in a child's development, offering play opportunities can clearly link with other national priorities for children and young people:

4.41 The National Position in Relation to Play

“We recognise that play can impact positively on a range of issues and we will continue to ensure that it is recognised as having an important contribution to the Change for Children Programme, the Physical Activity Plan and the Cleaner, Safer Greener agenda. We will be considering how to take forward a more strategic, cross-departmental policy for play”.

Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, 2005

4.411 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 31)¹¹

Article 31 of The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified by the UK Government in December 1991) recognises the importance of play for the child.

“State parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure; engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and arts”

4.412 Every Child Matters

The development of the play strategy will also help meet the vision of outcomes for children and young people as described within the Governments 'Every Child Matters' report 2003¹² and adopted within the Children's Act 2004¹³ as being:

Being Healthy
Staying safe
Enjoy and achieve
Make a positive contribution
Help achieve economic well being

Being Healthy

All children and young people need access to safe, stimulating, outdoor play environments where they can get the physical exercise they need to stay healthy, just by running about and playing. Physical activity is widely recognised as important for health in childhood, providing for both physical and psychological well being.

Staying Safe

“One of the main reasons children give for not playing outdoors more is that they and their parents are afraid for their safety. Fear of strangers, traffic and bullying by other children combine to keep children in their own homes. Good play provision protects children through reducing unacceptable levels of danger, while allowing them the opportunity to challenge themselves and use their initiative. At the same time, play enables children to take risks, to think through decisions and gain increased self-confidence and greater resilience”.

Planning for Play, Guidance on the development and implementation of local play strategies (Play England, 2006)¹⁴

Play is also an extremely effective vehicle for addressing issues surrounding social inclusion and also helping children who are vulnerable and or have special needs.

The aim is to enable children to have access to play opportunities provided in a safe and stimulating environment free from discrimination.

Enjoy and Achieve

Improved play provision within the District of Bolsover will help children and young people to learn, grow and develop. Opportunities for physical activity and socialising with their peers, provides fun and enjoyment, as well as contributing towards achievement in school by helping to overcome barriers that prevent learning.

Play can also help provide a sense of belonging.

Making a Positive Contribution

The more that children are able to make decisions about things that affect them, and the more choice and control they have over their everyday lives, the less likely they are to be involved in so-called anti-social behaviour. Good play provision is child centred. Giving children and young people a real say in play and youth provision will encourage them to take responsibility for their actions and help to build community cohesion across the ages

Economic Well Being

Play projects can be seen as focal points for communities and can offer opportunities for social interaction for the wider community, supporting the development of a greater sense of community spirit.

Good quality accessible play provision as a free public service will help to ensure that the economic circumstances of children, young people and families are not a barrier to an active involvement in community life.

Nationally, there is a growing recognition of the importance of specific representation for children and young people in policy development.

The National Play Review, 'Getting Serious about Play' compiled in 2004⁴ by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport was the first government led review of children's play and offers positive solutions as to how gaps in play provision can be addressed.

The DCMS report 'Creating Opportunities: Guidance for local authorities'¹⁵ aims to assist the public sector in developing their Cultural Strategy. Within the guidance, play is drawn out as an essential ingredient of culture giving it legitimacy as an integral component for local authorities to prioritise.

The DCMS report 'Time For Play' (2006)¹⁶ sets out the cross cutting nature of play provision and its links to a wide range of government agenda's and initiatives.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17, Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG 17)¹⁷ aims to safeguard open spaces and playing fields. Revised during 2002, it focuses on assessing the need for different types of open space, rather than, as in the previous guidance, merely setting quantitative standards.

4.413 The National Position in Relation to Children's Health and Wellbeing

There is a common agreement that prevention is better than cure and that active lifestyles lead to a healthier state.

"The lack of physical activity is a major underlying cause of death, disease and disability. Preliminary data from a WHO study on risk factors suggest that a sedentary lifestyle is one of the ten leading global causes of death and disability. More than two million deaths each year are attributed to physical inactivity"

World Health Organisation, Move for Health, 2002¹⁸

The expert recommendation for young people supported by the Department of Health is that:

"All young people should participate in physical activity of at least moderate intensity for one hour per day. This hour can be made up from a variety of activities across the day, including organised sport, play, walking or cycling to school, physical education or planned exercise."

Health Development Agency, 2003¹⁹

Stimulating physical play opportunities for all ages will greatly contribute to the recommended increase in participation in physical activity.

4.414 Choosing Health White Paper 2004

The white paper 'Choosing Health'²⁰ set out the key principles for supporting the public to make healthier and more informed choices with regards to their health.

Improved play opportunities can make a considerable contribution towards meeting this agenda particularly with regard to tackling obesity and improving mental health and well being.

4.5 The District of Bolsover

4.51 Profile

The district had a resident population of 71,766 as at the 2001 Census of which 20,013 residents are aged under 16. The rural nature of the District ensures a low population density of just 4.48 people per hectare, although approximately 60% of the District's population is located in the districts four towns: Clowne, Shirebrook, Bolsover and South Normanton.

The population breakdown by parish (including under 16s) is presented in Table1.

Parish	Population	U16
Ault Hucknall	864	262
Barlborough	3,018	779
Blackwell	4,163	1,154
Bolsover	11,291	3,163
Clowne	7,447	1,987
Elmton with Creswell	4,757	1,404
Glapwell	1,503	430
Pinxton	5,431	1,541
Pleasley	2,066	489
Scarcliffe	5,214	1,500
Shirebrook	9,288	2,821
South Normanton	8,546	2,275
Tibshelf	3,544	1,008
Whitwell	4,634	1,200
Totals	71,766	20,013

Table 1: Population breakdown by parish, Bolsover District

The percentage of ethnic minority residents in the District (0.88%) is much lower than the national average of 9.08%.

Bolsover ranks as the 46th most deprived area in the country out of 354 local authorities on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and as such there is an impact of deprivation on health.

Life expectancy for males and females at birth in the District is lower than the national average. In particular, premature (under 75) death rates are around 10% higher in Bolsover as a whole than the national average, and nearly 40% higher in some wards in Shirebrook.

Obesity in the District is also high. In the majority of areas, 25% - 40% of people suffer with obesity.

4.52 Bolsover District Council

Bolsover District Council was rated as excellent under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) in 2008 and as 'performing adequately' under the Organisational Assessment and Area Assessment element of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) in December 2009.

"The council is very ambitious on behalf of its communities and has a clear long term vision for improving the quality of life in the area through regeneration and economic development".

Audit commission, 2004

The Play Strategy will be delivered within the framework of the following policies and strategies:

4.521 Corporate Plan 2007-2011

"To enhance and improve the wealth profile, well-being and quality of life for the communities of the District of Bolsover".

The Corporate Plan¹ was developed in conjunction with a range of strategic partners from across the District and strives to promote and improve the well being of the area and the social, economic and environmental well being of the community.

In order to achieve this, it identifies the following 6 main corporate aims.

Community Safety – Ensuring that communities are safe and secure

Customer Focused Services – Providing excellent customer focused services

Environment – Promoting and enhancing a clean and sustainable environment

Regeneration – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities

Social Inclusion – Promoting fairness, equality and lifelong learning

Strategic Organisational Development – Continually improving the organisation

The implementation of the Corporate Plan is underpinned by the following values:

Accessible

Listening to and responding to the needs of people

Accountable

Accepting responsibility for and explaining our decisions

Democratic

Taking decisions in the public interest

Equality

Ensuring that everyone is treated equally and with dignity

Equitable

Being fair in dealing with people and making decisions

Ethical

Behaving with integrity

Open

Telling people about what the Council does

Sustainable

Minimising the adverse impact of actions

4.522 The Sustainable Community Strategy 2006-2020

A diverse, healthy, fair and prosperous District, building on the strengths of our industrial past to become a vibrant, thriving community capable of meeting the challenges and the opportunities of the future.

The Sustainable Community Strategy 2006-2020² is a long term plan that aims to provide a better quality of life for everyone in Bolsover District by making it a safer, healthier, more prosperous and attractive place for people to live, work, play and visit.

Developed by the Local Strategic Partnership, widespread consultation with the people of Bolsover has ensured that it is based on issues and themes that matter to local people the most.

Safer communities – free from the fear of crime

Better health for all – healthier people in a healthier environment

Educated and skilled people – with raised aspirations

A dynamic outward-looking economy – creating and sustaining the jobs of the future and the talents to fill them

Deeper respect for the environment – making lives better, but not at the expense of those who are to come after us

Access for all to the benefits and services of the District – no barriers of age, disability, race, gender, or lack of transport.

Equality of access and opportunity – to services and jobs

Sustainable development – that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs

Striving to improve the quality of public services

4.523 Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009

Derbyshire County Council in liaison with its District partners including Bolsover District Council has developed a Children and Young People's Plan²¹.

Covering the period 2006-2009, the plan outlines the vision and key priorities to improve the lives of children, young people and their families within the County of Derbyshire and is based on the five outcomes for children and young people in Every Child Matters

The following priorities were produced following widespread consultation with young people and discussion with partner organisations in the statutory, community, voluntary and private sectors.

Being Healthy

- Tackling health inequalities
- Reducing obesity
- Reducing unwanted teenage pregnancy
- Reducing infant mortality rates

Staying Safe

- Improving the stability of care placements
- Reducing out of authority placements
- Meeting national care standards
- Reducing bullying, racism and non-accidental injury

Enjoying and Achieving

- Improving attainment of Looked After Children
- Increasing Level 2 qualifications for 16-19 year olds
- Improving attendance and attainment for all

Making a Positive Contribution

- Reducing the level of youth offending
- Reducing exclusions

Increasing participation of children and young people

Economic Well Being

Continuing to improve outcomes for those not in education, employment or training (NEET)
Achieving the child care targets

4.6 Play and the District of Bolsover

Within the District there are a wide variety of agencies that are either directly or indirectly involved in providing or supporting children's play.

4.61 Bolsover District Council

“Meeting the needs of young people is considered by the council to be an integral part of the regeneration of former mining communities. The development of services for young people is therefore a priority for the council”.

Audit Commission, 2004

Bolsover District Council provides a range of play, sports and arts activities, which are co-ordinated by the council's Leisure Services department for all age groups in a wide range of locations across the District.

Feedback from users and stakeholders is positive, demonstrating that the activities are meeting the needs of young people.

In terms of fixed play facilities the Council currently manages and maintains 14 unsupervised outdoor-equipped play areas and they are found at the following locations:

Houfton Road Recreation Ground, Bolsover
Crich View , Bolsover
Laburnum Close, Bolsover
New Bolsover Model Village, Bolsover
Heritage Drive, Clowne
Model Village, Creswell (toddler and junior play areas)
King Street, Hodthorpe
Shirebrook Town Park, Shirebrook
Sherwood Drive, Model Village, Shirebrook
Broadmeadows, South Normanton
Sough Road, South Normanton
Staffa Drive, Tibshelf
Poppy Gardens, Tibshelf

In addition the council manages a number of play areas for parish councils and other agencies through its Playground Inspection and Management Service (PIMS). These are located at:

Barlborough Country Park, Barlborough (*Barlborough Parish Council*)
Manor Road, Barlborough (*Barlborough Parish Council*)
Ruthyn Avenue, Barlborough (*Barlborough Parish Council*)
Gloves Lane, Blackwell (*Blackwell Parish Council*)
North Street, Blackwell (*Blackwell Parish Council*)
Bamford Street, Newton (*Blackwell Parish Council*)
Charnwood Crescent, Newton (*Blackwell Parish Council*)
Olive Avenue, Shirebrook (*Northern Counties Housing Association*)
Tibshelf Road, Westhouses (*Blackwell Parish Council*)

4.611 Parks and Amenities

The Council actively encourages the development of recreational open space and countryside amenity areas and is responsible for developing and maintaining a variety of small green spaces for amenity or informal play purposes.

The Council also makes recreational land available to Parish Councils and other organisations through leases and management agreements and most of the playing fields in the district are either managed by the local education authority, parish councils or Miners Welfares.

4.612 Development Control

Development Control, based within the council's Planning Department has responsibility for controlling the development of land within the strategic framework of the local plan.

In terms of Children's play the local plan seeks to secure the provision of children's play areas, sports pitches and public open space on new residential developments to a level at least in line with the National Playing Fields Association's six acre standard, although this is being reviewed as part of the production of the Local Development Framework (LDF).

4.613 Bolsover District Youth Council

Bolsover District Council in partnership with a range of public and community sector partners from within the local strategic partnership has developed a district-wide Youth Council, the purpose of which is:

To build on existing consultation with young people, such as through the Bolsover Youth Forum, to inform improvements to service delivery

To engage young people in Bolsover in the local democratic processes and institutions

To provide schools with a learning tool to enhance the teaching of citizenship

To develop a positive image of young people across the District

4.62 Other agencies

4.621 Parish Councils

Within Bolsover District there are fourteen parish / town councils, all of which provide and maintain playing fields and play areas in their respective parishes.

There are currently 54 play areas under the ownership and responsibility of parish councils, although Bolsover District Council does provide advice on safety and design matters when requested and can help secure funding to help improve and develop these facilities.

4.622 Derbyshire County Council

Derbyshire County Council is responsible for a range of services within the District that have an impact of play opportunities

Extended School Services

Derbyshire County Council is the local education authority and as such is currently undertaking a number of initiatives in order to meet the government requirement that by 2010 all schools provide extended services and in particular the core requirement of:

- Quality child care from 8am to 6pm all year round for all under 14 year olds who want it

- A varied menu of activities, including study support

- Parenting support

- Swift and easy referral to specialised support services

- Wider community access to school based facilities

In developing its strategy Derbyshire County Council intends to “extended services in and around schools” thereby reflecting:

- the important role that partner agencies have in providing services

- that whilst services may be accessible via schools, they may be provided on other sites

- that close links will be established to services developed in Children’s Centres and as part of Youth Matters

Transport

“The existence of 32 million vehicles has been the single biggest impact on children’s freedom”

Ken Worpole, Places to Play, National Conference, Oct 2006²²

Increasing volumes of traffic is one of the main barriers preventing children and young people's freedom to play.

Derbyshire County Council is responsible for the management of highways within the District and their main objectives are:

- To reduce the number of people killed and injured on the county's roads
- to reduce congestion
- to reduce inconvenience to the public caused by roadworks and temporary obstructions
- to improve public access to local services
- to encourage cycling and walking
- to encourage the use of public transport.

These objectives will be achieved by the implementation of a wide range of measures including:

- Accident reduction schemes
- traffic calming
- junction improvements
- speed limits
- pedestrian facilities - signal crossings, zebra crossings, traffic islands, new footways
- waiting and parking restrictions
- public transport facilities - bus lanes, bus priority schemes, bus shelters, bus stop waiting areas
- cycle facilities – cycle lanes and routes, cycle parking

4.623 Other Providers of Play Opportunities

There are a number of other providers of play opportunities within the District, most notably toddler groups and pre school play groups.

However, these groups generally charge a fee and whilst their significant contribution to play across the district is recognised, the emphasis of the play strategy is the development and provision of play opportunities that are freely accessible and free of cost. As such, these groups fall outside of the remit of the play strategy.

4.7 Where Are We Now?

4.71 Measuring Performance

In order to evaluate existing play opportunities across the district, an integral part of the review process has been the establishment of a baseline against which performance can be measured.

In consultation with our partners, three main themes were identified:

a) Accessibility and Inclusiveness

Children and young people's play and informal recreation takes place in a wide variety of locations / facilities and spaces, some of which are specifically designed for the purpose or have a different function but have become naturally adopted as a play space by local children.

The Play Strategy supports the view of the Children's Play Council that the primary aim of investment in, and support for play, should be to increase the numbers and frequency of children and young people from all social groups playing freely in their local neighbourhood.

Whilst it is accepted that private fee charging play provision has a role within the community, the aim of the play strategy for Bolsover District Council will be to ensure that:

Wherever they live or spend the majority of their free time, children and young people should have access to spaces and facilities for play and informal recreation, which meet the 'three frees' test and:

Are **free** of charge, where children and young people are **free** to come and go and **free** to choose what they do whilst there

Are accessible, welcoming and engaging for all, including those who are disabled or have specific needs and wishes and supports a wide range of differing play needs.

b) Quality

The quality of play opportunities can be very difficult to define as children will play in a wide and diverse range of areas.

For the purpose of this strategy, quality will be measured against the Seven Best Play Objectives as developed by the Children's Play Council and published in '*Best Play: What Play Provision should do for Children* (Children's Play Council, 2001)'.

Objectives should apply to any provision which aims to offer children good play opportunities. They form the basis against which play provision can be evaluated.

Objective 1: *The provision extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.*

Objective 2: *Recognises the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need.*

Objective 3: *Manages the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.*

Objective 4: *Maximises the range of play opportunities*

Objective 5: *Fosters independence and healthy self- esteem*

Objective 6: *Fosters the child's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction*

Objective 7: *Fosters the child's wellbeing, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn*

As children and young people choose to play in a wide variety of formal and informal spaces and there can be many reasons why they choose to play in such a space, the most reliable guide to the quality of the play experience can be ascertained by monitoring the amount of use an area is receiving by the type of children for which its use was originally intended.

c) Quantity

In order to establish the quantity of provision a typology of play space has been adopted that closely mirrors that provided by the Children's Play Council as part of its pilot CPA performance indicator programme³.

Use of this typology will enable Bolsover District Council and its partners to measure its performance against nationally recognised benchmark criteria and also enable the creation of a local standard for play space.

Types of Play Facilities:

Door-step spaces and facilities

- Small equipped play areas furnished primarily for young children
- Neighbourhood amenity green spaces (unequipped)
- Home zone, traffic calming or equivalent

Neighbourhood spaces and facilities

- Large equipped play areas primarily for children aged 5–11
- Satellite parks
- Junior bike, skate and skateboard facilities, kick-about areas.

Local spaces and facilities for play:

Supervised

- Adventure playgrounds
- Open access play centres
- Open access play schemes
- Play ranger and outreach play projects.

No formal supervision

- School playgrounds (open out of school hours)
- Neighbourhood equipped play areas (8+ items)
- Teenage wheeled sports areas (BMX / skate parks)
- Ball courts, multi-use games areas
- Hangout / youth shelters
- Public parks
- Playing fields/recreation grounds freely available for children to use.
- Canals, woodlands and natural areas.

Making the Case for Play, Children's Play Council (2002)³

4.72 Consultation and Audit of Play Opportunities

4.721 Consultation with children, young people, parents and carers

'Proposals must be prepared in partnership with other local agencies, children and young people and local communities'

'Getting Serious about Play', DCMS (2004)⁴

In order to establish the views of children and young people as well as those of their parents and carers, a widespread programme of consultation with the community took place during the spring / summer of 2007 which comprised:

200 completed questionnaires from children and young people within school and leisure settings

50 completed questionnaires from parents and carers

Interviews with children and young people

A review of previous consultation with young people was undertaken

Press statements were published within the local media encouraging comment and feedback from the whole community.

Meetings took place with representatives of organisations supporting play and interviews were held with Senior Officers of Bolsover District Council

4.722 Audit of Play Opportunities

In order to arrive at a sound understanding of the range of play opportunities for children and young people within the district an audit of play opportunities was undertaken which aimed to identify:

Where children and young people's outdoor play needs are currently being met and where they are not

Where there are deficiencies in access for children with disabilities and other minority groups

What works within existing provision and what, if any, are the problems

Where provision is staffed and supervised and where it is not.

How well existing space is currently being used by different groups of children and young people

Where the existing provision is located in relation to children and to where they want it to be

How safe, easy and accessible are the routes from home to play spaces

How easily can children and young people travel independently to outdoor play spaces and other leisure / recreational areas

Plans for the future development of land currently being used by children and young people for play and recreation

4.8 Summary of Consultation Results

4.81 Previous consultation

As there had been a number of consultation exercises with children and young people prior to the production of the play strategy, a desk top study was carried out to collate the results of these consultations.

4.811 Youth Council Consultations

As part of the development of the Youth Council, detailed consultation events were held at each of the five secondary schools within Bolsover District.

The purpose of the consultation was to:

Provide information that could be used by prospective candidates for Bolsover District Youth Councillors from each school

Provide information for elected Bolsover District Youth Councillors to utilise in discussions within the Youth Council

Inform Bolsover District Council on issues relevant to young people

Inform Bolsover Local Strategic partnership about youth issues in the District.

This consultation identified that leisure and recreation featured strongly in young people's lives, particularly amongst older teenage groups where socialising with friends was seen as a high priority. In terms of facilities, areas that provided peace and quiet, such as parks, were popular as were areas that provided opportunities for sports activities.

4.82 Children and adults questionnaire

In order to establish the views of younger children within the community, 250 questionnaires were distributed via primary and junior schools across the district. A total of 154 responses were received. Parents and carers were also invited to comment.

The survey identified that the majority of children like to play at a friend's house or at the local park or recreation ground. They like to meet and chat with friends and they like to be close to home.

In terms of play areas, they liked to use play areas and they were identified as a good place to meet friends and have fun, but they also said that they could be improved in terms of quality and maintenance. Sometimes they didn't always feel safe because of gangs.

As with the older children, visiting their local park or recreation ground was a popular pastime but a feeling of safety was also a significant factor in their enjoyment of these spaces.

With regard to parents and carers, the survey provided the following information:

All the parents and carers surveyed thought that being able to play outside is important to children and young people

The majority of parents and carers thought that children and young people are not playing outside as much as they used to because of fear of strangers, general safety concerns and road traffic

Many of those responding also felt that television and computer games were a barrier to playing outside

All the responders said that they felt that they had a role in supporting and encouraging children's play and more specifically encouraging children to play outside and join in activities

When asked 'what could be done in the public realm to encourage children's play?' responders said they would like to see more supervision around community areas, more organised activities and the provision of better play areas and improved maintenance

4.83 Audit of Play Opportunities

In order to arrive at a sound understanding of the distribution, range, quality and quantity of play opportunities for children and young people within the district a comprehensive audit of equipped play provision has been undertaken, which identified:

The location of provision

The population of young people (U16) in the local area (e.g. ward / parish)

The ownership / lease arrangements

Site area

Primary / secondary purpose of sites (as per PPG17 typologies)

The nature of access arrangements (free or at cost)

The number of entry points

The levels of maintenance

The quality of the whole site (qualitative assessment)

The quality of the equipped play area (qualitative assessment)

NPFA grading (i.e. Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP), Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP), etc.)

Manufacturer

Age of equipment (where known)

4.9 Summary of Findings Arising from the Audit

A full summary of audit findings can be found in Appendix B.

4.91 Equipped Play Facilities: Free Access

4.911 Quantity

There are 67 equipped play areas (EPAs) distributed across the District. This equates to a total area of 6.2ha, an average of 925m² (0.09ha) per play area.

Based on the local standard of 0.8ha per 1000 population, this equates to a deficit of 0.46ha of equipped play areas, although there are significant local variations in provision across the district.

A breakdown of provision by parish is presented in Table 2.

Parish	Population	U16	No. EPAs	Total EPA Area (ha)	ha / 1000 pop'n	ha / 1000 U16
Ault Hucknall	864	262	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Barlborough	3,018	779	3	0.18	0.06	0.23
Blackwell	4,163	1,154	6	0.54	0.13	0.47
Bolsover	11,291	3,163	12	1.96	0.17	0.62
Clowne	7,447	1,987	2	0.34	0.05	0.17
Elmton with Creswell	4,757	1,404	5	0.34	0.07	0.24
Glapwell	1,503	430	1	0.02	0.01	0.05
Pinxton	5,431	1,541	3	0.10	0.02	0.06
Pleasley	2,066	489	3	0.48	0.23	0.98
Scarcliffe	5,214	1,500	8	0.55	0.11	0.37
Shirebrook	9,288	2,821	7	0.84	0.09	0.30
South Normanton	8,546	2,275	6	0.22	0.03	0.10
Tibshelf	3,544	1,008	5	0.08	0.02	0.08
Whitwell	4,634	1,200	5	0.55	0.12	0.46
Totals	71,766	20,013	66	6.20	0.09	0.31

Table 2: EPA provision (quantity) by parish

4.912 Quality

An assessment of play area quality by parish is presented in Table 3.

Parish	No. EPAs	Grade				
		A	B	C	D	E
Ault Hucknall	0					
Barlborough	3		2		1	
Blackwell	6	1	3	1		1
Bolsover	12	1	3	2	6	
Clowne	2	1			1	
Elmton with Creswell	5		2	1	1	1
Glapwell	1			1		
Pinxton	3		1	1		
Pleasley	3		2		1	
Scarcliffe	8		1		5	
Shirebrook	7		4	2	1	
South Normanton	6		3	2		
Tibshelf	5	1	1	1		
Whitwell	5		1	2	2	
Totals	66	4	23	13	20	2

6% 34.8% 19.7% 30.3% 3.0%

Table 3: EPA quality by parish

From this it can be seen that only four existing play areas achieve the highest grade (A / excellent). Although a large number of play areas (23) achieve grade B / good, 20 were poor (grade D) and 2 were very poor (grade E).

4.92 Parks, Open Spaces and Natural Areas for Play

4.921 Quantity

There are 98.12ha of other playable spaces within the district, and these include both formal and less formal parks and recreation grounds.

The largest total areas of playable space by parish are in Shirebrook (19ha), South Normanton (10.33ha) and Bolsover (7.94ha), whilst Pleasley has a deficit of 0.08ha when compared against the NPFA Six Acre Standard.

4.922 Quality

Parks, open spaces and other natural areas (playable spaces) have the potential to meet the objectives set out in 'Best Play'.

The audit of play areas identified a wide variation in quality. In some areas older and more established play areas actually provided more play value than more recently developed play areas which tend to be smaller with fewer, lower quality and less mature landscape features.

The quality of maintenance of both play equipment and play areas varies considerably across the district. This is partly due to the wide variation in the number of site owners, mainly parish councils, and the differing levels of investment in ongoing maintenance and repair.

This particularly applies to the frequency of mowing regimes which can have a significant effect on the play value of an open space.

A breakdown of open space by settlement can be found in Appendix C.

4.93 Supervised Local Facilities for Play

Bolsover District Council operates a number of outreach projects during school holiday periods. These include:

4.931 Sport and Leisure Activities in School Holidays (SPLASH)

A diverse programme of sport, leisure and play activities aimed at all children and young people across the district is delivered by the Council's Leisure Services Department via leisure centres, outdoor sports facilities and recreation grounds. However, the programme is dependent upon external funding, so the number and range of activities has reduced in recent years.

However, feedback from all participants and parents has always been very positive.

4.932 Extreme Wheels

Extreme wheels is a outreach project based around wheeled 'extreme' sports such as skate boarding, BMX (both racing and freestyle) and KMX. The project has a collection of mobile ramps that are designed to provide temporary skate parks / BMX tracks in community settings as well as bikes, skateboards and helmets.

As with the SPLASH programme, Extreme Wheels is dependent on external funding and the number of sessions delivered will vary from year to year. There has been an increasing number of external bookings in recent years and income has helped sustain the project.

The project is often hired by community safety partnerships as it is recognised that wheeled sports are an excellent way of engaging with children and young people who may otherwise become involved in nuisance or anti-social behaviour or are not engaged by more traditional sports, such as football.

4.94 Community based provision

There are a number of playgroups provided by community and voluntary organisations across the district, which provide a range of free play activities for children particularly for those under the age of 7.

These are an invaluable resource and the main provider of supervised play opportunities in some parishes.

C: Implementation of the Bolsover District Play Strategy

5. Action Plan

5.1 Themes

As a result of the consultation exercise that was undertaken as part of developing this strategy and the parallel audit of play opportunities across the district, two distinct themes have been identified that will address the play needs and desires of the district's children and young people.

These themes formed the basis of Bolsover District Council's submission to the Big Lottery under the Children's Play Programme in September 2007, through which funding has been secured for the development of a range of play focussed projects.

These are:

Playable Spaces: the development of a number of equipped play areas (initially 7), to be located in those areas with the greatest identified deficit in provision and / or quality.

Neighbourhood Play: the development of opportunities for the delivery of play activities on open spaces across the district through the provision of a range of equipment for play and play leader training for local volunteers.

These particular themes were chosen as they directly address issues raised through the consultation and will contribute to reducing deficiencies in play provision and play opportunities across the district. They also meet all five of the objectives for the Play Strategy, as outlined in section 3.

In order to ensure that the objectives of the Play Strategy are achieved whilst also addressing the objectives set out in '*Best Play, What Play Provision Should do for Children*', (NPFA, 2000)²³ an Action Plan has been developed to guide the development and implementation of play provision and play opportunities across the district.

This is set out below and is also summarised in Appendix D.

5.2 Play Strategy 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 for play for all children and young people

5.21 Playable Spaces

Consultation with children, young people and their parents has identified that they place a high value on having high quality, safe and accessible places to play - whether it be in an equipped play space or less formal recreation areas.

There are a large number of play areas and play spaces distributed throughout the District but, when measured against the quality and quantity standards, both local and national, there are significant variations in both play provision and play opportunities.

It was also identified that natural / semi-natural areas can also provide good play opportunities and that their use should be encouraged wherever possible.

Action Point 1:

Bolsover District Council will identify the current shortfall in both formal and informal play provision across the district based both on adopted standards and on an analysis of local need and will take a stronger lead in supporting both Parish and Town councils to address this shortfall.

A measured improvement programme will also be developed (the Playground Upgrade Programme (PUP)), against which performance will be monitored and reported back through the Play Partnership.

Link to the Seven 'Best Play' Objectives:

Objective 1

Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.

Objective 4

Maximises the range of play opportunities

Objective 7

Fosters the child's well being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn

5.22 Giving children and young people a greater say

In order to ensure that play provision meets the future needs of children and young people and that they are encouraged to 'own' their own play spaces, new play areas should be developed in full consultation both with them and also with the wider community.

Action point 2:

All children and young people will be given the opportunity, through a range of inclusive consultation and participation activities, to help shape their future playable spaces.

Link to the Seven ‘Best Play’ Objectives:

Objective 1

Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.

Objective 4

Maximises the range of play opportunities

Objective 5

Fosters independence and healthy self- esteem

Objective 6

Fosters the child’s respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction

5.23 Local and national quantitative / qualitative standards

Bolsover District Council will review its use of the NPFA Six Acre standard as a measurement of performance for play as it is widely recognised that its emphasis is mainly on quantity and not quality and that it does not take into account more local variables and characteristics.

Action point 3:

Bolsover District Council will review the use of the NPFA Six Acre standard, develop a local ‘Bolsover’ standard and produce a supplementary planning document (SPD) in respect of children’s play provision.

Link to the Seven ‘Best Play’ Objectives:

Objective 1

Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.

Objective 4

Maximises the range of play opportunities

5.24 Extended Schools

School grounds, particularly in the more rural areas of the District, could provide high quality play opportunities outside of school hours, but are nearly always closed to both children and the wider community.

Action point 4:

Bolsover District Council will liaise with Derbyshire County Council with regard to the Extended Schools Strategy and will make representations with a view to promoting the use of school grounds as playable spaces outside normal curriculum time.

Link to the Seven ‘Best Play’ Objectives:

Objective 1

Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.

Objective 4

Maximises the range of play opportunities

5.3 Play Strategy 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

5.31 Play Strategy dissemination

In order to ensure that any future decisions that might affect play are made with the knowledge of the play strategy and policy, we need to ensure that it is widely disseminated across the council.

Action point 5:

Promote the existence of and circulate copies of the play strategy to all those who have influence

Link to the Seven ‘Best Play’ Objectives:

Objective 4

Maximises the range of play opportunities

5.32 Charter for play

We have identified that play has an extremely important role in the personal development of our children and young people and we need to do as much as we can to promote this through out the council, to our partners and the wider community.

Action Point 6:

Bolsover District Council in liaison with its strategic partners will develop a Charter for Play that can be disseminated through our partners across the community.

Link to the Seven ‘Best Play’ Objectives:

Objective 4

Maximises the range of play opportunities

5.4 Play Strategy Objective 3

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

5.41 Effective Partnership working

Through the existence of the play partnership we have already begun to realise the benefit of partnership working and we need continue to develop the ethos through the local strategic partnership to the wider District community.

Action point 7:

Continue to identify and engage suitable partners in respect to play opportunities within the District and establish a parish play forum.

Link to the Seven 'Best Play' Objectives:

Objective 1

Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.

Objective 4

Maximises the range of play opportunities

5.42 Community arrangements

We have identified through the development of the play strategy that particularly within a rural district such as ours, community groups and volunteers have a very important role to play in developing and supporting play activities within their own communities.

Whilst in most cases dedication and enthusiasm is not a barrier, finding appropriate sources of funding for equipment, training and delivery of play activities usually is.

As part of the Big Lottery Children's Play Programme, it would be possible to develop a neighbourhood play project that would provide equipment (play bags) that could be loaned to community and voluntary groups, provide training for volunteers who run play activities and a small fund for groups to fund other play / sporting activities.

In order to raise the profile of play, support play opportunities at a local level and encourage greater community involvement, a Neighbourhood Play project should be established, which would assist groups and individuals to deliver play activities within their own communities.

Action point 8:

Develop and maintain a Neighbourhood Play project that will provide support for community and voluntary sector groups to deliver play activities in their own communities

Link to the Seven 'Best Play' Objectives:**Objective 1**

Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.

Objective 4

Maximises the range of play opportunities

5.5 Play Strategy Objective 4

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

5.51 Barriers to play

Children, young people and their parents / carers have told us that there are many barriers preventing them from making use of the public domain for play.

Action point 9:

With our partners we will continue to address the barriers preventing play by identifying the cause and seeking solutions on a local basis.

Link to the Seven 'Best Play' Objectives**Objective 1**

Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.

Objective 3

Manages the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.

Objective 4

Maximises the range of play opportunities

Objective 5

Fosters independence and healthy self- esteem

Objective 6

Fosters the child's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction

5.6 Play Strategy Objective 5

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

We have identified through the development of the play strategy that for their play environments to be stimulating children and young people need to take acceptable risks.

Action Point 10:

Bolsover District Council will adopt the recommendations of the Play Safety Forum Managing Risk in play statement and aim through the use of appropriate risk assessment mechanisms to provide challenging and stimulating play environments

Link to the Seven 'Best Play' Objectives:

Objective 1

Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.

Objective 2

Recognises the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need.

Objective 3

Manages the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.

Objective 4

Maximises the range of play opportunities

Objective 5

Fosters independence and healthy self- esteem

Objective 6

Fosters the child's respect for others and offers opportunities for social

5.7 Delivering the Strategy

5.71 Links with Other Plans and Strategies

For the play strategy to be effective, cannot exist in isolation and therefore provides links with other plans and strategies both within the Council and other external agencies. The strategy contributes to and informs the Community Strategy and also other departmental service plans, which impact on the delivery of play.

This will avoid duplication of resources and ensures there is a joined up approach to achieving the aims of the Play Strategy.

5.72 Working in Partnership

Key to delivering the strategy and ensure the most efficient use of resources, will be the ability to:

Work in partnership with all local organisations that have an impact on children's play.

Support local networks and neighbourhood partnerships associated with children and young people.

Consult with the voluntary sector, children and young people, their families, schools and local communities.

Continue to work closely with and seek opportunities for joint working with different departments within the Council

5.73 Resources

A commitment to children's play implies that there will be adequate, secure and ongoing resources.

The best use of resources can be made through the co-ordination and co-operation of Council departments and external agencies in their effort to provide suitable play opportunities.

The Play Strategy will therefore be directly instrumental in influencing the Council's ability to attract additional resources and to focus on work programmes that will lead to more efficient service delivery.

It will be necessary to secure resources to support the Play Strategy and any policies developed from it and it is recognised that there is a need for ongoing capital and revenue input into to play development.

Wherever possible, external funding will be sought as it is acknowledged that the provision of play is not a statutory function. Leisure Services has a good track record for attracting funding, with £200,000 secured from the Big Lottery and £150,000 from Playbuilder as well as significant amounts from the Landfill Community Fund and developer contributions in recent years.

5.8 Implementation

Any move towards developing and delivering a quality play service must be underpinned by the implementation of appropriate monitoring procedures.

Such monitoring procedures will be developed and implemented as an ongoing and integral part of service delivery and will include active involvement of service users in identifying and responding to children's needs.

5.9 The Play Development Group

To ensure an efficient and effective delivery of the Play Strategy, it is proposed to establish a Play Development Group from the membership of the

Play Partnership and this will be co-ordinated by a designated lead officer from within Bolsover District Council.

The aim of the group will be to act as the lead body and reference point for all services making decisions that may have an impact on children and young people's play within the district and to be responsible for implementation and monitoring of the Play Strategy against the actions identified within the action plan.

It is proposed that the group will meet on a quarterly basis and be responsible for:

Evaluating and reporting performance to the relevant committee

Raising the awareness of play

Publicising, promoting and disseminating the Play Strategy / policies

Developing a coherent, cohesive and co-ordinated approach to the development of play opportunities

Ensuring all services providing play experiences will make decisions with reference to the Play Strategy / policies

Encouraging and supporting all play providers to adopt and implement the Play Strategy

Developing partnerships across different forms of provision and between departments, sectors, organisations and projects

Identifying additional funding sources for play and disseminating funding information to relevant groups

Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the Play Strategy

Stimulating the creation of joint projects and partnerships in support of children's play.

D

6. Acknowledgements / References

6.1 Acknowledgements

A draft Bolsover District Play Strategy was written in 2007 by Simeon Packard of Urban Play Solutions as an integral part of Bolsover District Council's application for funding from the Big Lottery Children's Play Programme.

The Play Strategy was revised in 2009 prior to its presentation for formal adoption by Bolsover District Council.

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7 Appendices

7.1 Appendix A: Hopes, Fears and Ideas



**Bolsover District Play Strategy Workshop
Friday 27 April 2007**

Hopes, Fears and Ideas

Group 1

Hopes

Views and needs of different age groups of children are met
Imaginative play encouraged, i.e. moveable / changing environment
Natural environment is maximised, e.g. willow tunnels, scented plants, logs to climb on, low hanging trees, etc, etc.
Maintained over longer period – not just when new

Fears

£200,000 not enough to do anything meaningful
Short timescale may restrict consultation / development
Too centrally / adult directed
No risk culture restricts creativity of project

Ideas

Build on what is already happening in local areas (e.g. youth forums, local development for children)
Ensure community and young people involvement in developing strategy and the on the ground work
Local artists to work with children to develop, for example, sculptures that can be over / through, etc.
Make some roads 'play streets', i.e. very restricted / no car access

Group 2

Hopes

Children / young people allowed to be children / young people

Safe / happy children

All children / young people involved in consultation with regular feedback opportunities

Whatever is provided is maintained and sustained (built into the funding application)

Age appropriate

Fears

Play is changing / darker side

Young people / society expect children / young people to grow up too quickly

Parents provide too much – children / young people expect it

Parents fear children / young people being bullied

Ideas

Regular consultation with young people / children / parents

Education for parents

Link to county strategy

Group 3

Hopes

- More co-ordination between all agencies, communities, schools, etc.
- Privacy opportunities
- More smiles all round
- Kids more active – more opportunities
- Work with parents / families
- Intergenerational projects
- Children learning about risk
- More parks – use more?
- Make more of arid space
- Less equipment, more imagination
- More imaginative spaces
- Unstructured play opportunities for older children / young people
- Clubs – need support / volunteers
- Increased community involvement

Fears

- Deflecting inc. ASBOs, etc.
- Insurance / legal / compliance
- Reluctance to go to (parks) due to fears
(are these vital!)
- Problems involving older teenagers
- Not enough workers, supervisors and clubs
- Exhausted volunteers
- Headlines: traffic and child protection stop opportunities
- Adult fears beyond shared actual knowledge of risk
- Cost! Individual and groups
- Need more people devoting time to this
- Continuity not hit and run and one off

Ideas

- Kids bookshop / swap / bus
- Mazes
- Forest Schools – family learning
- Skill share / learning opportunities for parents / families
- Link with playgroups
- Use open space more creatively – arts opportunities
- Playscheme provision
- Sculptured and landscaping
- Cultural opportunities extend
- Specific events for children
- Maximise opportunities / programmes for parents to play with children (e.g. baby play)

Help small groups go on trips (re: compliance)

Projects to burn energy

Group 4

Hopes

- Inclusive for disabled users
- Sustainable
- Free play
- Avoid duplication
- Link to other partners
- Children's centres
- Targeted youth support
- Indoor facilities for art / craft / cooking

Fears

- What happens to provision when the money runs out?
- Charging
- Isolation / hard to reach families
- Money targeted to meet one section's needs
- Need to act on consultation advice

Ideas

- Adventure play like forest schools / skills
- Pond dipping
- Ownership by stakeholders including children / young people
- Play Rangers
- Involve local people in paid voluntary tasks
- Home Zones

Audit of Equipped Play Areas

Site ref.	Map ref.	Name	Parish	Settlement	EPA ha	Own.	Man.	Maint.	EPA Category (after KKP)	No. items	Play Value	Accessibility / inclusion	Main equipment supplier	Additional equipment supplier(s)	Installed	EPA Score	EPA Grade
204	13	Barlborough Country Park	Barlborough	Barlborough	?	Barl PC	Barl PC	BDC (PIMS)	LEAP (1)	4	3	3	Wicksteed		2006	72%	B
195	3	Manor Road	Barlborough	Barlborough	0.06	BDC	Barl PC	BDC (PIMS)	LEAP (1)	5	3	2	Playdale	Lapsett	?	64%	B
197	2	Ruthyn Avenue	Barlborough	Barlborough	0.10	BDC	Barl PC	BDC (PIMS)	LAP / LEAP	2	1	3			?	40%	D
139	1	North Street Recreation Ground	Blackwell	Blackwell	0.04	Blackwell PC	Blackwell PC	Blackwell PC	LAP / LEAP	3	2	2	Wicksteed?		?	36%	D
135	5	Scanderlands Playing Field	Blackwell	Blackwell	?	Blackwell PC	Blackwell PC	Blackwell PC	LAP / LEAP	9	5	2	Kompan		2007	64%	B
325	40	Crich View	Bolsover	Bolsover	0.04	BDC	BDC	BDC	LAP/LEAP	2	1	2	SMP			44%	D
356	9	Hornscroft Park	Bolsover	Bolsover	0.07	OBTC	OBTC	OBTC	NEAP	5	5	3	Wicksteed		2008	84%	A
312	15	Horsehead Lane	Bolsover	Bolsover	?	DCC	DCC	DCC / BDC	LEAP (1)	5	3	3	Wicksteed		2006	67%	B
350	1	Houfton Road Recreation Ground	Bolsover	Bolsover	?	BDC	BDC	BDC	NEAP (3)	10	5	4	Kompan	Play and Leisure / Hags	2006	77%	B
346	2	King Georges Playing Field	Bolsover	Bolsover	0.05	OBTC	OBTC	OBTC	LAP/LEAP	4	2	2	Wicksteed		?	40%	D
317	16	Laburnum Close	Bolsover	Bolsover	0.03	BDC	BDC	BDC	LAP/LEAP	3	2	3	Wicksteed			56%	C
336	26	New Bolsover Model Village Green	Bolsover	Bolsover	0.05	BDC	BDC	BDC	LEAP (1)	8	4	3	Play and Leisure	SMP	1999	60%	B
337	7	Vale Park	Bolsover	Bolsover	1.07	OBTC?		OBTC	SEAP	17	5	3	Wicksteed		1992 / 2000	64%	B
		Clowne Campus Play Area	Clowne	Clowne		Chesterfield College	Chesterfield College	Chesterfield College	LEAP				Wicksteed				
158	21	Heritage Drive	Clowne	Clowne	0.07	BDC	BDC	BDC	LAP / LEAP	3	2	3	Wicksteed			44%	D
		The Sidings Skate Park	Clowne	Clowne	0.24	Chesterfield College / BDC	Clowne PC	Clowne PC					Rhino Ramps			-	-
166	2	Villa Park	Clowne	Clowne	0.03	Clowne PC	Clowne PC	Clowne PC	LEAP (1)	9	4	3	Bigfoot	Wicksteed	2005	80%	A
43	17	Creswell Model Village Green (junior)	Elmton with Creswell	Creswell	0.20	BDC	BDC	BDC	NEAP (1)	7	4	3	Wicksteed		?	63%	B
43	17	Creswell Model Village Green (toddlers)	Elmton with Creswell	Creswell	0.20	BDC	BDC	BDC	LEAP (1)	3	2	2	Wicksteed		?	63%	B
37	11	East Street Recreation Ground	Elmton with Creswell	Creswell	0.03	BDC	EWPC	BDC (PIMS)	LAP	3	2	2			?	40%	D
31	5	Fox Green Playing Fields	Elmton with Creswell	Creswell	0.04	BDC/EWCPC	EWPC	BDC (PIMS)	LAP	1	1	2	Wicksteed		?	28%	E
32	6	Welbeck Street Playing Fields	Elmton with Creswell	Creswell	0.04	EWPC	EWPC	BDC (PIMS)	LEAP (1)	5	3	4	Play and Leisure?		?	57%	C
24	1	Wood Avenue Recreation Ground	Elmton with Creswell	Creswell	?	EWPC	EWPC	BDC (PIMS)	LEAP	6	4	3	Wicksteed		2003	68%	B
184	5	Adjacent Village Hall	Glapwell	Glapwell	0.02	BDC	Glapwell PC	Glapwell PC	LAP/LEAP	4	4	4	Ausplay	Wicksteed	?	57%	C
302	2	New Street	Blackwell	Hilcote	0.03	Blackwell PC	Blackwell PC	Blackwell PC	LAP / LEAP	3	4	2	?	bespoke	?	57%	C
322	17	Cross Street	Scarcliffe	Hillstown	NIU	Scarcliffe PC	Scarcliffe PC	NIU	NIU	0	0	-	NIU			NIU	NIU
323	14	Hillstown Miner's Welfare Recreation Ground	Scarcliffe	Hillstown	0.03	Scarcliffe PC	Scarcliffe PC	Scarcliffe PC	LEAP (1)	10	4	3	Wicksteed		2001	72%	B
18	1	Hodthorpe Recreation Ground	Whitwell	Hodthorpe	0.13	Whitwell PC	Whitwell PC	Whitwell PC	LAP/LEAP	3	2	2	Wicksteed	Bigfoot	?	40%	D
20	3	King Street	Whitwell	Hodthorpe	0.04	BDC	BDC	BDC	LAP/LEAP	4	3	2	Wicksteed	Chipman	?	52%	C
65	1	Dale Close	Scarcliffe	Langwith	0.06	BDC	Scarcliffe PC	Scarcliffe PC	LAP/LEAP	7	2	2	Wicksteed		?	48%	D
67	3	Hardwick Street Recreation ground	Scarcliffe	Langwith	0.15	Scarcliffe PC		Scarcliffe PC	LAP/LEAP	7	2	2	Wicksteed		?	44%	D
273	7	New Houghton Millennium Green	Pleasley	New Houghton	0.14	?	New Houghton Millennium Green Trust	?	LAP/LEAP	9	3	3	Playdale		?	60%	B
268	1	Rotherham Road Recreation Ground	Pleasley	New Houghton	0.19	Pleasley PC		Pleasley PC	LEAP (1)	5	2	3	Wicksteed		?	43%	D
145	1	Bamford Street	Blackwell	Newton	0.15	BDC	Blackwell PC	Blackwell PC	NIU	4 (NIU)	5	3	Kompan	Wicksteed	2007	84%	A
144	4	Parish Grounds	Blackwell	Newton	0.20	Blackwell PC	Blackwell PC	Blackwell PC	LAP/LEAP	4	3	1	?		?	28%	E
189	1	Paltrerton Miner's Welfare Recreation Ground	Scarcliffe	Paltrerton	0.05	CISWO / PMW		Scarcliffe PC	LAP/LEAP	12	2	0	Wicksteed	Miracle Play	?	44%	D
110	1	Hilltop Park	Pinxton	Pinxton	0.04	BDC	BDC / PPC (EPA)	Pinxton PC	LAP/LEAP	4	2	2	SMP	Chipman	?	52%	C
120	10	Rear of Widmerpool Street	Pinxton	Pinxton	0.01	Pinxton PC		NIU	NIU	0	-	-	NIU		-	NIU	NIU
115	5	Wharf Road Recreation Ground	Pinxton	Pinxton	0.11	Pinxton PC	Pinxton PC	Pinxton PC	LEAP (1)	4	4	3	SMP		?	64%	B
278	2	Terrace Lane Recreation Ground	Pleasley	Pleasley	0.15	Pleasley PC	Pleasley PC	Pleasley PC	LAP/LEAP	7	3	3	Wicksteed		?	60%	B
61	1	East Street Recreation Ground	Scarcliffe	Scarcliffe	0.17	Scarcliffe PC	Scarcliffe PC	Scarcliffe PC	LAP/LEAP	12	2	2	Wicksteed	Miracle Play	?	48%	D
238	27	Coronation Drive Recreation Ground	Shirebrook	Shirebrook	0.07	Shirebrook TC	Shirebrook TC	Shirebrook TC	LAP/LEAP (1)	8	3	2	Wicksteed		?	44%	D
217	6	Langwith Junction Recreation Ground	Scarcliffe	Shirebrook	0.07	Scarcliffe PC		Scarcliffe PC	LAP/LEAP	6			Wicksteed		?	40%	D
215	40	Olive Avenue	Shirebrook	Shirebrook	0.24	BDC	NCHA	BDC (PIMS)	LEAP (1)	5	3	3	Lapsett		2005	70%	B
256	13	Park Road Recreation Ground	Shirebrook	Shirebrook	0.11	Shirebrook TC	Shirebrook TC	Shirebrook TC	LAP/LEAP (3)	19	4	3	Wicksteed		?	64%	B
247	26	Portland Road Recreation Ground	Shirebrook	Shirebrook	0.13	Shirebrook TC	Shirebrook TC	Shirebrook TC	LEAP (3)	11	3	2	Wicksteed		?	52%	C
260	11	Shirebrook Town Park & Kissingate Centre	Shirebrook	Shirebrook	0.11	BDC	BDC	BDC	SEAP				SMP	GBH	2006	69%	B
253	48	Swanick Avenue Park	Shirebrook	Shirebrook	0.13	BDC	BDC	BDC	LEAP (2)	6	4	3	Wicksteed	Base Leisure	1998?	60%	B
239	22	Warren Terrace Recreation Ground	Shirebrook	Shirebrook	0.08	Shirebrook TC	Shirebrook TC	Shirebrook TC	LAP/LEAP (1)	9 (+1)	3	2	Wicksteed		?	56%	C

Site ref.	Map ref.	Name	Parish	Settlement	EPA ha	Own.	Man.	Maint.	EPA Category (after KKP)	No. items	Play Value	Accessibility / inclusion	Main equipment supplier	Additional equipment supplier(s)	Installed	EPA Score	EPA Grade
308	57	Bentnck Recreation Ground	Shuttlewood	Shuttlewood	0.10	OBTC	OBTC	OBTC	LAP/LEAP	5	2	2	Levercrest		?	44%	D
305	56	Shuttlewood Recreation Ground	Bolsover	Shuttlewood	0.20	OBTC	OBTC	OBTC	LAP/LEAP	5	2	2	Wicksteed	SMP	?	48%	D
386	21	Broadmeadows Park	South Normanton	South Normanton	0.06	BDC/DCC	BDC/DCC?	BDC	NEAP/SEAP	11	5	3	Wicksteed		2001?	69%	B
288	5	Market Street Recreation Ground	South Normanton	South Normanton	NIU	SNPC		S Norm PC	NIU		-	-			?	NIU	NIU
293	16	Penryn Close	South Normanton	South Normanton	0.02	?		Developer?	LAP/LEAP	5	2	4	Ledon	Russell Leisure		64%	B
389	24	Rangewood Road	South Normanton	South Normanton	0.04	?		Developer?	LEAP (2)	6	4	3	Record			71%	B
291	15	Sough Road	South Normanton	South Normanton	0.02	Developer?		BDC	LAP/LEAP	4	4	2	Record			52%	C
280	7	South Street Recreation Ground	South Normanton	South Normanton	0.08	SNPC		S Norm PC	LEAP (3+)	7	3	3	Record			51%	C
307	1	Clowne Road Recreation Ground	Bolsover	Stanfree	0.12	OBTC	OBTC	OBTC	LAP/LEAP	3	2	3	Record			36%	D
96	6	Derwent Drive	Tibshelf	Tibshelf	NIU	BDC	Tibshelf PC	NIU	NIU	0	-	-	NIU			NIU	NIU
92	2	Lincoln Street	Tibshelf	Tibshelf	NIU	BDC	Tibshelf PC	NIU	NIU	0	-	-	NIU			NIU	NIU
106	11	Poppy Gardens	Tibshelf	Tibshelf	0.02	BDC		BDC	LAP/LEAP	4	2	3	Record			68%	B
98	8	Shetland Road Recreation Ground	Tibshelf	Tibshelf	NIU	Tibshelf PC	Tibshelf PC	NIU	NEAP	0	-	-	Record RSS			92%	A
97	7	Staffa Drive	Tibshelf	Tibshelf	0.01	BDC	BDC	BDC	LAP	1	2	3				52%	C
132	2	Westhouses Recreation Ground	Blackwell	Westhouses	0.08	Blackwell PC		Blackwell PC	LEAP (3)	12			Kompan	Lapsett / Record RSS		71%	B
73	1	Whaley Recreation Ground	Bolsover	Whaley Common	0.10	OBTC	OBTC	OBTC	LAP/LEAP	5	2	2	Wicksteed			40%	D
79	3	Main Street Cricket Ground	Scarcliffe	Whaley Thorns	-	Scarcliffe PC	Scarcliffe PC	-	proposed	0			proposed			-	-
84	9	The Woodlands	Scarcliffe	Whaley Thorns	NIU	BDC	?	NIU	NIU	0	-	-	NIU			NIU	NIU
2	1	Bakestone Moor Recreation Ground	Whitwell	Whitwell	0.17	Whitwell PC	Whitwell PC	Whitwell PC	LAP/LEAP	6	3	3	Playdale	Wicksteed		57%	C
11	5	Welbeck Street Recreation Ground	Whitwell	Whitwell	0.31		Whitwell PC	Whitwell PC	NEAP (?)	16	4	3	Playdale	Wicksteed		72%	B
-	-	Whitwell Common POS	Whitwell	Whitwell Common	?	Whitwell PC	Whitwell PC	Whitwell PC	LAP/LEAP	3			Wicksteed				C

Distribution of open space: typology / total area by settlement

Settlement	Population	Open Space Typology (PPG17) - primary purpose										Area (ha)	
		i	ii	iii	iv	v	vi	vii	viii	ix	x		other
Barlborough	2,739	0.07	7.23	3.00	11.65	0.90	0.21	0.59	0.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.42
Blackwell	1,428	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.57	0.07	0.00	1.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.63	6.81
Bolsover	11,201	4.11	16.37	0.53	18.30	7.12	3.20	15.33	3.16	0.00	0.00	7.51	75.63
Clowne	7,109	0.00	1.28	5.33	6.71	1.21	0.31	2.49	1.96	0.00	0.00	6.91	26.20
Creswell	5,814	0.64	3.27	0.00	9.09	4.30	0.00	4.95	1.42	0.00	0.00	2.37	26.04
Bramley Vale and Doe Lea	919	0.00	3.00	0.00	1.55	0.28	0.00	2.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.30	8.22
Elmton	75	0.00	1.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.45
Glapwell	1,437	0.00	0.09	0.26	3.10	0.46	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.07
Hilcote	464	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.09	1.79
Hodthorpe	378	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.96	2.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.39	3.79
Langwith	1,074	0.29	0.00	0.19	1.31	0.79	0.00	1.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.61
New Houghton	1,125	4.55	0.00	0.00	1.22	0.52	0.19	4.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.55	12.37
Newton	1,404	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.40	0.12	0.15	2.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	5.90
Old Blackwell	47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.37
Paltrton	421	0.00	0.28	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	2.73
Pinxton	4,201	4.19	0.50	3.71	5.51	1.16	0.00	0.00	2.15	0.00	0.09	0.44	17.75
Pleasley	1,414	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.05	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.42
Scarcliffe	349	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.58	0.15	0.00	0.66	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.09
Shirebrook	10,624	13.09	0.77	0.54	18.66	3.58	0.24	11.56	4.66	0.00	0.52	19.74	73.36
South Normanton	10,371	5.06	1.61	12.26	9.61	1.97	0.82	1.62	1.39	0.00	0.00	8.05	42.39
Stanfree	495	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.07
Steetley	15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32
Tibshelf	3,749	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.32	0.67	0.31	3.19	0.77	0.00	0.00	4.62	12.88
Westhouses	800	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.21	0.18	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.05
Whaley Common	47	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.14
Whaley Thorns	1,107	0.27	0.00	0.00	6.53	0.78	0.02	4.36	0.46	0.00	0.00	1.38	13.80
Whitwell	4,201	0.00	0.40	0.00	5.49	2.06	0.00	2.70	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.65
Total Area (ha):	73,008	32.27	35.97	25.82	123.75	26.42	6.57	64.25	21.30	0.00	0.61	56.36	393.32
Area (ha) / 1000 population:		0.44	0.49	0.35	1.70	0.36	0.09	0.88	0.29	0.00	0.01	0.77	5.39

Primary purpose

i	Parks and Gardens	vi	Provision for Children / Young People
ii	Natural / Semi Natural	vii	Allotments
iii	Green Corridor	viii	Churchyards
iv	Outdoor Sports Facility	ix	Other Urban Fringe
v	Amenity Greenspace	x	Civic Spaces

Bolsover District Play Partnership Action Plan 2009 - 2012

Play Partnership Objectives		Action	Best Play Objectives	Outcomes	By when?
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 for play for <u>all</u> children and young people	Playable Spaces	1 Through the implementation of the Play Strategy, Bolsover District Council will identify the current shortfall in both formal and informal play provision based on both adopted standards and an analysis of local need and will take a stronger lead in supporting both Parish and Town councils. A measured improvement programme will also be developed, against which performance will be monitored and reported back through the Play Partnership.	Objective 1 <i>Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.</i> Objective 4 <i>Maximises the range of play opportunities</i> Objective 7 <i>Fosters the child's wellbeing, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn</i>	Use Big Lottery funding / Playbuilder funding to develop 10 play facilities	31/03/2012
	Giving children and young people a greater say	2 Through the implementation of the Play strategy, using consultation and participation activities, all children and young people will be given the opportunity to help shape their future playable spaces.	Objective 1 <i>Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.</i> Objective 4 <i>Maximises the range of play opportunities</i> Objective 5 <i>Fosters independence and healthy self-esteem</i> Objective 6 <i>Fosters the child's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction</i>	Demonstrable and meaningful consultation with children and young people	ongoing
	Local and national quantitative / qualitative standards	3 Review the use of the NPFA Six Acre standard develop supplementary planning guidance in respect of children's play provision	Objective 1 <i>Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.</i> Objective 4 <i>Maximises the range of play opportunities</i>	A set of Bolsover specific standards	31/03/2010
	Extended Schools	4 Bolsover District Council will liaise with Derbyshire County Council in relation to the Extended Schools Strategy and make representations with a view to ensuring that School grounds realise their potential as playable spaces.	Objective 1 <i>Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.</i> Objective 4 <i>Maximises the range of play opportunities</i>	More space for play within communities with an identified deficiency	ongoing
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	Play Strategy dissemination	5 Promote the existence of and circulate copies of the play strategy to all those who have influence	Objective 4 <i>Maximises the range of play opportunities</i>	Increased awareness of play and better partnership working	31/03/2010
promote the importance of play in the personal development of children and young people	Charter for play	6 Bolsover District Council in liaison with its strategic partners will develop a Charter for Play that can be disseminated through our partners across the community.	Objective 4 <i>Maximises the range of play opportunities</i>		TBC
continue to develop the ethos of the play partnership through the local strategic partnership to the wider district community	Effective partnership working	7 Continue to identify and engage suitable partners in respect to play opportunity within the District, create a parish play forum.	Objective 1 <i>Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.</i> Objective 4 <i>Maximises the range of play opportunities</i>		31/12/2010

Bolsover District Play Partnership Action Plan 2009 - 2012

Play Partnership Objectives (cont.)		Action		Best Play Objectives	Outcomes	By when?
In order to raise the profile of play, support play opportunities at a local level and encourage greater community involvement, a Neighbourhood Play Fund should be established, which should be run along similar lines to the highly successful Neighbourhood Sports Fund model.	Neighbourhood Play Fund	8	Develop and maintain a 'Neighbourhood Play Fund' for use by community and voluntary sector groups.	<p>Objective 1 <i>Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.</i></p> <p>Objective 4 <i>Maximises the range of play opportunities</i></p>	Use Big Lottery funding to provide equipment for use by community volunteers and support training for volunteers	31/03/2012
There are many barriers preventing children, young people and their parents / carers from making use of the public domain for play.	Barriers to play	9	With our partners continue to address the barriers preventing play by identifying the cause and seeking solutions on a local basis.	<p>Objective 1 <i>Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.</i></p> <p>Objective 3 <i>Manages the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm .</i></p> <p>Objective 4 <i>Maximises the range of play opportunities</i></p> <p>Objective 5 <i>Fosters independence and healthy self- esteem</i></p> <p>Objective 6 <i>Fosters the child's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction</i></p>	Improved play opportunities and better partnership working	ongoing
Aim to offer all children and young people the chance to encounter acceptable risks in stimulating and challenging play environments.	Risk in play	10	Bolsover District Council will adopt the recommendations of the Play Safety Forum statement 'Managing Risk in Play' and through the use of appropriate risk assessment mechanisms will aim to provide challenging and stimulating play environments	<p>Objective 1 <i>Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.</i></p> <p>Objective 2 <i>Recognises the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need.</i></p> <p>Objective 3 <i>Manages the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm .</i></p> <p>Objective 4 <i>Maximises the range of play opportunities</i></p> <p>Objective 5 <i>Fosters independence and healthy self- esteem</i></p> <p>Objective 6 <i>Fosters the child's respect for others and offers opportunities for social</i></p>	More challenging and stimulating play areas (especially those funded through Playbuilder)	ongoing (3 Playbuilder funded sites by 31/03/2011)

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	8.
Date:	4th January 2010	Status	Open
Category	Part of the Budget and Policy Framework		
Subject:	Fees and Charges 2010/11		
Report by:	Head of Finance and Revenues		
Other Officers Involved	Director of Resources		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Corporate Efficiency		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – to continually improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all Council Services by maximising the potential use of Council resources.

TARGETS

The development of Policy Led Budgeting will help to inform future spending plans and assist in the delivery of the efficiency gain targets.

VALUE FOR MONEY

The Budget Process challenges existing spending levels and new spending proposals to ensure that resources are effectively used and directed towards the delivery of the Corporate Aims.

THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed increases in General Fund Fees and Charges for 2010/11.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 Heads of Service have been asked to review their Fees and Charges for 2010/11. The results of the review are shown in Appendix A. Specific comments on highlighted areas analysed between directorates are shown below.

2.2 Neighbourhoods

2.2.1 Trade Refuse, Cesspool/Septic Tank Fees and Bulky Refuse

The proposed charges for trade refuse and emptying of cesspools and septic tanks have been set after taking into account the costs of the service.

The income in respect of these services will be increased by £10,500.

The demand for the removal of bulky refuse has been far lower than anticipated. The income for future years has been reduced to reflect this.

2.2.3 Leisure Services

It is proposed that all leisure fees and charges are increased by 3%.

This will increase leisure centre income by £25,220.

The income includes a grant from the Department of Culture Media and Sports to cover income lost from introducing free swimming.

The income from Kissingate Leisure Centre has been reduced for the closure in 2009/10. The insurance in respect of business interruption is still being negotiated with the loss adjuster.

2.3 Development

2.3.2 Markets

There are no proposed increases in the charges for market stalls at this time but changes may follow when the Best Value Review of Markets is considered early in 2010/11.

Over the past few years the market stalls income has dropped through lower demand.

2.2.2 Pest Control

It is proposed that the charges are increased by 5%. This will increase income by approximately £300

2.2.3 Animal Welfare

Some of the charges are set by statute. It is proposed that the discretionary element is increased by inflation. There has been an increase in demand for this service which along with the proposed increase in fees has resulted in £2,060 more budgeted income in 2010/11.

2.2.4 Car Parks

It is proposed that there will be no charges for car-parking in the District.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 The following information is relevant for budget purposes but does not require a decision on the level of fees and charges.

3.2 Development

3.2.1 Development Control

Planning fee income has been reduced to reflect the current economic downturn. The total budgeted income in 2010/11 is expected to be £60,500 less than the 2009/10 budgeted income.

3.2.2 Pleasley Vale

The total budgeted income in 2009/10 is estimated to be £33,480 less than the original budget due to write-off's during the year. It is expected to recover in 2010/11.

This is based on figures provided by Innes England on current occupancy. A vacancy factor has been included which amounts to approximately 10% of the gross income.

The leases to tenants are of varying lengths. On renewal Innes England, on behalf of the Council, negotiate the best deal based on market conditions.

3.2.3 Premises development

In previous years there has been a steady disposal of assets and the income has been reduced accordingly. As a result income has not been increased in 2010/11.

3.2.4 Pollution Control

The Government are currently consulting on the statutory Pollution Control Fees and it is expected that there will be an increase in fees for 2010/11.

As the fees are set in statute and we have no way of knowing whether any new businesses will apply. The budget has not been increased.

It is anticipated there will be a reduction in income in 2010/11.

3.5.2 Dog Control

There are no proposed increases in charges. The kennelling charges are set to recover the costs. The release fee and the fixed penalty fees for dog fouling are set in statute.

3.4 Chief Executives

3.3.1 Land Charges

Legislation requires fees to be set to at least cover expenditure over a 3 year period. Competition from the private sector is increasing and causing income to fall. These factors will need to be taken into account when setting the 2010/11 land charge search fees.

Charges for private searches are also caught up in a legal dispute relating to the interpretation of legislation and a desire by some to see the fees for this dropped. The Council is working with the Local Government Association to defend the existing arrangements.

3.3.2 Licensing

Most of the fee income derived from Licensing is set by statute.

It is anticipated that there will be a small decrease in demand for licences in 2010/11 consequently income is £1,300 less than the estimated outturn for 2009/10.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The proposed changes result in a reduction in budgeted gross income of £127,960 compared to the 2009/10 original.

Legal: None

Human Resources: None

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1. That the proposed fees and charges for 2010/11 be agreed and recommended to Council.**
- 2. That the other information relating to income is noted.**
- 3. That no charges be levied for domestic drain-rodding services or for car parking.**

REASON FOR DECISION

To set the level of Fees and Charges for 2010/11

ATTACHMENTS: **N**
FILE REFERENCE: None
SOURCE DOCUMENT: Background papers held in Financial Services

General Fund Fees and Charges Estimates 2009 – 2013

APPENDIX
A

Service		Statutory Fees	Actual 2006/07 £'s	Actual 2007/08 £'s	Actual 2008/09 £'s	Original Budget 2009/10 £'s	Estimated Outturn 2009/10 £'s	Original Budget 2010/11 £'s	Forecast 2011/12 £'s	Forecast 2012/13 £'s
Premises Development – Rents	Regeneration	N	49,705	37,543	36,570	38,000	38,000	38,000	38,000	38,000
Pleasley Vale Electricity Recharges	Regeneration	N	164,902	140,559	153,454	201,680	201,680	201,680	209,140	216,890
Pleasley Vale Rents	Regeneration	N	449,849	429,262	403,379	402,600	369,120	408,260	408,260	408,260
Restaurant	Regeneration	N	45,831	50,067	49,783	49,920	37,440	0	0	0
Cesspools	Com & Street	N	28,505	22,634	21,799	30,010	30,010	30,010	30,910	31,840
Recycling Materials	Com & Street	N	152,040	217,958	143,245	165,000	165,000	165,000	165,000	165,000
Trade Refuse	Com & Street	N	211,615	228,554	229,441	231,240	231,240	231,240	238,180	245,320
Bulky Refuse	Com & Street	N	0	0	0	109,310	32,500	48,750	50,210	51,720
DCC Agency	Com & Street	N	63,262	63,156	63,000	65,060	66,680	65,060	65,060	65,060
Street Trading	Env Health	Y	400	0	840	400	800	800	800	800
Pollution Reduction	Env Health	Y	19,259	17,041	21,735	14,000	11,340	11,800	11,800	11,800
Dog Control	Env Health	Part	2,948	2,523	4,212	3,000	5,160	5,000	5,000	5,000
Licences – Animals	Env Health	Y	1,986	2,337	2,181	1,950	1,680	2,010	2,050	2,080
Pest Control	Regeneration	N	5,833	6,147	3,436	6,000	6,000	6,300	6,300	6,300
Markets	Regeneration	N	179,593	164,329	159,294	170,000	158,500	158,500	158,500	158,500
Public Conveniences	Regeneration	N	252	270	268	250	250	250	250	250
Licences - Drivers Applications	Legal	Y	6,359	8,400	12,325	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
Licences - Operators Licences	Legal	Y	2,969	3,905	4,021	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Licences – Vehicle	Legal	Y	6,845	11,603	16,864	14,430	16,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Licences - Hackney Vehicles	Legal	Y	6,025	4,564	4,439	5,260	2,400	2,200	2,000	1,800
Licences - Crim. Records Bureau	Legal	Y	2,112	3,600	4,104	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Licences – Lotteries	Legal	Y	1,575	1,311	1,535	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
Licences - Gaming Machines	Legal	Y	1,738	1,476	1,500	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,000
Liquor Licensing - Personal	Legal	Y	3,914	2,310	2,530	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Liquor Licensing - Premises	Legal	Y	44,972	44,558	43,985	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Gambling Act	Legal	Y	0	8,060	6,560	5,500	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Land Charges	Legal	N	149,957	124,272	65,507	73,000	78,230	73,000	73,000	73,000
Outdoor Sports & Recreation Facilities	Leisure	N	16,727	14,510	11,399	15,660	15,660	15,660	15,660	15,660
Creswell Leisure Centre	Leisure	N	157,991	139,067	202,965	204,240	196,210	204,180	204,180	160,410

General Fund Fees and Charges Estimates 2009 – 2013

APPENDIX
A

Service		Statutory Fees	Actual	Actual	Actual	Original Budget	Estimated	Original Budget	Forecast	Forecast
			2006/07 £'s	2007/08 £'s	2008/09 £'s	2009/10 £'s	2009/10 £'s	2010/11 £'s	2011/12 £'s	2012/13 £'s
Energised Youth Programme	Leisure	N	126,127	119,360	130,372	109,550	121,500	121,000	97,000	97,000
GO Football	Leisure	N	18,623	15,563	11,628	30,100	7,230	5,000	5,000	5,000
Community Sports Coach Scheme	Leisure	N	4,984	1,433	1,425	2,100	2,100	2,170	2,170	2,170
Kissingate Leisure Centre	Leisure	N	137,015	149,407	90,503	158,200	64,640	162,110	162,110	162,110
Parks, Playgrounds & Open Spaces	Leisure	N	2,429	4,132	4,243	3,810	3,810	3,930	3,930	3,930
Developmt Control - Planning Fees	Planning	Y	579,235	381,274	386,810	439,500	280,000	440,000	440,000	480,000
Ord. Survey Map Extract Scheme	Planning	N	2,918	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Town Centre Housing	Housing	N	18,296	15,010	16,251	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
			2,666,791	2,436,195	2,311,603	2,630,870	2,229,280	2,502,910	2,495,410	2,508,300