

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

DECISION SCHEDULE



Tuesday 17th March 2009

at 10.00am

**in the Council Chamber
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

Councillor Tumilty, Cabinet Member responsible for Culture, Leisure and Tourism will consider the following items.

1. KEY DECISIONS

- 1.1 Playbuilder Project – *Director of Adult and Community Services and Director of Children's Services*

2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

No items

3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

No items

4. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS

No items

CULTURE LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

17 March 2009



Report of: Director of Adult and Community Services and
Director of Children's Services

Subject: PLAYBUILDER PROJECT

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To seek approval to submit a play builder project plan to the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The submission of the action plan will release the play builder funding.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The Department of Children, Schools and Families published a National Play Strategy in 2008. The strategy highlighted the importance of play and the importance of high quality play environments. The strategy sets out a play builder project which requires local authorities to develop play areas.

Hartlepool local authority was notified on 26th February 2009 that it has been allocated £1,129,958. In order to release this funding the local authority needs to submit a project plan setting out the timescales for the development and or significant refurbishment of 22 play areas. The first 11 of these need to be developed between April 2009 – March 2010. The remaining 11 need to be completed by 31st March 2010.

The attached draft project plan sets out 11 play areas to be developed between April 2009 – March 2010. These are play areas that have already been identified in current planning processes. A number of these have already been consulted upon. The play areas to be developed in the second year of the play builder project will need to be fully consulted on and this will take place from April 2009 onwards.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Portfolio Holders have responsibility for Playgrounds and Children's Play Strategy respectively.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Key Decision (Test i)

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Culture Leisure and Tourism Portfolio 17 March 2009 and Children's Services Portfolio Holder meeting 23 March 2009

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

The Portfolio Holder is asked to approve the play builder project plan for submission to the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Report of: Director of Adult and Community Services

Subject: PLAYBUILDER PROJECT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to submit a play builder project plan to the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The submission of the action plan will release the play builder funding.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Department of Children, Schools and Families published a National Play Strategy in 2008. The strategy highlights the importance of play and the importance of high quality play environments. The strategy sets out a play builder project which requires local authorities to develop high quality play areas.
- 2.2 The local authority was notified on 26th February 2009 that it has been allocated £1,129,958. In order to release this funding the local authority needs to submit a project plan setting out the timescales for the development and or significant refurbishment of 22 play areas. The first 11 of these need to be developed between April 2009 – March 2010. The remaining 11 need to be completed by 31st March 2011.

3. CRITERIA FOR PLAY AREAS

- 3.1 The development of the play areas must adhere to design principles set out in the criteria as follows:
- Are bespoke and designed for their site to enhance the environment
 - Are well located
 - Make use of natural elements
 - Provide a wide range of play experiences for children of all ages
 - Are accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children
 - Meet community needs
 - Have an element of flexibility built into the layout
 - Build in opportunities to experience risk and challenge
 - Are sustainable and appropriately maintained
 - Allow for change and evolution

4. PLAY AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 The following sets out the sites identified for the first 11 play areas to be developed and or significant refurbishment:

	Project Costs		
Play Space	Play-Builder Contribution	Match Funding Acquired	Total Project Cost
1. Jutland Road	£29,000	£54,599 Compilation of Neighbourhood funding, Community Safety & Sec. 106 agreement.	£83,599
2. Oxford Road	£74,000	£1,200 From 106	£75,200
3. King George Playing Fields	£64,000	£20,000 From 106	£84,000
4. King Osw y Drive	£20,000	£18,500 From 106	£38,500
5. Town Moor	£50,000	Nil	£50,000
6. Greatham	£20,000	£8,600 From HBC Cap.	£28,600
7. Lynnfield School - Community Space	£40,000	£10,000 From NDC re. Malcom Walker 25th Feb 09	£50,000
8. Ow ton Manor	£80,000	Nil	£80,000
9. Burbank	£74,193	£1,000 From 106	£75,193
10. Clavering	£30,000	Nil	£30,000
11. Burn Valley Garden Rock Garden 1	£50,000	Nil	£50,000
Total	£531,193	£138,899	£645,092

The priorities for the play areas to be developed in 2010-2011 will be developed using these assessment tool.

- Consultation & Engagement
- Hartlepool's Borough Councils Outdoor Fixed Play Audit
- External Reports – PPG 17, ROSPA

- 4.2 The above table outlines those sites which are currently under design for implementation e.g. Jutland Road, King George V and Greatham or are identified as additions to existing sites to improve play quality – these can also be described as ‘quick wins’.
- 4.3 The consultation process is already under way in a number of sites and due to commence with others. All consultation will engage young people and their specific needs and desires. A play facility designed and selected by young people from the specific neighbourhoods will encourage ownerships, respect and responsible use.
- 4.4 The match funding identified is that which is secured to date, it is not exclusive and additional funding will allow further development and enhancement of individual sites.
- 4.5 Year 2 proposals will allow for a more extensive network of play improvements throughout the town, consultation on year 2 programme will commence immediately due to the decision making process that will be required.

5. GOVERNANCE AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The Play builder project will be managed by Adult and Community Services Department with Children’s Services officers supporting the process.
- 5.2 Quarterly updates will be provided to the Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder and Children’s Services Portfolio Holder. Reports on progress will also be presented to the Play Partnership and the Children’s Trust.

6. FUNDING

- 6.1 The total amount allocated to Hartlepool for the playbuilder project is £1,129,958. This funding needs to develop 22 play areas. Matched funding can be used to support the projects. The playbuilder grant needs to be spent by March 31st 2011. The grant does not allow carry forward.

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The funding will only be released once a project plan has been received therefore there is a risk that the funding will not be available if the project plan is not approved.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The criteria linked to the funding requires all the play areas included in the playbuilder project to be fully inclusive for children and young people with additional needs.

9. SECTION 17

- 9.1 The development of play areas offers new opportunities for children and young people to take part in positive activities.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Portfolio Holder is asked to approve the project plan for submission to the Department for Children's, Schools and Families.

11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 The project plan needs to be approved for play builder funding to be released.

CONTACT OFFICER: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services and Danielle Swainston, Extended Services and Early Years Manager