
REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	15 March 2007	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community Services	OPEN:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Stuart Batchelor (5820)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	PLAY FACILITIES AUDIT	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 Members note the findings of the Audit and authorise Officers to develop the Audit into a Play Facilities Plan to be reported at a future Committee.

2.0 Summary

- 2.1 The report informs Members of the Play Facilities Audit that provides information on play areas across the District. The report also proposes a way forward for the development of a Play Facility Plan to be reported to a future Committee.

3.0 Content

- 3.1 There is now significant focus on the provision of play facilities in South Derbyshire, with the recent adoption of the Play Strategy, the formation of a Play Partnership and in light of recent funding announcements supporting Children's Play.
- 3.2 The Play Strategy action plan identified a need to review current play provision and develop a strategic plan for improvements to fixed play facilities across the district. A similar exercise has previously been carried out for Youth facilities, culminating in the Youth Facilities plan, which is up for review in 2007. This has led to the allocation of Capital funding to deliver the plan. It would be the intention to make the same commitment to Children's Play.
- 3.3 Already significant funding has been invested in play facilities over the last year
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|---|---------|
| Play and Youth Provision, Arthur Street, Castle Gresley | £45,000 |
| Play and Youth Provision, Chestnut Avenue, Midway. | £60,000 |
| Play Provision, Woodville Road, Overseal | £40,000 |
| Play and Youth Provision, Hatton | £80,000 |
- 3.4 Over the last three years there has also been investment in youth and play provision in Linton, Hartshorne, Maurice Lea Memorial and Eureka Parks, Hilton, Rosliston Forestry Centre and Coton Park.

- 3.5 These developments have been funded from a variety of sources including, Lottery, Parish Councils, Barclays Open Space for Sport, Planning Gain, Section 106, Safer South Derbyshire Partnership and the Council itself.
- 3.6 To give future investment a strategic and planned framework SDDC has commissioned Groundwork Derby & Derbyshire (GD&D), who assisted with the production of the Play Strategy, to:
- Undertake a site audit of all 45 play sites owned and/or maintained by SDDC across South Derbyshire
 - Collate the findings to produce a Play Facilities Delivery Plan

Methodology

- 3.6 In order to provide comparable baseline data, GD&D developed a set of criteria to assess against. Three categories were identified:
- Play Value - using LEAP assessment criteria
 - General site quality - e.g. footpaths, fencing, furniture, signage
 - Age ranges catered for at each site
- 3.7 Within each category, a scoring system was introduced to give a quantitative result. Qualitative information was also recorded as additional comments.
- 3.8 Each site was visited, assessed and the resulting scores recorded on a database. The cumulative scores were then graded from Requiring Attention to Excellent, and the sites ranked accordingly.
- 3.9 In order to assist the next stage of prioritising the sites, additional information has been collected:
- Census/population data showing age range numbers for each ward
 - Deprivation statistics for each ward
 - District-wide map with all fixed play site locations plotted (which was undertaken as part of PPG17 Open Spaces study)

Next Step

- 3.10 The audit results have been compiled and supporting information collated and a ranking of likely sites for inclusion in the delivery plan is beginning to emerge, the ranking is provided as Annexe No. 1. The priority list must be cross referenced against additional criteria considering:
- consent of land owner
 - evidence of need and community support (demonstrated by consultation e.g. Ideas into Action, Citizens Panel)
 - population/deprivation indices and similar measures
 - availability of match funding/added value
 - future maintenance/insurance arrangements
- 3.11 These must be taken into consideration when the plan is being drawn up, to ensure that the resulting plan is feasible, deliverable, and realistic.
- 3.12 The next stages for the production of the delivery plan are as follows:

- Consultation with Councillors Parishes to establish their support
- Priority list of sites drawn up based on scoring criteria for 3 year delivery
- Cost estimates schedule drawn up for each site
- Delivery plan approved
- Consultation with Councillors

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The development of play facilities in South Derbyshire supports the priorities of achieving a 'Safe and Health Community' and 'You at the Centre'. The Audit supports the Asset Management function of the Council.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The 'Ideas Into Action' process resulted in a large number of requests for play equipment and this Audit and future plan will help satisfy this community need.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 In the past play equipment provision has been opportunist and ad hoc, taking advantage of external funding whenever possible.

7.2 The production of a Play Facility Plan will provide for a more structured approach leading to the coordinated and effective investment of future funding.