

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting2nd August 2007

1. Title of Item/Report

Play Strategy 2007 - 2012

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that presented a draft Play Strategy for 2007 –2012 together with proposed schemes that would be contained within a big Lottery Bid.

It was explained that national guidance on the development of Play Strategies was published in 2006 to support local authorities and their partners in preparing strategies for improving children’s play opportunities within the framework of a national policy.

The strategy had been developed by a multi-agency project team, which had met monthly to consider the content of the emerging document and associated action plan.

If the strategy was agreed, the intention was that a Play Partnership would be created to manage the action plan and to annually review the strategy. The Play Partnership would report to the Children’s Trust Board

The overall aim of the strategy was to meet the play and learning needs of children and young people through the development of locally based, easily accessible play facilities across the borough of Stockton-on-Tees, both through the extension of existing provision and the development of new facilities. Play areas were integral to the strategy in the form of free imaginative space as well as more structured play environments. All provision should challenge children and young people whilst ensuring their safety. Where support was provided directly by staff employed either by the local authority or another organisation, they would be appropriately trained and qualified for the roles undertaken.

When gaps in provision were identified, available resources would be utilised to reduce inequality of access for children and young people through the refocusing of mobile facilities and / or the securing of new funding opportunities.

This was to be achieved by encouraging increased partnership working where the ethos and culture of the principles of play were shared and services were provided in a manner that avoided duplication.

Cabinet noted that if the funding application to the Big Lottery Fund was successful, £488K would be available to the Borough to develop Play services and facilities. Proposed projects to receive money from a successful bid application were provided to Members.

It was explained that a further report on the Council's Play Area Strategy would be submitted to Cabinet shortly.

RESOLVED that

1. the Play Strategy 2007 – 2012 be approved
2. the proposed schemes that would be contained within the big Lottery Bid be noted.
3. a further report detailing recommendations of the Council's Play Area strategy be presented to the next Cabinet.

3. Reasons for the Decision

- National guidance is in place to support the good practice development of Play Strategies.
- The Children & Young People's Plan would meet the requirement of government guidance.
- A Play Strategy needs to be in place to accompany the application for £488K funding from the Big Lottery Fund.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillors Mrs Womphrey and Beaumont declared personal no prejudicial interests in this item as they were Members of the Tees Active Board

Councillor Cunningham declared a personal prejudicial interest in this item and took no part in the voting on this item.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

By no later than Midnight on Friday 10th August 2007

Proper Officer
06 July 2007