

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF OUTDOOR PLAY PROVISION: QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION, MAINTENANCE, AND PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

Summary

The second evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility will focus on a contribution from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Regeneration and Inclusive Growth directorate.

Detail

1. As part of the scoping process for this review, the Committee identified the SBC Planning Team and the SBC Place Development Team as key contributors. Both of these Council services (sitting within the Inclusive Growth and Development department) have been asked to respond to the following:
 - Brief overview of the role of both the SBC Planning and the SBC Place Development teams in relation to this scrutiny topic.
 - Local plan policies and how these influence new play / informal sport facility development.
 - List (inc. Planning Ref) of play / informal sport facilities that have been provided as part of new housing developments over the past two years, and details of any facilities currently under development / planned as part of an approved planning application (inc. locations of any provision identified in area 'masterplans' (e.g. West Stockton)).
 - Rationale behind developers building new rather than improving existing assets.
 - Understanding the rights of the general public on the use of play facilities managed and funded by individual housing developments or residents under a service charge (e.g. Norton Meadows).
 - How s106 works and the requirements around this (e.g. proximity of play provision to new development)
 - Can we ask for a revenue element within a s106 to enable maintenance or sinking funds?
2. The SBC Assistant Director – Inclusive Growth and Development, SBC Planning Services Manager, and SBC Place Development Manager are scheduled to attend this meeting. A report has been prepared and is included within these meeting papers.
3. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

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