

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Agenda

Date:	Friday, 8th January, 2010
Time:	2.00 pm
Venue:	Committee Suite 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests in any item on the agenda

3. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos.11 and 35 a period of 10 minutes is allocated for members of the public to address the meeting on any matter relevant to the work of the meeting. Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes but the Chairman will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned where there are a number of speakers. Members of the public are not required to give notice to use this facility. However, as a matter of courtesy, a period of 24 hours' notice is encouraged.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question at the meeting should provide three clear working days' notice, in writing, in order for an informed answer to be given.

4. **Provision for 2010/2011 (Year 2) Playbuilder Project (Pages 1 - 40)**

To provide the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing with the required information in order for him to approve both the evaluation process and outcomes for the second year Playbuilder Programme applications and agree to the funding allocated to the fourteen play sites selected for improvement as a result.

(There are no Part 2 items)

Contact:	Paul Mountford, Legal and Democratic Services
Tel:	01270 686472
E-Mail:	paul.mountford@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Date of Meeting: 8th January 2010
Report of: Head of Health & Wellbeing
Subject/Title: Provision for 2010/2011 (Year 2) Playbuilder Project
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Andrew Knowles

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To provide the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing with the required information in order for him to approve both the evaluation process and outcomes for the second year Playbuilder Programme applications and agree to the funding allocated to the fourteen play sites selected for improvement as a result.

2.0 Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing approves

- (1) the evaluation process for the twenty-one applications received in the second phase of the Playbuilder Project; and
- (2) the fourteen sites evaluated for improvement in the second phase of the Playbuilder programme and the funding allocated to each project.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The authority has received a grant from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCFS) through the Playbuilder Capital Fund to improve play provision across the Borough of Cheshire East.
- 3.2 Invitations for expressions of interest to apply for funding to refurbish play sites for the second year of the Playbuilder programme were circulated widely via local press and the Cheshire East Website.
- 3.3 The twenty-one applications were received and evaluated against Play England's Ten Design Principles and Cheshire East Playbuilder criteria (Appendices 1 and 2 respectively) to establish need and suitability; fourteen sites met the criteria.
- 3.4 Within the project delivery over two years, every effort has been made to achieve a demographic spread of sites across Cheshire East.

3.5 The nominated play sites for year two are listed below:

Play Area	District	Funding
Macclesfield Area		
Arnold Road Play Area	Disley	45,000
Weston Playing Field	Macclesfield	22,500
Adlington Road Play	Bollington	22,500
Barnaby Road	Poynton	45,000
Bollington Cross	Bollington	22,500
Sutton Playing Field	Sutton	19,000
Fulshaw Park	Wilmslow	45,000
Congleton Area		
Bromley Farm	Congleton	45,000
Sandbach Park	Sandbach	45,000
Rode Heath Play Area	Rode Heath	45,000
Wood Park	Alsager	45,000
Crewe Area		
Wybunbury Play Area	Wybunbury	45,000
Weston Play Area	Weston	19,000
Stapeley Area	Stapeley	45,000

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 Alderley, Alsager, Bollington, Disley, Congleton Town East, Doddington, Macclesfield Forest, Macclesfield West, Poynton, Sandbach, Sandbach East & Rode.

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 Cllr Elsie Alcock, Cllr Carolyn Andrew, Cllr Marc Asquith, Cllr Rhoda Bailey, Cllr Andrew Barratt, Cllr Chris Beard, Cllr Darryl Beckford, Cllr Sandy Bentley, Cllr David Brickhill, Cllr David Brown, Cllr Harold Davenport, Cllr Mathew Davies, Cllr Rob Fletcher, Cllr Stella Furlong, Cllr Hilda Gaddum, Cllr Liz Gilliland, Cllr Martin Hardy, Cllr John Hammond, Cllr Derek Hough, Cllr Shirley Jones, Cllr Frank Keegan, Cllr Peter Mason, Cllr Gillian Merry, Cllr Burry Moran, Cllr Howard Murray, Cllr Lesley Smetham, Cllr Diana Thompson, Cllr Andrew Thwaite, Cllr Rodney Walker CBE, Cllr Roger West,

6.0 Policy Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and Beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

8.1 Cheshire East Council has been awarded the following amounts from the DCFS Playbuilder Fund.

	Capital	Revenue
Year 1	£473,336	£25,703
Year 2	£533,548	£17,135

8.2 There is no additional funding required from Cheshire East Council; the funding was added to the Capital Programme for approval by Cabinet on the 3rd November 2009.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 Legal Services will be required to advise on the contractual arrangements necessary to secure the delivery of the works contained in the programme.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 Failure to complete both years one and two would result in the claw back of the funding by the Department of Children, Schools and Families.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 The DCFS Playbuilder Programme have granted 122 local authorities an average of £45,000 in revenue funding and an average of £1.1m in capital funding to develop a minimum of 22 play areas. The first 43 Playbuilder authorities were selected in April 2008 and the remaining 79 authorities, including Cheshire East, were offered Playbuilder funding from April 2009.

11.2 The Playbuilder Programme sets out strict criteria for the development of play areas. The focus is on young people aged 8-13 years, girls and inclusive play opportunities. The time scales are tight, with a requirement of 11 sites to be developed within each of the financial years identified. There is no flexibility in the funding between years one and two and there is no carry forward of funding into a third financial year.

11.3 DCFS invited Cheshire East Council to submit an expression of interest to receive funding from the Playbuilder Capital Investment Programme from April 2009. A draft project plan was submitted to DCFS as an expression of interest on behalf of Cheshire East in February 2009 and the final plan was submitted in March 2009.

11.4 For the interim period between the desegregation of the four constituent predecessor authorities and the emergence of the new Cheshire East Unitary Council, Councillor Andrew Knowles was given delegated powers from the

Cheshire East Shadow Cabinet to agree and sign off the project plan for the Authority.

- 11.5 Applications for the provision Playbuilder sites for phase two were invited through the press. These applications were open to Community Groups, Parish Councils, Councillors and individuals of Cheshire East. All applications were put through a strict three stage evaluation process to establish need and suitability. The criteria were set by Play England the National Government Advisory Body on Play Development to Local Authorities. These criteria and the evaluation process are attached in Appendix 1.
- 11.6 A project working group of officers has been set up to ensure timely delivery of the project. Eleven sites were selected against the funding criteria for development in year one; these are identified below.

Macclesfield Area
Longridge Park Knutsford
Ash Grove Park
Lacy Green Wilmslow
South Park
Crewe and Nantwich Area
Valley Park
Leighton Brook Park
Queens Street Park
Westminster Street Park
Pebble Brook Park
Congleton Area
Brereton Green Play area
Lower Health Play Area

- 11.7 Unsuccessful applications for Year 2 'Playbuilder' sites will be offered guidance, project management and the support needed to enable their proposed project to seek external funding where available and applicable.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

- 12.1 The year one project is nearing completion and eleven sites will benefit from refurbishment through the DCFS playbuilder funding. It is anticipated that capital spend allocated will be fully utilised.

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Sue Brereton Designation: Senior Sport and Play Officer
 Tel No: 01270 529626
 Email: sue.brereton@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Design for Play:

A guide to creating successful play spaces

Free Play Network

June 2008

Design for Play:

A guide to creating successful play spaces

Introduction



Photo: Nicola Butler

Design for Play

This presentation is based on the forthcoming Play England publication: *Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces*, by Aileen Shackell, Nicola Butler, Phil Doyle, and David Ball.

Design for Play:

A guide to creating successful play spaces

Inspiring play spaces



Photo: Aileen Shackell

The golden rule:

A successful play space is a place in its own right, specially designed for its location.

Designers should take a holistic perspective on designing for play.

Play opportunities should be embedded in the site as a whole.

Design for Play: Ten design principles

Successful play spaces

1. are 'bespoke'
2. are well located
3. make use of natural elements
4. provide a wide range of play experiences
5. are accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children
6. meet community needs
7. allow children of different ages to play together
8. build in opportunities to experience risk and challenge
9. are sustainable and appropriately maintained
10. allow for change and evolution

Design for Play:

A guide to creating successful play spaces

Ten design principles



Photo: Nicola Butler

Principle 1

Imagine a play space designed to enhance its setting

In a rural area, Balmaha Play Landscape, near Stirling, uses natural contours of the hillside.

It uses colours found in the natural surroundings. Equipment is carefully chosen to fit the setting.

Design for Play:

A guide to creating successful play spaces

Ten design principles



Photo: Stirling Council Play Services

Principle 1

Imagine a play space designed to enhance its setting

Balmaha Play Landscape uses rounded granite boulders and long grasses and ferns, which are found naturally in the area, to provide play opportunities for all ages and to create a pleasant environment for all users.

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Ten design principles



Photo: Nicola Butler

Principle 1

Imagine a play space designed to enhance its setting

In an urban area, Milton Keynes Bus Station Skate Park blends seamlessly with its setting.

The site uses good quality materials and colours that complement the existing architecture of the city.

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A guide to creating successful play spaces

Ten design principles



Photo: Phil Doyle

Principle 2

Imagine a play space in the best possible place

Children need places to play close to their homes.

One way of filling gaps in play provision in built-up areas is to create more doorstep spaces, such as Invermead Close, in Hammersmith and Fulham.

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Photo: Nicola Butler

Principle 2

Imagine a play space in the best possible place

Facilities for older children and young people don't have to be located far away from the rest of the world.

Masthouse Terrace skate park and ballcourt in Tower Hamlets is located near to housing.

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Photo: Nicola Butler

Principle 2

Imagine a play space in the best possible place

The central location is key at Milton Keynes Bus Station Skate Park.

There are good transport links and plenty of people around.

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Photo: Stirling Council Play Services

Principle 3

Imagine a play space close to nature

In Chapelfield Play Area, near Stirling, a previously level site on the edge of the village was transformed into a playable and playful arrangement of mounds, ditches and hollows, inspired by the archaeological history of the site.

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Photo: Stirling Council Play Services

Principle 3

Imagine a play space close to nature

At Chapelfield Play Area, the new changes in ground levels provide opportunities for exploring, climbing, hiding and chasing.

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Photo: Nicola Butler

Principle 3

Imagine a play space close to nature

Planting creates opportunities for sensory stimulation and play. It can transform sites, particularly in urban areas, such as this housing estate at Wyvis Street, Tower Hamlets.

It is relatively low cost and children and the community can be involved in planting.

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Ten design principles



Photo: Nicola Butler

Principle 3

Imagine a play space close to nature

Planting can be used to create a play space that changes with the seasons and that is appealing to people of all ages.

This slide shows autumn colours at the Diana, Princess of Wales' Memorial Playground in Kensington.

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Photo: Stuart Wallace

Principle 4

Imagine a play space where children can play in different ways

Trefusis Playing Field in Kerrier, provides a range of play opportunities for different age ranges.

This curved concrete structure can be used for skateboarding, seating, or for children to run along.

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Photo: Stuart Wallace

Principle 4

Imagine a play space where children can play in different ways

Boundaries at Trefusis Playing Field have been designed that are playable, attractive and suit the place.

This cost per metre of this traditional Cornish wall is similar to that for standard fencing.

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Photo: Nicola Butler

Principle 4

Imagine a play space where children can play in different ways

Waverley Park in Stirling combines play equipment with sand and grit surfaces.

Different types of surfacing can enhance equipment and provide additional play opportunities.

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Photo: Stirling Council Play Services

Principle 4

Imagine a play space where children can play in different ways

Different elements and surfaces can be used in combinations.

Causewayhead Park in Stirling uses water, sand and planting in combination.

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Photo: from *Inclusion by Design*, KIDS

Principle 5

Imagine a play space where disabled and non-disabled children play together

Children with different abilities should be able to play together in well designed play spaces.

Try to choose non-prescriptive equipment that can be used in different ways.

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Photo: Aileen Shackell

Principle 5

Imagine a play space where disabled and non-disabled children play together

There are many different types of disability or special need.

At the Diana, Princess of Wales' Memorial Playground children with differing needs can enjoy a range of play experiences.

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Photo: Nicola Butler

Principle 6

Imagine a play space loved by the community

At the Cowley Estate in Brixton, the designers worked closely with the community to develop an imaginative design where different elements can be used in different ways.

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Photo: Nicola Butler

Principle 6

Imagine a play space loved by the community

Space for ball games is included, but the site also offers opportunities cycling, climbing and seating.

The final design is attractive for all.

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Photo: Nicola Butler

Principle 6

Imagine a play space loved by the community

Spacemakers in Bristol was designed with teenagers as a teenage space.

It also works as a space for all the community.

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Photo: Nicola Butler

Principle 7

Imagine a play space where children of all ages play together

At Wyvis Street Play Space the tyre swing is used by children of all ages, from older teenagers to very young children, with assistance from their parents.

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Photo: Nicola Butler

Principle 7

Imagine a play space where children of all ages play together

The sandpit is used by younger children and by older children - sometimes just to hang out and chat.

The play area is pleasant to walk through and pleasant for people of all ages to sit.

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Photo: Nicola Butler

Principle 8

Imagine a play space where children can stretch and challenge themselves in every way

Children and young people need opportunities to experience challenge and excitement in their play.

The Climbing Forest at Cutsyke provides challenging play opportunities for all ages.

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Photo: Aileen Shackell

Principle 8

Imagine a play space where children can stretch and challenge themselves in every way

Risk assessment was carried out throughout the design process at the Climbing Forest in Coombe Abbey Country Park.

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Photo: Stirling Council Play Services

Principle 9

Imagine a play space maintained for play value

Greater commitment to maintenance is needed to increase the range of play opportunities offered.

Stirling Council's integrated approach enables them to design and maintain features such as this paddling pool at Causewayhead Park.

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Photo: Aileen Shackell

Principle 9

Imagine a play space maintained for play value

A bit of wear and tear is perfectly acceptable.

For example the erosion of grass under these seats at Horsham Park due to heavy use is completely acceptable, particularly in the context of a well looked after park.

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Photo: Nicola Butler

Principle 10

Imagine a play space that evolves as the children grow

At Dilkes Park, Thurrock, play equipment is unfenced. The flexible layout means that it is relatively straightforward to add to and extend the play space.

Equipment is integrated with its woodland setting.

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Photo: Andy Furze

Principle 10

Imagine a play space that evolves as the children grow

At Dilkes Park equipment has been added over time.

There is no sense of where the play space begins and ends, making it more inviting to explore. Children can move easily from one part of the park to another.

Design for Play:

A guide to creating successful play spaces

Conclusion



Photo: Stirling Council Play Services

Summary

Good play spaces are designed as places in their own right.

Well designed play spaces are good for all of the community.

For more information on *Design for Play* visit the **Free Play Network** or the **Play England** websites.

Cheshire East Potential Sites Playbuilder Year 2 Criteria for Evaluation

Cheshire East are committed to providing imaginative, creative, healthy, sociable, inclusive and active spaces that local communities use and subsequently take ownership of.

INTRODUCTION:

Cheshire East Council has been successful in securing Playbuilder Status. As part of the Government's Children's Plan play commitments, which includes consultation on the first ever national play strategy, Cheshire East Council Play Services has been selected by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to become one of the play builder status authorities.

The Year 2 Play Builder investment will develop 11 new or enhanced public play areas within Cheshire East.

Play Builder status will cement existing provision, fill gaps and develop new areas as part of our ongoing implementation of Cheshire East Councils play strategy that aims to deliver our play pledge.

Playbuilder Year 1 held a series of initial consultation events in schools and informal settings across Cheshire East to assess children's views on the quality of their local play areas and to see good practice examples of innovative and exciting new types of play space that we hope will inspire this exciting development.

The provision will create play areas that are engaging, challenging, risky and more natural in their make up. The areas will reflect the natural surrounding, be low maintenance and comprise robust materials. However, the designs must reflect imaginative, creative, healthy, sociable, inclusive and active spaces that local communities use and subsequently take ownership of. The areas must be highly visible without areas that are screened off or provide areas that are not easily accessible.

Cheshire East Council are therefore inviting any person, organization, Community Group and Parish Council to apply for a site that we will all be proud of and offer our communities areas that they deserve.

Key Objectives for the Playbuilder Project

- A usable year round play area
- A focus on a more open plan unfenced area, natural materials such as landform, boulders and logs
- The inclusion of challenging pieces of play equipment particularly suited at the age 8-13 range which offer balancing, rocking, rotating, sliding, climbing, swinging, technique, gliding, agility, social and competitive activities
- A design that give children the freedom to make their own decisions and evaluate acceptable risk benefit
- More natural safer surfacing (grass matting & wood bark, not wet pour)
- Site specific identity
- The re-use of soil on site
- A welcoming safe healthy sociable gathering community space

Background Project Information

Constraints

Budget:

The budget for the complete Playbuilder Year 2 project for all 11 sites to be designed, equipped, installed and delivered is up to £45,000.00 per site.

Materials Specification:

The materials that will be used in the Playbuilder Year 2 project will need to meet a number of key criteria. Materials will need to be robust and as vandal proof as possible, cheap to maintain and fit in with the natural environment. The focus needs to be on natural materials to create more a natural aspect to the play areas in line with requirements set out within the 10 principles for designing successful play spaces in the [Play England Design for Play Guidance www.playengland.co.uk](http://www.playengland.co.uk)

On completion and return of the Expression of Interest Form 2010/2011 by any person, organization, Community Group and Parish Council each submitted form will be evaluated by a committee to determine which sites most fulfill the criteria as set out below. The committee will visit each site that reaches the short list and will invite the applicant to interview to present their site.

On completion of site selection of the successful 11 sites a company will be selected for the provision of design, supply and installation through Cheshire East Councils ESPO tender framework.

Evaluation Criteria

Location

- Existing provision existent or non-existent
- Deprivation, high population density, socially disadvantaged neighbourhoods
- Appropriateness of site
- A fair geographic allocation of play provision across Cheshire East

Design, Excitement, Fun

- Focus on natural play
- Encourages risky play
- Appropriate age group
- Inclusion
- Exciting and Fun

Beneficiaries

- Numbers of youngsters likely to use the site (rural & urban sites, taking into account rural isolation)

Costs

- Match funding available towards project costs

Deliverability

- Experience/skills of organisation
- Land freehold, organisation interest in land
- School site (with open access, community usage)
- Planning permission
- Realistic timescales
- Security of match funding (written confirmation of funding to be submitted with returned application)
- Evidence of project risk assessment

Sustainability

- Maintenance/
Management plan
- Security of funding

Consultation and Support

- Locality, needs, age, socio economic group
- Evidence of County support – strategic fit
- Stakeholder

A site map highlighting the potential/existing play area and pictures included would support the application.

If you require any additional information relating to the provision of Year 2

Playbuilder sites please contact:

Marianne Hodgkinson

Technical Officer

Cheshire East Council

Town Hall

Macclesfield

Sk10 1EA

mariannehodgkinson@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Telephone: 01625-504523

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