

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Date of Meeting: 8th January 2010
Report of: Head of Heath & 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:

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