

## **CABINET**

**30 MARCH 2010**

### **PLAYBUILDER YEAR 2 SITES**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Howard Doe, Community Services

Report from: Robin Cooper, Director Regeneration, Community and Culture

Author: Chris Valdus, Greenspace Development Manager

#### **Summary**

This report presents the 11 sites for investment in Year 2 of the Playbuilder programme, funded by a grant of £597, 789 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

#### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

1.1 The delivery of the Medway Playbuilder Programme will contribute to delivery of targets within the Council policy framework including:

- Council Plan
- Medway Children and Young People's Plan
- Medway Community Safety Partnership Plan.

In addition, it also contributes to the delivery of targets within the following strategies:

- Medway Regeneration Strategy
- Medway Social Regeneration Strategy
- Wildlife, Countryside and Open Space Strategy.

1.2 The delivery of Playbuilder will also contribute to improving performance against National Indicators (NI):

- NI199 - Children's satisfaction with parks and play areas
- NI 56 - Tackling obesity in adults and children and young people
- NI 17 - Reducing anti-social behaviour
- NI 19 - Preventing youth offending.

#### **2. Background**

2.1 The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has awarded Playbuilder funding to Medway Council as part of Wave 2 of the 3-year grant programme. Playbuilder has provided a capital grant award of £1,128, 212 and £45,412 revenue and the programme is managed on behalf of DCSF by Play England. The capital award was weighted by child population,

deprivation scores and took into account regional variations in building costs, with a target to improve a minimum of 22 play areas.

- 2.2 The criteria for the grant set out that the play areas will focus on 8-13 year olds, ensuring sites are attractive to ethnic minorities, girls and provide better disabled access. They must also follow Play England design guidance, based on natural play.
- 2.3 Play England and DCSF approved the Medway Council Playbuilder Project Plan in April 2009, subject to further consultation taking place to determine sites for investment for Year 2.
- 2.4 Cabinet approved the use of Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) Framework Contract 115 for play for use in procuring the Playbuilder programme on 2 June 2009 (decision number 94/2009).

### **3. Options**

- 3.1 The proposed Year 2 sites for Playbuilder investment are presented below in Table 1. Appendix 1 to this report shows the geographical spread of the Playbuilder programme (Year 1 and 2) and other playground investment that has been made through the Big Lottery Fund Programme and the Member Priority Scheme.
- 3.2 The following criteria were used to inform site selection:
  - Feedback from residents of Medway either online or by phone or letter
  - Levels of provision for children's activities across Medway
  - Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and Income Deprivation Affecting Children index (IDACI)
  - Availability of match funding from external sources
  - Play area quality audit to improve sites identified as having low quality.
- 3.3 Year 2 sites have been signed off by the Play Partnership Board, Play England and Youth Support Partnership Group for submission to Cabinet for formal approval.

**Table 1 – Year 2 Playbuilder Programme**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Landowner</b>	<b>Rationale for inclusion</b>
Peninsula	Allhallows	Allhallows Parish Council	High level of community support demonstrated. Potential match funding through '4 Parishes' project.
Luton and Wayfield	Barnfield	Medway Council	Major open space; currently with limited play value and ongoing work to tackle anti social behaviour. Potential match funding with EU funding initiative for community space improvements. High IDACI score.
Rainham South	Bayswater Drive	Medway Council	High level of community support demonstrated. Adjoining a deprived area (low IMD score).
Rochester West	Borstal Recreation Ground	Medway Council	High level of community support and potential match funding through Section 106 monies. High IDACI score.
Strood North	Broomhill Park	Medway Council	High level of community support demonstrated and active 'Friends' group (Friends Of Broomhill). Playbuilder funding is being matched by grant from Community Spaces to implement environmental improvements to Broomhill Park.
Strood North	Cliffe Road	Medway Council	High level of community support demonstrated. Densely populated area with shortfall of public open space. High IDACI score, area adjoins deprived areas (low IMD score).
Strood South	Cuxton – Bush Road	Cuxton Parish Council	High level of community support demonstrated.
Watling	Gillingham Park	Medway Council	Major open space, currently with limited play value and potential for development as a destination site. Playbuilder funding is being matched with existing capital funding for the Park to fund environmental improvements. Park adjoins deprived areas (low IMD score).
Luton and Wayfield	Luton Recreation Ground	Medway Council	Major open space, currently with limited play value in area of social deprivation. Potential match funding with EU funding initiative for community space improvements.
Gillingham North	The Strand	Medway Council	Destination play area that has considerable potential for development. High IDACI score.
Rochester South and Horsted	Vale Drive	Medway Council	High level of community support demonstrated. Adjoins deprived areas (low IMD score).

#### **4. Advice and analysis**

- 4.1 The Council has adopted a Diversity Impact Assessment process to ensure policies reflect potential impact on residents due to their racial group, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age and religion. In line with this, the first stage of a Diversity Impact Assessment has been carried out. The findings of this indicate the Playbuilder programme does not need a full diversity impact assessment (see Appendix 2 for further details).
- 4.2 Wide-ranging public consultation has taken place and this programme is aimed at encouraging participation by girls, ethnic minority groups and individuals with disabilities. Whilst funding criteria state developments should focus on improvements for 8-13 year olds, other ages were not excluded from consultation events.
- 4.3 The Playbuilder programme will encourage sustainability through the use of materials from sustainable sources where appropriate. Existing equipment will be re-used where possible. The consultation events with communities will encourage greater use of open space and therefore increase connection with the natural environment whilst improving the health of the community.

#### **5. Risk Management**

- 5.1 A Risk Analysis Tool has been completed for the Playbuilder Programme Year 2 procurement process. This was rated as medium risk.
- 5.2 Table 2 provides further information on specific risks and mitigation of these. Risk ratings are informed by the following matrix:

<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact:</b>
A Very high	1 Catastrophic
B High	(Showstopper)
C Significant	2 Critical
D Low	3 Marginal
E Very low	4 Negligible
F Almost impossible	

**Table 2. Playbuilder Programme Delivery Risks and Mitigation**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action to avoid or mitigate risk</b>
Staff	<p>Playbuilder Development Officer has insufficient time to co-ordinate delivery of the programme</p> <p>Loss of Playbuilder Development Officer at critical stage in delivery</p> <p>Consequences of either of these would be failure to meet project milestones with potential repayment of grant should projects not be delivered by end of March 2011</p> <p><b>This risk is rated – E2</b></p>	<p>Experience and support of the Greenspace Development Team</p> <p>Establishment of a Play Partnership</p> <p>Project Management processes put into place including establishment of a project board</p>
Planning permission	<p>Failure to secure planning permission for schemes</p> <p><b>This risk is rated – D1</b></p>	<p>Engage development control in the project board</p> <p>Community engagement in design to ensure concerns are addressed pre-planning should this be required</p>
Vandalism	<p>Damage during and post-installation</p> <p><b>This risk is rated – D3</b></p>	<p>Engagement of community in design to ensure all sectors support and value the investment</p> <p>Ranger patrols and rapid response to reported issues</p> <p>High quality materials used in equipment</p>
Budget	<p>Overspend against capital grant provided</p> <p><b>This risk is rated – E3</b></p>	<p>Programme costed by experienced officers</p> <p>Rigorous project management procedures</p>

## **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 As requested by Play England and DCSF at Playbuilder Project Plan approval stage, prior to submission of this report, further consultation with residents of Medway has taken place to determine sites individuals or groups feel would benefit from investment.

6.2 In order to secure feedback, an online site voting system was established and publicised through Medway Matters and direct leafleting to schools. Feedback from residents to Greenspace Services has also been recorded throughout Year 1 of the programme delivery and used to inform site selection for year 2.

## **7. Procurement Board**

7.1 The Procurement Board considered this report on 17 February 2010 and supported the recommendation as set out at section 9.

## **8. Financial and legal implications**

8.1 The budget for the scheme will be fixed, as Playbuilder funding from DCSF is a fixed sum. The use of the ESPO framework enables efficiencies to be realised in the procurement process and maximises funds available to the project.

8.2 Contract value following tender evaluation may require a further report to Cabinet to confirm award. Strategic Procurement will continue to provide support and guidance on the project to ensure compliance and successful delivery.

8.3 Medway Council-owned play areas receiving investment will be maintained under the existing play maintenance contract. Maintenance of Parish Council or other external party sites will be their responsibility following project completion.

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 The Cabinet is recommended to approve the 11 sites proposed for investment in Year 2 of the Playbuilder Programme, as set out in table 1.

## **10. Suggested Reason for Decision**

10.1 The proposed sites have been identified through a rigorous process including public consultation, assessment of existing play quality and indices of multiple deprivation.

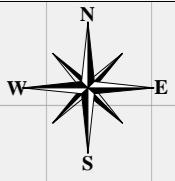
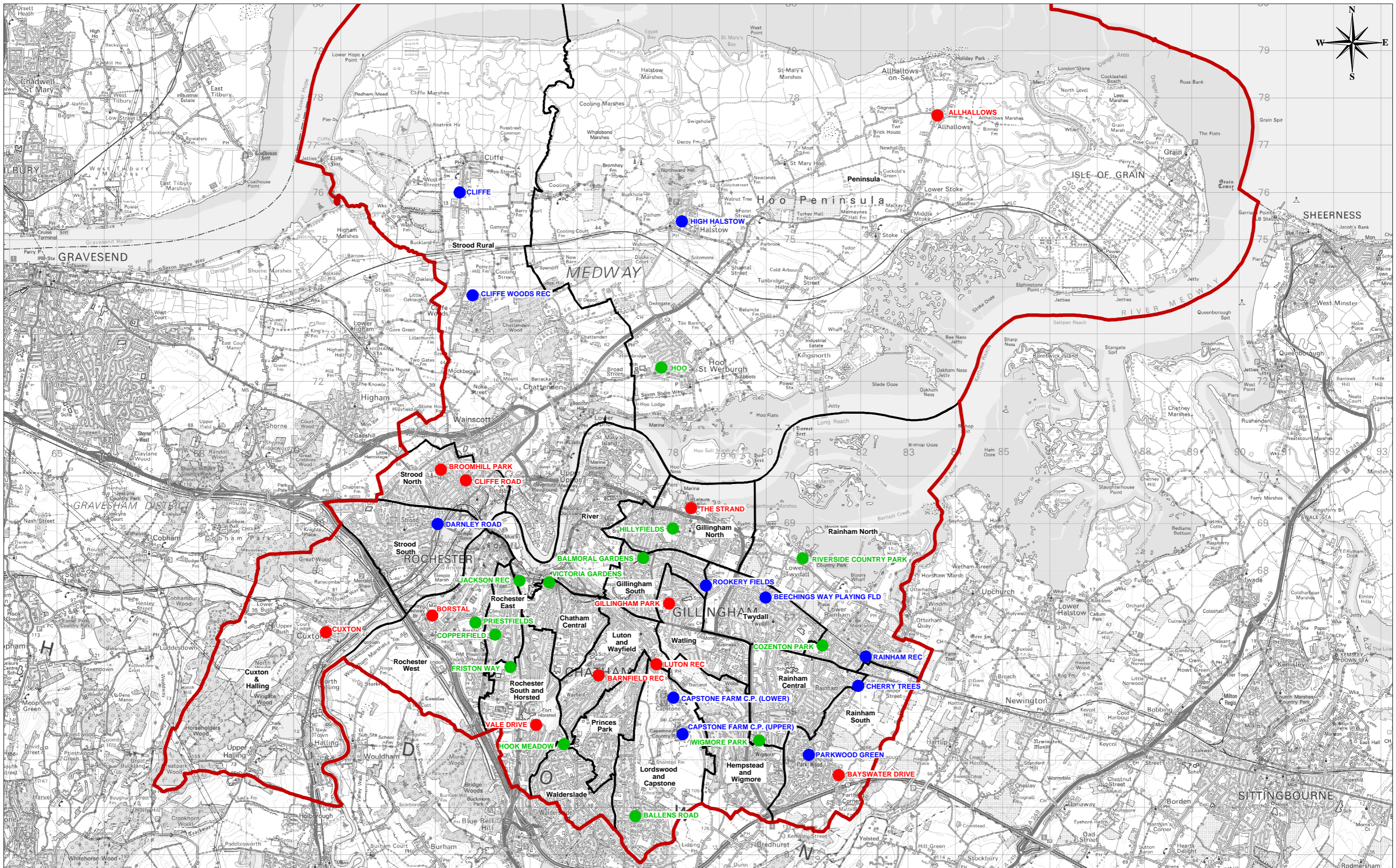
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### **Background papers**

Medway Council Playbuilder Project Plan 2009-2011  
Playbuilder Risk Analysis Tool – Year 2 procurement  
Playbuilder Programme Procurement – 2 June 2009 Cabinet report





### Play areas in Medway

#### KEY

- Playbuilder Year 1
- Playbuilder Year 2
- Other investments 2009-2010









## Diversity Impact Assessment: Screening Form

Directorate <b>Regeneration,          Community and          Culture</b>	<b>Name of Function or Policy or Major Service Change</b> Greenspaces – Play Area Investment		
<b>Officer responsible for assessment</b> Chris Valdus	<b>Date of assessment</b> February 2010	New or existing? Existing	
<b>Defining what is being assessed</b>			
<b>1. Briefly describe the purpose and objectives</b>	To consult with all residents about play areas in Medway in order to determine priorities for investment and inform design briefs for expenditure of central government funding in 2009-11.		
<b>2. Who is intended to benefit, and in what way?</b>	All residents of, and visitors to Medway. Benefit from improved access to, and quality of fixed play areas in Medway		
<b>3. What outcomes are wanted?</b>	Engagement of communities in design of play space will help to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Tackle obesity in children</li> <li>2) Improve community cohesion</li> <li>3) Reducing anti-social behaviour</li> <li>4) Preventing youth offending</li> <li>5) Improve quality and quantity of fixed play provision.</li> </ol>		
<b>4. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?</b>	<b>Contribute</b> Establishment of a play partnership with community, volunteer sector, elected members, internal stakeholders and external agencies	<b>Detract</b> Lack of community engagement in design	
<b>5. Who are the main stakeholders?</b>	PCT, Police, Community Safety, Children's Services, Youth Services, Play England, parish Councils, Residents Associations, Youth offending service, Medway Voluntary Service, Inclusion team, Healthy Schools, MHS, Fire Service, Medway Urban parks and greenspaces forum, youth parliament		
<b>6. Who implements this and who is responsible?</b>	Greenspace Service will be responsible for delivery of Playbuilder using internal and external support. Children's Services will be lead on development of the play partnership. Delivery of outcomes will be monitored by comparing baseline survey results with results following improvement works		

<b>Assessing impact</b>		
<b>7. Are there concerns that there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to <i>racial groups</i>?</b>		Brief statement of main issue
	NO	
<b>What evidence exists for this?</b>	<p>A wide ranging consultation programme has been devised which will involve schools, youth centres, on-site activities.</p> <p>Ethnic minority groups are a key target group for improving engagement in play as part of the funding criteria.</p>	
<b>8. Are there concerns that there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to <i>disability</i>?</b>		Brief statement of main issue
	NO	
<b>What evidence exists for this?</b>	<p>Specific consultation is planned with disabled user groups.</p> <p>Improving opportunity for disabled individuals to participate in play is a key funding criteria.</p>	
<b>9. Are there concerns that there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to <i>gender</i>?</b>		Brief statement of main issue
	No	
<b>What evidence exists for this?</b>	<p>A key funding criteria is to ensure that Girls who traditionally use fixed play less are fully engaged in the consultation process and therefore use the facility following investment</p>	
<b>10. Are there concerns there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to <i>sexual orientation</i>?</b>		Brief statement of main issue
	NO	
<b>What evidence exists for this?</b>	<p>Consultation activities will be open to all members of the local community. Through working in partnership all existing contacts within communities will be utilised to ensure equal opportunity for participation.</p>	
<b>11. Are there concerns there <u>could</u> be a have a differential impact due to <i>religion or belief</i>?</b>		Brief statement of main issue
	NO	
<b>What evidence exists for this?</b>	<p>Consultation activities will be open to all members of the local community. Through working in partnership all existing contacts within communities will be utilised to ensure equal opportunity for participation.</p>	
<b>12. Are there concerns there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to people's <i>age</i>?</b>	YES	<p>Brief statement of main issue</p> <p>Funding criteria for the grant scheme state play improvements should primarily be of benefit to 8-13 year olds.</p>
<b>What evidence exists for this?</b>	<p>Consultation activities will be open to all members of the community but specific input into design will be sought from 8-13 year olds.</p>	
<b>13. Are there <u>could</u> be a differential</b>		Brief statement of main issue

impact due to <i>being transgendered or transsexual</i> ?	NO	
What evidence exists for this?	Consultation activities will be open to all members of the local community. Through working in partnership all existing contacts within communities will be utilised to ensure equal opportunity for participation.	
14. Are there any <i>other</i> groups that would find it difficult to access/make use of the function (e.g. people with caring responsibilities or dependants, those with an offending past, or people living in rural areas)?		If yes, which group(s)?
	NO	
What evidence exists for this?	Partners in consultation will seek engagement with carers and child minders.	
15. Are there concerns there <u>could</u> be a have a differential impact due to <i>multiple discriminations</i> (e.g. disability <u>and</u> age)?		Brief statement of main issue None identified
	NO	
What evidence exists for this?		

Conclusions & recommendation		
16. Could the differential impacts identified in questions 7-15 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact?		Brief statement of main issue
	NO	
17. Can the adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or another reason?		Please explain
	NO	
Recommendation to proceed to a full impact assessment?		
<b>NO X</b>	This function/ policy/ service change complies with the requirements of the legislation and there is evidence to show this is the case.	
<b>NO, BUT ...</b>	What is required to ensure this complies with the requirements of the legislation? (see DIA Guidance Notes)?	Minor modifications necessary (e.g. change of 'he' to 'he or she', re-analysis of way routine statistics are reported)
<b>YES</b>	Give details of key person responsible and target date for carrying out full impact assessment (see DIA Guidance Notes)	Need to undertake some additional consultation with target groups (11 and 12).

Action plan to make Minor modifications		
Outcome	Actions (with date of completion)	Officer responsible




<b>Planning ahead: Reminders for the next review</b>		
<b>Date of next review</b>	March 2011	
<b>Areas to check at next review (e.g. new census information, new legislation due)</b>	Review consultation on Year 2 projects and ensure that this provided equal access. Revise programme to overcome any shortfalls.	
<b>Is there <i>another</i> group (e.g. new communities) that is relevant and ought to be considered next time?</b>	Year 1 of the investment programme was delivered through developing new cross-departmental relationships. The timetable for delivery was restricted and this limited period of time available for consultation with all user groups. For Year 2, processes are fully developed and an extended consultation period is available to enable all groups to provide feedback. Research and Review team have a central role in delivery of the consultation programme	
<b>Signed (completing officer/service manager)</b>	<b>Date</b> 04-03-10	
<b>Signed (service manager/Assistant Director)</b>	<b>Date</b>	