CABINET

30 NOVEMBER 2010

PLAYBUILDER YEAR 2 SITES

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Howard Doe, Housing and Community Services

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

Author: Chris Valdus, Greenspace Development Manager

Summary

This report presents a revised list of 9 sites for investment in Year 2 of the Playbuilder Programme as a result of a reduced grant allocation of £381,518 from the Department for Education (DfE).

1. Budget and Policy Framework

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

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

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

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

2. Background

2.1 In May 2009, the Council secured Playbuilder funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) as part of Wave 2 of the 3-year grant programme. The capital grant allocation of £1,128,320 and £45,412 revenue had a target of improving a minimum of 22 play areas by April 2011 through a two-year delivery programme with a target of delivering a minimum of 11 sites in each year of the programme. The capital award was weighted by child population, deprivation scores and took into account regional variations in building costs.

2.2 The criteria for the grant set out that the play areas would focus on 8-13 year olds, ensuring sites were attractive to ethnic minorities, girls and provide better disabled access. They must also follow Play England design guidance based on natural play. Play England and

DCSF approved the Council's Playbuilder Project Plan in April 2009, subject to further consultation taking place to determine sites for investment for Year 2.

2.3 On 2 June 2009 Cabinet (decision numbers 94/2009 and 95/2009) approved the site selection for Year 1 of the Playbuilder Programme and the use of Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) Framework Contract 115 for procurement of the programme. Year 1 of the Playbuilder programme was successfully completed in May 2010 delivering the following sites:

- Beechings Way
- Capstone Park Main
- Capstone Park Woodland
- Cherry Trees
- Cliffe
- Cliffe Woods
- Darnley Road
- High Halstow
- Parkwood Green
- Rainham Rec
- Rookery Fields.

2.4 On 30 March 2010 Cabinet (decision number 55/2010) approved the Year 2 Site Selection and the tender process commenced in June 2010.

2.5 As a result of a separate external grant award through the Community Spaces Programme, the Playbuilder Programme for Broomhill Park was fast-tracked for delivery and this phase of the Year 2 Programme commenced its practical delivery stage on 14 June 2010 and was subsequently completed on 9 September 2010.

2.6 On 15 July the Coalition Government through the Department for Education (DfE), formerly the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), announced a national review of the Playbuilder Programme. All Local Authorities were instructed to halt the issue of contracts relating to the programme nor to permit contractors commencing site works where contracts were in place. With the exception of Broomhill Park where the contract was already on site and underway, the Year 2 programme was halted, pending confirmation from DfE of grant allocation.

2.7 On 26 October DfE confirmed a revised funding allocation for Medway and re-iterated that this grant award was not ring fenced to Playbuilder. The amount has been reduced to £381,518 (64% of the original grant allocation) and the grant will be paid in 2 equal instalments: the first on 30 November 2010 and the second on 28 February 2011. Clarification is being sought by the Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture from the DfE on a revised completion date for the programme.

3. Options

3.1 The proposed Year 2 sites for Playbuilder investment are presented below in Table 1. This list of 9 sites includes Broomhill, which was completed on 9 September 2010.

3.2 The following criteria were used to inform this revised 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.

Table 1 – Revised Year 2 Playbuilder Programme

Site	Landowner	Rationale for inclusion
Allhallows	Allhallows Parish Council	High level of community support demonstrated. Potential match funding through '4 Parishes' project.
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.
Bayswater Drive	Medway Council	High level of community support demonstrated. Adjoining a deprived area.
Borstal Recreation Ground	Medway Council	High level of community support and potential match funding through Section 106 monies. High IDACI score.
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 the Community Spaces Programme and this project is now complete.
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.
Cuxton – Bush Road	Cuxton Parish Council	High level of community support demonstrated
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.
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

4. Advice and analysis

4.1 The Council has adopted a Diversity Impact Assessment process to ensure policies reflect the 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 1 for further details).

4.2 Wide-ranging public consultation is planned to inform site designs and the 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 will not be excluded from consultation events and will benefit from these enhancements.

4.3 The Playbuilder programme will encourage sustainability through the use of materials from sustainable sources wherever possible. Existing equipment will be re-used wherever 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 The Playbuilder Year 2 Programme has been risk assessed as a medium risk by Strategic Procurement. Table 2 below provides further information on specific risks and mitigation of these. Risk ratings are informed by the following matrix

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

Table 2. Playbuilder Programme Delivery Risks and Mitigation

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk
Staff	Playbuilder Development Officer has insufficient time to co-ordinate delivery of the programme Loss of Playbuilder Development Officer at critical stage in delivery Consequences of either of these would be failure to meet project milestones with potential repayment of grant **This risk is rated – E2**	Experience and support of the Greenspace Development Team Liaison with and reporting to the Positive Activities Strategy Group on project milestones Project Management processes put into place including establishment of a project board
Vandalism	Damage during and post-installation **This risk is rated – D3**	Engagement of community in design to ensure all sectors support and value the investment Ranger patrols and rapid response to reported issues High quality materials used in equipment
Budget	Overspend against capital grant provided **This risk is rated – E3**	Programme costed by experienced officers Rigorous project management procedures

6. Consultation

6.1 As requested by Play England and DCSF at Playbuilder Project Plan approval stage, the sites for investment have been selected through a detailed consultation programme.

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.

6.3 Consultation has also been undertaken with the Portfolio Holders for Housing and Community Services and Finance.

7. Award of Contracts

7.1 Contracts will be awarded in accordance with the Council's contract rules (Gateway 3 Stage).

8. Financial and legal implications

8.1 The budget for the scheme will be fixed, as sums secured for the programme are fixed. The use of the ESPO framework enables efficiencies to be realised in the procurement process and maximises funds available to the project.

8.2 Medway Council owned play areas receiving investment will be maintained under the existing play maintenance contract. Maintenance of Parish Council sites will be the responsibility of the relevant Parish Council following project completion.

9. Recommendation

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

10. Suggested Reasons for Decisions

10.1 The implementation of the Playbuilder Programme will help to meet a number of the Council's wider aspirations and results in the refurbishment of a number of play areas across Medway.

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

Lead officer contact

Chris Valdus
Greenspace Development Manager
Gun Wharf
Telephone: (01634) 331447
Email: christopher.valdus@medway.gov.uk

Background papers

Medway Council Playbuilder Project Plan 2009-2011
Playbuilder Risk Analysis Tool – Year 2 procurement
Playbuilder Programme Procurement – 2 June 2009 Cabinet report
Playbuilder Year 2 Sites – 30 March 2010 Cabinet report

Appendix 1

Diversity Impact Assessment: Screening Form

Directorate **Regeneration, Community and Culture**	**Name of Function or Policy or Major Service Change** Greenspaces – Play Area Investment	
Officer responsible for assessment Chris Valdus	**Date of assessment** February 2010	New or existing? Existing

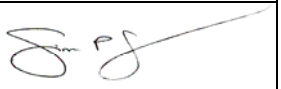
Defining what is being assessed		
1. Briefly describe the purpose and objectives	To consult with all residents about play areas in Medway in order to determine priorities for investment and inform design briefs for expenditure of central government funding in 2009-11.	
2. Who is intended to benefit, and in what way?	All residents of, and visitors to Medway. Benefit from improved access to, and quality of fixed play areas in Medway	
3. What outcomes are wanted?	Engagement of communities in design of play space will help to: 1) Tackle obesity in children 2) Improve community cohesion 3) Reducing anti-social behaviour 4) Preventing youth offending 5) Improve quality and quantity of fixed play provision.	
4. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?	**Contribute** Establishment of a play partnership with community, volunteer sector, elected members, internal stakeholders and external agencies	**Detract** Lack of community engagement in design
5. Who are the main stakeholders?	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	
6. Who implements this and who is responsible?	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	

Assessing impact		
7. Are there concerns that there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to *racial groups*?		Brief statement of main issue
	NO	
What evidence exists for this?	A wide ranging consultation programme has been devised which will involve schools, youth centres, on-site activities. Ethnic minority groups are a key target group for improving engagement in play as part of the funding criteria.	
8. Are there concerns that there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to *disability*?		Brief statement of main issue
	NO	
What evidence exists for this?	Specific consultation is planned with disabled user groups. Improving opportunity for disabled individuals to participate in play is a key funding criteria.	
9. Are there concerns that there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to *gender*?		Brief statement of main issue
	No	
What evidence exists for this?	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	
10. Are there concerns there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to *sexual orientation*?		Brief statement of main issue
	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.	
11. Are there concerns there <u>could</u> be a have a differential impact due to *religion or belief*?		Brief statement of main issue
	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.	
12. Are there concerns there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to people's *age*?	YES	Brief statement of main issue Funding criteria for the grant scheme state play improvements should primarily be of benefit to 8-13 year olds.
What evidence exists for this?	Consultation activities will be open to all members of the community but specific input into design will be sought from 8-13 year olds.	

13. Are there concerns that there <u>could</u> be a differential impact due to *being trans-gendered or transsexual*?		Brief statement of main issue
	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 *other* 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 *multiple discriminations* (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?		
NO X	This function/ policy/ service change complies with the requirements of the legislation and there is evidence to show this is the case.	
NO, BUT …	**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)
YES	**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**

Planning ahead: Reminders for the next review		
Date of next review	March 2011	
Areas to check at next review (e.g. new census information, new legislation due)	Review consultation on Year 2 projects and ensure that this provided equal access. Revise programme to overcome any shortfalls.	
Is there *another* group (e.g. new communities) that is relevant and ought to be considered next time?	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 to enable all groups to provide feedback. Research and Review team have a central role in delivery of the consultation programme	
Signed (completing officer/service manager)	**Date** 04-03-10	
Signed (service manager/Assistant Director)	**Date**	

Play areas in Medway

KEY

- Playbuilder Year 1
- Playbuilder Year 2
- Other investments 2009-2011

CLIFFE
HIGH HALSTOW
CLIFFE WOODS REC
HOO
ALLHALLOWS
BROOMHILL PARK
CLIFFE ROAD
DARNLEY ROAD
HILLYFIELDS
BALMORAL GARDENS
RIVERSIDE COUNTRY PARK
VICTORIA GARDENS
JACKSON REC
ROOKERY FIELDS
BEECHINGS WAY PLAYING FLD
GILLINGHAM PARK
BORSTAL
PRIESTFIELDS
CUXTON
COPPERFIELD
COZENTON PARK
RAINHAM REC
LUTON REC
FRISTON WAY
BARNFIELD REC
108 MAIDSTONE ROAD
CHERRY TREES
MERESBOROUGH ROAD
CAPSTONE FARM C.P. (LOWER)
CAPSTONE FARM C.P. (UPPER)
VALE DRIVE
WIGMORE PARK
PARKWOOD GREEN
HOOK MEADOW
BAYSWATER DRIVE
BALLENS ROAD

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