

Agenda Item

Executive Board

7 February 2007

PJ/smep/Play



Play Strategy for East Devon

Summary

The District of East Devon has unique characteristics which affect its ability to provide a range and consistency of play opportunities.

Whilst seen as a non-mandatory, quality of life issue, Play is of course vital to the way in which children and young people learn about the world, how they learn to socialise, be creative, learn physical skills, and challenge themselves.

In recognising this important aspect of life the government are funding grants to local authorities subject to them having an adopted play strategy based on consultation research, a series of priorities and some robustly argued schemes.

Recommendation

Members of the Committee are requested to adopt the Draft Play Strategy for East Devon.

a) Reasons for Recommendation

To agree a draft Play Strategy for East Devon.

b) Alternative Options

To amend, or not agree, the contents of the draft Play Strategy for East Devon.

c) Risk Considerations

That the Play Strategy is not found 'fit for purpose' to support the bid for grant aid.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

Positive Impact Overall

Crime and disorder issues

Social inclusion of potentially excluded groups

Improve satisfaction with East Devon as a place to live or with EDDC Services

Increased satisfaction with parks, open spaces, public places, litter

Ensuring new buildings/homes are safe, sustainable and high quality

Improving belief that the Council genuinely consults and actively shapes the future of the district

Improving services as a result of Consultation

This paper does not commit EDDC to any specific expenditure.

e) Date for Review of Decision

The Play Strategy should be reviewed every 2 years.

1 Main Body of the Report

- 1.1 For many years the Council has supported play facilities and more recently many have been provided through planning gain. However the types of facilities provided have tended to be aimed at younger children.
- 1.2 Whilst a few Multi-use games areas have been provided for older children these are not so widespread, and the alternative, sports facilities does not meet the 'rule of thumb' test for play facilities of being:
- Freely accessible (all times, by all groups of young people)
 - Free of charge
 - Freely chosen activities (i.e. not directed by adults)
- 1.3 The purpose of a play strategy is to try to encourage new opportunities for play (meeting those 3 principles in a justified way based on meeting gaps in provision that have been identified through widespread consultation. Furthermore whilst the Council is expected to lead on this issue they are expected to work in a multi-agency way.
- 1.4 Consequently the attached Play Strategy has been compiled by a multi-agency working group following a range of different consultation methods. It is for use by a range of different organisations and follows some prescription on its content – hence it does not Follow EDDC's usual format.
- 1.5 The advantage of having a suitable play strategy is to allow us to bid for the £200,000 'earmarked' for projects in East Devon.
- 1.6 We intend to make this bid in March. However the Lottery who are administering this grant system have very complex requirements for the bid making process, especially where capital schemes are proposed. This includes the need for certainty of deliverability.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Consultation on Reports to the Executive

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Background Papers

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Peter Jeffs – Extension 2652
Corporate Director - Communities

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