

Big Lottery Play Initiative Programme

Director/Head of Department: Keith Parker Head of Leisure and Environmental Services
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This report advises Overview and Scrutiny members of the Big Lottery Play Initiative programme.

Recommendation:

That overview and scrutiny members note the Big Lottery Play Initiative programme.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Overview and Scrutiny members will be aware of the councils Play Strategy that was reviewed and updated for the period 2007-2012, this strategy was used in conjunction with the councils Children's Outdoor Play Area & Teen Space Strategy to comply with Big Lottery Play criteria to attract support funding for Copeland.

1.2 The Big Lottery funding available to Copeland Borough Council is £200,000 which may be used to support either capital or revenue based projects that supports the strategic play provision within the borough.

1.3 Through promotion of the scheme community groups themselves identified a need for play. A process was undertaken where groups were invited to express an interest for the Big Lottery funding. The application packs went out to Parish Councils, Community Groups and wider interested bodies.

2. ARGUMENT

2.1 Consultation was undertaken with the Youth Council at their meeting in July, and again in September. In addition Schools around the borough were consulted on the play strategy objectives, and a questionnaire was distributed during the summer activity programme to obtain children and young peoples views on play within the Borough. Also, youth groups in Millom, Egremont and Cleator Moor and Whitehaven were approached for their views.

2.2 Engagement was also undertaken in the following ways:-

- A series of visits, recorded interviews and formal discussions with various community groups and individuals
- Telephone and email consultation
- Surveys with young children and young people
- Face to Face interviews
- Analysis of previous consultation and data gathered including parish plans and local neighbourhoods

2.3 The issues identified were not particular to Copeland as they mirror those found nationally. The priority Issues identified for Free Play and clarified through the local engagement processes are:-

- More adventurous play opportunities
- Enhanced Rural Transport links
- Limited provision in rural areas
- Existing facilities to be maintained to a good standard
- Continue to provide play through other options
- There are not enough safe spaces in which to play and hang out, or enough services
- A need to provide a stronger voice for young people through the Youth Council
- Provision of teen space and services is inadequate
- There is insufficient holiday activities for young people
- Existing facilities are not being used fully, greater effort should be made to utilise the facilities more and improve on what already exists
- For teenagers there is a requirement for more challenging play areas and informal sports development
- Future provision of play services should support sports and informal youth club provision
- A requirement to make play facilities and schemes accessible and welcoming for children with disabilities; and for special provision as needed

2.4 The initial promotion of the big lottery play scheme across the borough resulted in the council receiving a total of 16 play projects.

2.5 Following the big lottery criteria, a first review of the submitted applications was undertaken, however it became evident that a number of the projects did not fit the Big Lottery Criteria which is:-

- Support Free Play Provision (Free access, Free availability, Free to all – Does not include sport provision)
- Meets the Strategic needs

- Is within the threshold of £50,000-£150,000

3. CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Following the BIG Lottery criteria assessment process, of the original 16 play projects, this was evaluated down to 5 projects; this process is outlined in Appendix 1.

4. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

4.1 The cost for delivering the 5 projects, including the management resources implications is contained within the grant award from the Big Lottery.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

Community and rural play provision has a key role in supporting the Councils Quality of Life objectives

List of Appendices

Appendix One BIG lottery Evaluation
Appendix Two Play Strategy update

List of Background Documents:

Big Lottery Guidance – Local Authorities
Copeland Children’s Updated Play Strategy – Copies provided and left in members room
Executive report 4th September 2007

List of Consultees:

Councillor George Clements
Councillor Hugh Branney
Corporate Team

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	Promotes activities for young people
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Impact on Sustainability	Approved schemes need to demonstrate sustainability
Impact on Rural Proofing	Supports young people activities in rural areas
Health and Safety Implications	None
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	None
Children and Young Persons Implications	Paragraph 2.1
Human Rights Act Implications	None

Appendix One

BIG Lottery Process and Projects

The Big Lottery funding available to Copeland Borough Council is £200,000 which maybe used to support either capital or revenue based projects that supports the strategic play provision within the borough.

Following this initial approach a total of 16 projects were received and following the initial review of the applications it became evident that a number of them did not fit the Big Lottery Criteria which is:-

1. Support Free Play Provision (Free access, Free availability, Free to all – Does not include sport provision)
2. Meets Strategic needs
3. Is within the threshold of £50,000-£150,000

Based on the financial criteria the minimum number of projects that can go forward for the Lottery funding is between 2 and 4.

Big Lottery Stage 1 assessment

Of the initial 16 applications 6 were not deemed eligible to proceed to the stage 2 assessment: -

- **Whitehaven Sea Cadets** - This project was for the purchase of a boat (to support health and safety issues) for the Sea Cadets. - This is deemed not eligible as it is outside of the concept of Play provision identified by Play England.
- **Cleator Moor Celtic Club** - This project was to support further development of football pitches, ineligible as this is classed as a sport activity – not play.
- **Adams Memorial Hall** - This project was below the financial threshold (£7,822) and is not strategic.
- **Cleator Moor Cricket Club** - This project was below the financial threshold (£5,734) and is not strategic. The project was also ineligible as this is a sports activity – not play
- **Keekle Community Park** - This project was below the financial threshold (£7,686) and is not strategic.

- **Bank Head estate play area** - The project is not strategic and no financial information was made available.

The applicants were contacted informing them of their ineligibility to proceed to stage 2 of the BIG Lottery criteria assessment. The groups were provided with details of other sources funding that may help them to deliver their own individual projects. Copeland Officers have also offer there assistance and advice to the above groups.

Big Lottery Stage 2 assessment

The remaining 10 projects were invited to attend a face to face interview with Councils Open Spaces Officers to understand the projects in greater detail and ascertain the full details and aims of their projects. Resulting from this process 4 projects were unable to proceed to the stage 3 assesment: -

- **Parton North Copeland Youth Partnership** - This project was for the provision of a teen shelter which is ineligible for funding as identified by the Play England advisers.
- **Moresby North Copeland Play Partnership** - This project was for the provision of a teen shelter which is ineligible for funding as identified by Play England advisers.
- **St Benedicts School** - No one attended from the school, and following a detailed review of the application it was deemed ineligible as it related to sport activities and the project would not provide freely available access.
- **Frizington Nursery and Child care centre** - No one attended from the Nursery, and following a detailed review of the application it was clear that the criteria of free access at all times would not be met.
- **Hensingham Football Pitch** -This project was to provide for a new football pitch area. The project was ineligible as it related to sports activity

Big Lottery Stage 3 assessment

The remaining 5 projects were identified as projects that clearly met the criteria as identified by the Big Lottery although the total funding requests exceeds of the amount available.

3 of the projects are for a Multi User Games Area – these projects were linked to form 1 large project for the purpose of the submission, the other 2 projects are for the provision of a BMX track and a children’s play area

Project 1 Equipped Play Area & Multi Use Games Area

Hensingham Open Space - The Local community have identified a need for a dedicated play facility to support wider play provision as part of the strategic development of Hensingham open space, the project will support the provision of play equipment and multi use games area for a range of ages and will ensure that the community has dedicated resources to support the high children and young people population (over 1,000) within the ward.

Kier – Hardy Robert Owen -This project is a community developed scheme working with Home Housing Association to create an area to support a Multi Use Games Area to support to provide additional teen area for play provision.

Briscoe Mount - The Local community in association with Copeland Homes and the Council have identified a need for local play equipment to support the surrounding communities to the north of Egremont, the housing population is also growing in this area, the project will provide play equipment for juniors and toddlers in the area.

Project 2 – Play Area

Gosforth Playing Field - Gosforth Parish in association with the local community have developed an area to support play for juniors and toddlers and are now seeking to support additional play provision for teens through the creation of a Multi Use Games area – this would also help to support wider rural communities by providing a facility close to the centre of the borough.

Project 3 – Mountain Bike/BMX Track

Seascale Ground Force - This project will provide a strategic site for the development of wheeled play which is centrally located within the borough and is accessible through rails or road transport to wider communities. The site will be a strategic area for supporting wheeled provision and is fully supported by the Parish Council and local community group.

Big Lottery Funding

The amount of funding available to support the projects is up to £200,000 of which £180,000 for the projects whilst £20,000 (10%) is to be retained by the Council to support the management and monitoring functions of the portfolio as detailed in the BIG Lottery contract for funding.

Appendix Two

Play Strategy

External document