

## Big Lottery Children's Play Projects

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Deputy Leader Councillor George Clements  
Portfolio Holder Councillor Hugh Branney  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Keith Parker, Head of Leisure and Environmental  
Services  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Toni Magean, Open Spaces Manager

### Summary and Recommendation:

This report presents the Copeland Play Strategy Update to executive for approval and adoption.

That the Executive Board

1. Note the updated Copeland Play Strategy including the action plan, which copies have been left in the member's room for reviewing.
2. Agree that the projects identified in Appendix 1 be put forward in the Big Lottery Application in line the funding allocation as identified in option "C"
3. Agree delegated responsibility to the Portfolio Holder and Head of Leisure and Environmental Services to approve any variations to the Play Update following final consultation with the Local Strategic Partnership Thematic Play Group in order to enable the completion and submission of the BIG Lottery application for £200,000 to meet the required deadline of the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report informs of the updated Copeland Play Strategy which establishes a Play strategy for the period 2007-2012 for Copeland and will be used in conjunction with the existing "Children's Outdoor Play Area & Teen Space Strategy for Copeland" in order for it to comply with requirements to support a Big Lottery application for Copeland. Copies of the updated Play Strategy were provided and placed in the Councils members' room to view.

- 1.2 This report also presents details of the BIG Lottery project assessment process undertaken to identify the strategic projects for approval. The total projects received for the BIG Lottery application numbered 16.
- 1.3 Applying the BIG Lottery criteria assessment process from the original 16 this was evaluated down to 3 projects

## **2 Play Strategy Update - Consultation Process**

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place with the Youth Council at their meeting in July, and will take place again in September. In addition Schools around the borough have been consulted on the draft strategy objectives, and a questionnaire is been 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 have been approached for their views on the emerging strategy. Engagement as also been 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 (ongoing during August 2007)
  - Face to Face interviews
  - Analysis of previous consultation and data gathered including parish plans and local neighbourhoods
- 2.2 Also, It is a requirement of the Big Lottery that any Strategy needs to obtain endorsement from key stakeholders in the form of a 'Play Partnership'. It is the intention of officers to approach the Local Strategic Planning Children's Thematic Group which represents Children and Young People in West Cumbria to act as this vehicle, the draft document will be presented to the partnership in advance of the Executive meeting.
- 2.3 In addition, initial consultation and the results from Parish plans have identified key issues which young people felt needed to be addressed
- 2.4 The results of this initial consultation and mapping exercise produced a range of data, which informed and directed the updated strategy. It has been established through the mapping process that there is already a wide range of play activities for children and young people across the Borough. However several issues were identified that either prevent children playing or lessen the quality of their experience.

2.5 The issues identified are not particular to Copeland as they mirror those found nationally. Priority Issues identified for Free Play through a national analysis and further clarified through the local engagement processes with key stakeholders are:-

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

2.6 The above issues have led to the formation of some key priorities, which are seen as key within the Copeland Play Strategy Update.

2.7 In direct response to the gaps that are emerging the Copeland Play Strategy Update will aim to increase the quality and quantity of play opportunities for all children and young people in the Borough.

2.8 The objectives of the emerging strategy are summarized in a range of Play Policies that were agreed at the Executive on 7<sup>th</sup> August and can be summarized below:

- |                 |   |  |
|-----------------|---|--|
| • Play Policy 1 | - | Provide a Strategic Approach to Play Provision |
| • Play Policy 2 | - | Provide Safe Play for All                      |
| • Play Policy 3 | - | Provide play needs according to age and gender |
| • Play Policy 4 | - | Provide inclusive play provision               |
| • Play Policy 5 | - | Maximise funding opportunities                 |

- Play Policy 6 - Provide venues for play in appropriate locations/communities

- 2.9 It is a requirement of the Big Lottery that any Strategy needs to obtain endorsement from key stakeholders in the form of a 'Play Partnership'. It is the intention of officers to approach the Local Strategic Planning (LSP) and its children's thematic partnership which represents Children and Young People in West Cumbria to act as this vehicle, the draft document will be presented to the partnership in advance of the Executive meeting.
- 2.10 The key risk to the Council is that the strategy is, to some extent, dependant on the successful award from the Big Lottery final bidding round (deadline 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007). Should this be unsuccessful, the strategy could still go ahead but would be limited to developments that are part of other priorities for the Council and other partners such as Extended Schools. The strategy sets out clear criteria for future planning of open spaces and, therefore is relevant, even without big lottery funding.

### **3 BIG Lottery Process and Projects**

- 3.1 The Big Lottery funding available to Copeland Borough Council is £200,000 which maybe used to support either capital or revenue based projects which support strategic play provision within the borough.
- 3.1.1 Through promotion of the scheme community groups themselves identified a need for play. A process was undertaken were 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.
- 3.1.2 Following this initial approach a total of 16 projects were received showing an interest for the Big Lottery Programme 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:-
- Support Free Play Provision (Free access, Free availability, Free to all – Does not include sport provision)
  - Meets Strategic needs
  - Is within the threshold of £50,000-£150,000
- 3.1.3 Based on the financial criteria the minimum number of projects that can go forward for the Lottery funding is 2 and the maximum 4.

### Stage 1 assessment

- 3.2 Of the initial 16 applications 6 were not deemed eligible to proceed to the more detailed 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.
- 3.3 The applicants have been contacted informing them of their ineligibility to proceed to stage 2 of the BIG Lottery criteria assessment. The groups have been provided with details of other sources funding that may help them to deliver their own individual projects. Copeland Officers have also offer some assistance and advice to the above groups if required.

### Stage 2 assessment

- 3.4 The remaining 10 projects were invited to attend an interview with the Councils Open spaces Development Officer and White Young Green Consultant to understand the projects in greater detail and ascertain the full details and aims of their projects. Following this process 4 projects were unable to proceed further: -
- **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

### **Stage 3 assessment**

- 3.5 The remaining 5 projects are identified as projects that would meet the criteria identified by the Big Lottery although the total funding requests exceeds of the amount available.
- 3.6 3 of the projects are for a Multi User Games Area – these projects will be combined to form 1 large project, the other 2 projects are for a BMX track and a play area

### **Project 1 – Multi User games Areas**

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

#### Project 2 – 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.

#### Project 3 – Play Area

- **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.

- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 Appendix 1 identifies the projects that the evaluation team feel strongly support the Big Lottery criteria and the funding required. Three options A, B and C are identified for Executive's consideration regarding the funding to support the projects

#### **4 Monitoring and Evaluation (including sources of finance)**

- 4.1 Financial implications for the production of the Copeland Play Strategy update and BIG Lottery submission is resourced through an approved financial carry over from 2006/7 to the value of £10,000. Consultants White Young Green has been appointed to undertake this work. Officer time is also being utilised to prepare the final documents.
- 4.2 As identified in paragraph 3.6 10% of the total funding allocation is available to carry out the monitoring and evaluation of the projects.

#### **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 For the Executive to note the updated Copeland Play Strategy (copies provided and left in the members room)

- 5.2 For the Executive to confirm approval of the preferred option "C" for the projects received to go forward to the formal BIG Lottery submission deadline 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

**List of background documents:**

Big Lottery Guidance – Local Authorities  
Copeland Children's Updated Play Strategy – Copies provided and left in members room

**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
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

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision NO



## APPENDIX 1

### PROJECTS

#### Play Strategy Objectives (ward catchment area)

Children population ward level(1000+=3, <500=2, <200=1 on cbc pop levels)  
Deprived area (Based on IMD ranking top 3%=3, 10%=2, 20%=1)  
Geographical accessibility (Isolated=3, Private transport=2, Public transport=1)  
Play provision availability (V.good=1, Good=2, Poor=3)  
Emerging gaps (one=1,two=2, Two more=3-  
Transport/provision/teen requirement)  
Community evidence (Strong=3, Medium=2, Poor=1)

#### Big Lottery Criteria (must fulfill all 3)

Provides Free play - (time)  
Provides Free Access (cost)  
Provides Free Opportunities (equal access)  
Achieves funding threshold  
Strategic concept

#### Sustainability

Management structure in place (Agreed=3, developing=2, outstanding=1)  
Resources/maintenance structures in place (Agreed=3, developing=2, outstanding=1)

#### TOTAL

1			2	3
Keir Hardy'Robert Owen	Gosforth Playing Field	Hensingham open space	Seascale Groundforce - Mountain bike/BMX track	Briscoe Mount Play Area
MUGA	MUGA	MUGA		
3	2	3	2	3
2	0	2	0	1
1	3	1	2	1
2	3	3	3	2
1	3	2	3	1
3	3	3	3	3
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
2	3	3	3	2
2	3	2	3	2
21	25	24	24	20

1				2	3
Keir Hardy'Robert Owen –	Gosforth Playing Field –	Hensingham open space - Play site	Seascale Groundforce	Briscoe Mount	Play Area
MUGA	MUGA	MUGA	-Mountain bike/BMX track		

#### Project Funding Requirements

<u>£17,000</u>	<u>£40,000</u>	<u>£60,000</u>	<u>£50,000</u>	<u>£50,000</u>	<u>£217,000</u>
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#### OPTIONS (Funding Allocation)

"A" Support all projects Except Briscoe Mount

£17,000	£40,000	£60,000	£50,000	£0	<u>£167,000</u>
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"B" Support all projects Except Gosforth Playing Field

£17,000	£0	£60,000	£50,000	£50,000	<u>£177,000</u>
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"C" A proportional grant allocation across the MUGA projects (additional funding may need to be sourced by the groups) – All projects supported

£10,000	£23,000	£47,000	£50,000	£50,000	<u>£180,000</u>
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Option "C" allows for the maximum funding

Note: MUGA projects will be packaged together