

## DCSF PLAYBUILDER FUNDING YEAR 2 ALLOCATION

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### WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS

- Linking with the corporate objective for Quality of life 2.1 by provision of 2 inclusive, high quality, safe but challenging, open-access fixed youth play facilities in areas with particularly poor provision.
- Links with the corporate objective for Quality of life 2.4 providing equal opportunities for free play in the rural areas of the borough by developing 2 new youth facilities.
- Directly involve 2 parish/town councils and local voluntary organisations in the improved provision of local free play opportunities in rural areas.
- Improved community involvement in providing play opportunities within neighbourhoods.

### WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE?

To agree projects for external capital Playbuilder funding.

<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> To agree to the allocation of year 2 funding provided from the Department Children Schools and Families (DCSF).
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Cumbria has been allocated £1.1 million pounds from DCSF of the Play Builder fund to spend on improving the play provision with the County over the next two years. The money is being administered by Cumbria County Council through their children services Department.

The £1.1 million will be split up between the six authorities that cover the county of Cumbria, with the split being based on the numbers of children living within each of these areas and their respective deprivation rates.

The money is released in two payments with Copeland Borough Council receiving £85,901 in 2009 and 2010.

- 1.2 In 2008 and 2009 a total of £200K was allocated for play provision from the Big Lottery for the Children in Copeland out of the 5 projects put forward only one remains Copeland Borough Council's responsibility. In

2009 Playbuilder funding became available and the evaluation process looked at children numbers across the Borough which identified two areas within Whitehaven for improvements, namely High Street Park and Castle Park. These projects were put forward and have been completed with the Playbuilder funding allocation from year 1.

## **2. ARGUMENT**

- 2.1 A previous report to Executive for Year 1 Playbuilder funding proposed that young people's statistics were a major contributing factor for the selection of sites. Therefore proposals have been considered to maximise the benefits to the young people between 0 to 15.

Since Year 1 the County Council has appointed a Strategic Play Officer (Jane Smith) who is responsible for managing the funding allocation, being involved with the assessment of the applications and processing all the paper work.

The overarching criteria for a Playbuilder project should ensure that the project should be:

- Totally Inclusive
- Located in areas of identified need
- Free of charge to users
- Focused towards children aged 8 - 13 years old
- Consider the Design for Play: 10 Design Principles
- Be open to the public by 31 March 2011.

County Council were also looking for strong involvement from the local community to secure the long term future for the successful projects.

The Council prepared a letter and application pack which was sent to all the local Parish or Town Councils in the Borough and any known community groups in the areas.

The information was sent to each of these in February and twice in March. Communities were given until Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010 to submit the completed application forms and submit expressions of interest. There was also the opportunity to attend a workshop for guidance and assistance on how to complete the application.

The Playbuilder funding application process was openly advertised through the local newspaper with contact details for interested groups.

After the closing date four applications were received and were evaluated against criteria, which included price and quality.

- 2.2 The applicants were invited to attend a meeting with CBC representatives and the Strategic Play Officer, so they could demonstrate how their scheme met the community needs and would make a difference.
- 2.3 At the West Area Local Planning Group (WALPG) the 4 applications received were discussed along with the criteria used and evaluation process to determine the two proposed schemes. The WALPG group were happy with the proposals and made particular point that deprivation should be a key factor for consideration as well as community input not just numbers of children and that in the first instance the emphasis for local children's benefit as well as visitors.

### **3. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED**

- 3.1 Consideration when selecting the projects to be put forward was given to young people's numbers, ward deprivation, value for money, commitment from landowners, community involvement, experience of community to deliver the installation of the project and future maintenance implications.
- 3.2 In addition consideration was given to the community commitment for the success of these projects along with the work to secure further funding from external streams.

### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 It is proposed that the applicants from Parton and Cleator Moor be accepted and taken forward to stage 2, where design and procurement principles will be determined with the groups. Both schemes are supported by community groups and the Cleator Moor application is part of a larger programme.
- 4.2 Continued officer support will be offered to any other groups looking to develop a scheme or project of this nature but have been unsuccessful in this process.

### **5. WHAT ARE THE LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS?**

- 5.1 Officer time to manage the portfolio of external funding and advise groups on professional services will be required but will be within the existing budget.

- 5.2 The site at Parton will be maintained by the Parton Parish council and therefore at no cost to the Council. The site at Cleator Moor already belongs to Copeland Borough Council but it is not envisaged that this scheme will incur any additional revenue costs.

**6. HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE PROJECT MANAGED AND HOW ARE THE RISKS GOING TO BE MANAGED?**

- 6.1 Projects will be managed by the community groups along with land owner representatives and will follow DCSF Playbuilder guidance for procurement of services.
- 6.2 Risks for projects will be managed through the guidance published by the DCSF Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide.

**7. WHAT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OR OUTPUTS WILL ARISE FROM THIS REPORT?**

- 7.1 Base data has been obtained by the two proposed groups through consultation to measure against increased future usage.
- 7.2 To increase the physical activity and social skills of over 100 young people in both areas.

**List of Appendices**

None

**List of Background Documents:**

**Copeland Play Strategy Update 2007 - 2012**

**Every Child Matters**

**Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces.**

**Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide**

**The Play strategy**

**Embedding the Play Strategy**