

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 30th April 2009

Subject: Play Pathfinder

Report of: Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services

Contact officer: Sue Astbury 01942 486003
Sue.Astbury@wigan.gov.uk

Purpose / summary: To inform members of the receipt of Play Pathfinder Grant seek approval to proceed with the Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust to deliver the project

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: Contained within the report

Recommendation / decision: Members are recommended to:

- approve the proposals for the delivery of 28 refurbished playgrounds and the development of 1 adventure playground
- approve the commissioning of WLCT to deliver the programme

Key Decision This report involves a key decision within ground(s) 6.

The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed i.e. before 5.00 pm Tuesday 12th May 09.

Risks / Implications: This item is not included in the Forward Plan

Financial: Capital Grant £2.1m
Revenue Grant of £0.5m for first 2 years

Staffing: Details to be established

Policy: Play Strategy
 Equal Opportunities - Has a Yes
 Diversity Impact Assessment
 been conducted?
 Wards affected: All

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

Yes

If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?

Yes

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

A full diversity impact assessment has been undertaken and is attached as an appendix to this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

No

A diversity impact assessment has been undertaken and is attached as an appendix to this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution? **Yes / No ***

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget? **Yes / No ***

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **Yes / No ***

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only :

Categorisation of the report:	X
Discussion leading to a decision	
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

	X
Discussion	
Decision	X
Information	

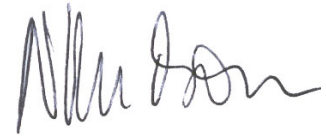
Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
		30.04.09	

List of Background Papers in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:

Title of document	Which meeting did it go to?	Date of meeting	Copy available from?

Proper Officer



Date

16th April 2009

1.0 Background:

- 1.1 Children and Young People's Services on behalf of the Play Partnership has been successful in attracting over £2.1 million of capital grant to develop play facilities for children in the borough.
- 1.2 In August 2008 the DCSF announced the selection process for Wave 2 of the Play Pathfinders project, for funding from April 2009 through to March 2011.
- 1.3 The purpose is to by the end of March 2011 each Pathfinder to develop 28 public play areas with the capital awarded, and to create one large staffed adventure playground or play park. The funding amounts to £2,129,520, including £800,000 to be spent on the one larger facility. These sites should be open access, with children generally free to come and go as they please with no charge.
- 1.4 In addition the Pathfinders will also receive revenue funding of £496,245 4 over 2 years to March 2011 to cover activity such as generating learning on innovative ways of improving local play offers, appointing a senior project manager to link to high level decision making, staffing costs for the adventure playground/play park, and any other required infrastructure to ensure the Pathfinder programme runs effectively.
- 1.5 The expression of interest was submitted by CYPS with the support of the Play Partnership in September 2008 to deliver the above project.
- 1.6 CYPS was invited to submit a full proposal in November 2008. This proposal was submitted with letters of support from the local Members of Parliament.
- 1.7 CYPS was notified of the successful outcome of the proposal mid December 2008, and the Conditions of Grant and Guidance was received at the end of February 2009.
- 1.8 The project plan required by DCSF was submitted at the end of March 2009, we are now awaiting feedback.
- 1.9 The Play Partnership currently has the responsibility for taking the lead on championing children's play. The Partnership has representation from across CYPS, WLCT, EMBRACE, CVS, Groundwork, Wigan Play Association and Environmental Services.
- 1.10 As part of the Play Partnership WLCT has already committed significant resource to support the bidding and planning of this programme.

The long term sustainability of this project will require the Council and the WLCT to re-examine priorities within the current budget envelope. The Executive Director for Health and Well Being will take this into account when agreeing the requirements of the Council for the delivery of Leisure and Culture Services.

2.0 Proposal:

- 2.1 As with all grants the DCSF requires that as the recipient of the grant, Wigan Council shall have regard to HM Treasury guidelines in the procurement of goods and services for which it receives grant so as to secure best value for money. In particular, contracts for work, equipment, stores and services etc. awarded by the Council shall be placed on a competitive basis, unless there are good reasons to the contrary. Tendering procedures shall be in accordance with the EU Procurement Directive and UK Procurement Regulations, where applicable and any additional guidance issued by the department.
- 2.2 WLCT through its Play Section is responsible for the management and maintenance of the majority of play areas in Wigan. The Team is also responsible for the implementation of the Community Playgrounds Strategy, which identifies those play areas in the borough in need of development.
- 2.3 In addition, the WLCT as the Council's strategic adviser on Play is well placed to deliver this programme of works and services to the Council and therefore the Trust have been invited to put forward its proposition for managing both the construction projects and the ongoing project management.
- 2.4 The arrangements to clearly define the contract requirements and specifications for delivery and agreed monitoring arrangements are in the process of being finalised.

3.0 Alternative options:

- 3.1 To not accept the grant would mean that the opportunity to invest £2.1m capital grant into play facilities would be lost.

Longer term sustainability will require wider Leisure and Culture priorities to be re-addressed.

4.0 Recommendation:

- 4.1 Members are recommended to:
- accept the Play Pathfinder grant from DCFS
 - approve the proposals for the delivery of 28 refurbished playgrounds and the development of 1 adventure playground
 - approve the commissioning of WLCT to deliver the programme

Diversity Impact Assessment form

Section: Children and Young People's Services

Policy/Service Area: Health and Well Being

Person Completing Form: Sue Astbury Head of Integrated Support

Date: 17th April, 2009

Do any of the below groups suffer specific disadvantage (please indicate)

	Yes	No		Yes	No
Race			Disability	X	
Ethnicity			Gender		
Age			Religion		
Class			Sexual Orientation		

Is there evidence of disadvantage or associated problems?

The Play Pathfinder project provides the opportunity to upgrade play facilities in the borough, responding to community need and targeted to address gaps in provision in many deprived communities in the borough. In particular the needs of young people with disabilities can be addressed.

How was the information collected and/or who have you consulted with?

Consultation has taken place with the Play Partnership, which has representation from CYPS, Environmental Services, WLCT, EMBRACE, CVS, Groundwork, Wigan Play Association.

Consultation has taken place with Townships to determine needs of the area in relation to play facilities.

Action Plan – *What specific actions are planned to tackle any disadvantage identified?*

The locations of the refurbished playgrounds is determined in response to needs identified via Township process. The location of the adventure playground/playpark are determined by needs in terms of play provision deficiency, SOA's with high levels of deprivation, and high levels of community involvement. Further work will be carried out to determine the criteria for final selection.

Is the policy in line with current equality legislation and relevant codes of practice?

Yes.

Timescale	Project dates April 2009 – March 2011.
Responsibility	CYPS
Comments	

Are the actions specified included in any other documents/plans?

Departmental Service Plan	Children and Young People's Plan Objective 7: Improve the range and accessibility of positive activities for all.
Section/Team Plan	
Other (Specify)	

Date for further review

Project Reference Number :-

Capital Project Report 2009/2010

Cabinet Date

30/04/2009

CPR1 Number :- 1

Project Details :- Play Pathfinders Project

Service Programme Year :-

Estimated Start Date :- May-09

Estimated Completion Date :- Mar-11

Contract Period :- 2 Years

Reasons for Submission to Committee :-

To secure inclusion in capital programme and Budget Release

Estimated Capital Costs					Estimated Phased Capital Payments																																																																																						
ITEM		Previously Approved or Estimated	Increase Required	Total	Remarks	Details	Total £000s	Previous Years £000s	2009/10 £000s	2010/11 £000s	2011/12 £000s	2012/13 £000s	Future Years £000s																																																																														
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	Fencing			0		Totals	2130.0	0.0	1118.0	1012.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0																																																																													
	Site Works			0		Provision in Programme	0.0																																																																																				
	Sub Total	0	0	0		Variance	+2130.0	+0.0	+1118.0	+1012.0	+0.0	+0.0	+0.0	+0.0																																																																													
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Departmental References FS-CORP-BH

Staff to be deployed at Adventure Playground.