

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
26TH JUNE 2008

PLAY BUILDER FUNDING

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Meeting the needs of children and young people
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Better Quality of Life
KEY PRIORITY:	Play areas
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr Marcus Hart
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Community and Partnership Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	Kay Higman ext 2902
APPENDICES	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To explain the Playbuilder Government Funding and to outline potential applications for year 1 funding from the Worcestershire Play Partnership for Wyre Forest.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE that:

- 2.1 **The receipt of the £1.1 million Playbuilder funding to the Worcestershire Play Partnership be welcomed.**
- 2.2 **That approval is given to submit applications to the Worcestershire Play Partnership commissioning group as detailed in this report.**

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Wyre Forest District Council is part of the Worcestershire Play Partnership which was developed to co-ordinate and promote play across Worcestershire. A Play Strategy for Worcestershire was developed and each local authority produced action plans ahead of the play Big Lottery Fund applications, for which Wyre Forest District Council received approval for £207,800.
- 3.2 Two projects were developed for this fund, the creation of a natural play area and environment at Barnfield Road, in the Walshes in Stourport, in partnership with Wyre Forest Community Housing Company, and a 3 year play ranger project to be delivered throughout the District.
- 3.3 Worcestershire Play Partnership in the Government's DCFS (Department for Children, Schools and Families) document "Fair Play" was provided as a case study and cited as a best practice partnership. The Partnership was also invited to apply for Pathfinder status having been recommended by Play England.

- 3.4 Unfortunately, the Partnership was not successful in receiving Pathfinder status but was awarded 'Playbuilder', which is £1.1 million capital across Worcestershire over 3 years. The Partnership is to apply again for Pathfinder status in September 2008.
- 3.5 The County Council is the accountable body for the grant which will be administered on a commissioning basis by the Partnership. Each local authority will put forward a cross section of projects which will be approved or otherwise based on criteria which is currently being developed but will definitely include creativity, innovation, need and partnership working.
- 3.6 £300,000 of the total partnership grant has to be spent in 2008/09 and this needs to be on projects which are 'ready to go'. There will be £400,000 in 2009/10 and 2010/11 where there will be a further opportunity for all agencies to put forward applications.

4. PROPOSED PROJECTS

- 4.1 It is proposed to put forward 3 projects which are 'ready to go' for 2008/09. These are:
 - Wolverley Memorial Hall play area. A play consultation event has been carried out and a project is being developed. This project is asking for £30,000 from the Play Builder Fund, which would be paid direct to the provider.
 - The Council already has Capital Programme allocations for Willowfield Drive and King George Vth play areas of £10,000 each and if Play Builder funding was added to these sums, more complete play areas could be developed. A Play Builder application of £15,000 is sought to create a BMX track within St Georges Park.
 - Meredith Green or Woodbury Road projects from the Wyre Forest Community Housing Group, each project would cost £50,000 and they are asking for £30,000 per project from Play Builder which would also be paid directly to the provider.
- 4.2 These projects are all innovative and are established, and able to be delivered by the end of March 2009.
- 4.3 A different approach to 2009/10 and 2010/11 could be considered and it is hoped to start the process of encouraging potential community projects in the next few months.
- 4.4 In addition, work will continue on the Pathfinder application for September, where if successful Worcestershire would receive a grant towards an adventure play area and revenue costs for 3 years. A potential location has not been discussed.

5. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There will be a legal agreement between Worcestershire County Council and Central Government but as yet the detail is not known.
- 5.2 This funding meets the Council's aims to improve quality of life and also is in accordance with the Worcestershire Play Strategy and the WFDC play action plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Any awards from Playbuilder to Wyre Forest will be received by Wyre Forest District Council to be spent as detailed in this report. These will be allocated to the Capital Programme and Revenue Budget as appropriate in accordance with delegated powers.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The project risks will be identified and assigned following acceptance of the submission to the Worcestershire Play Partnership.
- 7.2 The positive outcome of this collaborative joint working demonstrates a tangible outcome through partnerships. As such it represents a critical success factor in managing partnerships which was identified as a Corporate Risk.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Worcestershire Play Strategy
- Wyre Forest District Council Play action plan
- Big Lottery Fund application
- Pathfinder application
- Worcestershire Children and Young People Plan
- Cabinet Report 22/11/2007 – The Receipt, Award and Allocation of External Funding

8. CONSULTEES

- Head of Financial Services
- Head of Legal and Democratic Services
- Head of Property and Operational Services
- Councillor Marcus Hart, Cabinet Member for Leisure Services

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