

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
23RD APRIL 2009

Playbuilder Funding

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Meeting the needs of children and young people
CORPORATE PLAN AIM	Better Quality of Life
CABINET MEMBER	Cllr Marcus Hart
DIRECTOR	Director of Community and Partnership Services
CONTACT OFFICER	Kay Higman ext 2902 kay.higman@wyreforewtdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To outline potential applications for year 2 funding from the Worcestershire Play Partnership for Wyre Forest for Playbuilder funding.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE that:

- 2.1. **Approval be 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 awards £1.1 million capital grant across Worcestershire over 3 years. The Partnership applied again for Pathfinder status in

September 2008 but again this was not successful due to allocations seemingly being made to non-rural areas.

- 3.5 The County Council is the accountable body for the £1.1 million grant which will be administered on a commissioning basis by the Partnership. Each local authority puts forward a cross section of projects which will be approved or otherwise based on certain criteria including creativity, innovation, need and partnership working.
- 3.6 £300,000 of the total partnership grant was spent in 2008/09. The successful projects which received funding for Wyre Forest were St Georges Park bmx track £15,000 (completion March 2009), Wolverley Memorial Hall play area and Meredith Green (Wyre Forest Community Housing Group) £32,000 (completion March 2009).
- 3.7 There is £400,000 for 2009/10 to be allocated across the County.

4. PROPOSED PROJECTS

- 4.1 It is proposed to put forward 2 projects for 2009/10. These are:
 - QE2 Gardens woodland area in Bewdley, £25,000 to provide play sculptures and timber made draughts board.
 - Woodbury Road project in Kidderminster, £15,000 grant towards a project total of £92,000 to provide a natural play area. This project is also funded by Wyre Forest Community Housing Group and Pathfinder.
- 4.2 These projects are both innovative, well advanced in their development and meet the criteria for Playbuilder funding which includes being able to be delivered by the end of March 2010.

5. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is a legal agreement between Worcestershire County Council and the Grant Provider and subsequently there will need to be an agreement between the successful organisation delivering the project and the County Council to ensure compliance with grant conditions.
- 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 District Council to be spent as detailed in this report and 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
- Worcestershire Children and Young People Plan
- Cabinet Report 26/12/2008

9. CONSULTEES

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