



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (City Development)

Date: 1st September 2009

Subject: Playbuilder Initiative

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Board at its meeting in June 2009 agreed that it would like to include in its work programme consideration of the Playbuilder Initiative which was approved by the Executive Board on the 17th June 2009.
- 1.2 The Executive Board considered the attached report and appendices of the Director of Children's Services on the intended programme to build or significantly refurbish twenty two playgrounds or informal play spaces across the City and resolved –
- (a) That approval be given for the injection of £1,145,914 into the Capital Programme (capital scheme no: 15390) fully funded by DCSF grant.
 - (b) That authority to spend be given in respect of the sixteen play sites identified in appendix 2 to the report.
 - (c) That approval be given to the Play Partnership recommendation to seek working solutions for the development of the remaining six sites with partners in the Council.
 - (d) That a further report be brought to the Board recommending the location and provider of the remaining six sites.
- 1.3 The Executive Board on 26th August 2009 is to consider a capital programme update on this project.

2.0 Director of Children's Services Comments

- 2.1 Work is underway and progress is good on the 16 sites identified in the Executive Board report of June 2009 under the management of Parks and Countryside. Consultations for the year 1 sites are complete and designs are being drawn up. Consultations for year 2 sites are planned in the coming months to ensure

meaningful consultation with sufficient time to complete the sites for completion in March 2010.

- 2.2 A further six sites are identified in the Executive Board update report of August 2009. These six sites cover the remaining areas of the city that meet the criteria of grant and are deemed play poor. Three of these sites, Seacroft Gardens, Cross Flatts Park, Horseforth Integrated Play Area will be developed by Parks and Countryside. The remaining three sites are Tinshill Garth, Cookridge Holy Trinity Primary School and Butcher Hill Field; West Park will be developed by Groundwork Leeds with WNW Homes, Holy Trinity Primary School and WNW Area Management respectively.
- 2.3 The Play builder initiative contained no revenue money for the maintenance of the sites developed. We have chosen to develop new sites or significantly refurbish existing playgrounds on sites that are already maintained by Parks and Countryside wherever possible. This gives guarantee of their upkeep and safety.
- 2.4 Two sites, subject to the approval of Executive Board, are not on Parks and Countryside managed land. These are Holy Trinity Primary School and Tinshill Garth. One site, Butcher Hill Field, is on Parks and Countryside managed land and is being developed by WNW Area Management with local partners. The following has been put in place to ensure these playgrounds will be maintained and safe;
- Inspection and Maintenance schedule to be adopted as a condition of the grant. Detailing
 - Post inspection of site
 - Weekly de-littering and visual inspection.
 - Detailed condition inspection (6 monthly)
 - Carry out risk assessments of sites including equipment, surfacing and fencing.
 - Ensuring funds for long term maintenance and inspection is secured as a condition of the grant.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to
- (i) consider and note the report of the Director of Children's Services on the Playbuilder Initiative.
 - (ii) identify any areas of concern for further scrutiny by the Scrutiny Board.

Background Papers

None used