

## **SUNDERLAND EAST AREA COMMITTEE**

**25 OCTOBER 2010**

### **REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CITY SERVICES Influencing Practice, Policy, Strategy - Play and Urban Games**

#### **1. Why has it come to Committee?**

1.1 In September, Area Committee received a report on the Play and Urban Games Strategy (PUGS) 2007-2012 review. The report provided Committee with information on the performance management and achievements made since the introduction of the Strategy, for example, the percentage of children and young people with access to high quality play within 1km from their home increased from 21% to 76%. It also requested Committee to comment on the consultation framework and identify locations for future play development sites. Members requested further information prior to agreeing the priority actions to be included in the Play and Urban Games Strategy (PUGS) Addendum on the following recommendations from the report:

- (i) 'To identify the preferred location for play development in the Burdon Lane area'.
- (ii) 'Refurbish and add value to play facilities in Backhouse Park'.

#### **2.2 Burdon Lane Play developments**

2.2.1 The Unitary Development Plan (SA27) identified the need to develop amenity open space associated with the proposed housing development at Cherry Knowle and on the edge of the Rushford area. This was captured within the PUGS 2007-2012 and is proposed as a continuing action within the addendum. Developer contributions of £60,000 are available.

2.2.2 Early consideration of the Green Spaces audit maps has identified two areas of land (J35) at Burdon Lane near to the Ryhope Engine Museum and (J19) at Blyton Avenue/Wraith Terrace. No assessment of this land has been undertaken and further work would be required to assess feasibility and suitability of the land. In addition, through the Green Space workshops in October 2010 further sites may be identified.

2.2.3 Should Members wish to agree the recommendation, detailed work would be undertaken to identify a range of options. This work would cover, land availability, site surveys and consideration of our play standard of 1km access for children and young people to high quality play. Consultation would be undertaken using the Consultation Framework described in the PUGS review report.

#### **2.3 Backhouse Park**

2.3.1 The current play provision in Backhouse Park is over 10 years old. It comprises of a mix of equipment which generally serves the 6-12 age

range. The annual independent inspection in 2010 identified early stages of 'wear and tear' on surfacing and on some equipment. There is an opportunity to undertake early intervention and develop the play opportunities in the park in line with current design guidance regarding more adventurous, challenging and natural play. Currently £9,195 of developer contributions are available directly linked to the park. There is a further £21,120 of developer contributions which is allocated to be used at Backhouse Park, Mowbray Park or Hudson Road Play area.

- 2.3.2 Hudson Road Play area was a new provision developed in 2008 as part of the Big Lottery Children's Play Initiative the value of the developer was £183,000.
- 2.3.3 Mowbray Park play area was significantly refurbished and a new informal kick about area introduced as a year one Play Pathfinder project in 2009. The value of the work being £167,000.
- 2.3.4 Hudson Road and Mowbray Park provide high quality play opportunities which are in keeping with current design guidance.
- 2.3.5 The type of works which could be achieved dependant upon the project budget outlined below. Any additional play features and equipment would be subject to the outcomes from the consultation framework.

<b>Budget</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Example of typical scale of works</b>
£9,195	Section 106	Undertake minor works to remedy early stage wear and tear and install one new item of play equipment.
£31,315	Section 106 (£9,195+£21,120)	Undertake minor works as above and install 2/3 items of play equipment/features.
£80,000	Section 106 Seek additional funding	Undertake minor works as above. This budget provides the potential to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend play opportunities to other areas of the Park.</li> <li>• Create a natural play/activity trail.</li> <li>• Include a significant large high play value item of equipment.</li> </ul>

#### **Recommendations**

Area Committee are requested to;

- Note the content of the report and to agree to the priorities for future investment in the East area.

Contact Officer: Carol Lewis, City Services, Tel: 0191 561 4695  
Email: carol.lewis@sunderland.gov.uk