

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

PLAY, PLAYGROUNDS AND OPEN SPACES – ACTION PLAN

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of progress on an action plan as a result of a recommendation from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting on 8 July 2009, Council considered a report of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel in relation to a review of play, playgrounds and open spaces in North Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 The report was approved by Council and referred to Cabinet for consideration of the recommendations with a view to the preparation of an action plan.
- 2.3 Play Alert, North Lincolnshire's Play Strategy, is currently being reviewed. The review is due to be completed by 31 March 2010 and will be submitted to Cabinet for approval.
- 2.4 All the recommendations made by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel have been incorporated in the action plan as part of the revised Play Strategy. These are:
- (i) Increase levels of maintenance in parks and open spaces (subject to resources);
 - (ii) Investigate the use of Park Wardens to alleviate anti-social behaviour, graffiti, broken glass and damaged equipment (subject to resources); and
 - (iii) Specific budgetary provision to Neighbourhood Services for provision/maintenance.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Option 1 – To produce an action plan as a response to the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations prior to the publication of the updated Play Alert.

3.2 Option 2 – To acknowledge that the review of Play Alert will encompass all of the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 Option 1 - may result in unnecessary duplication and lead to confusion as two action plans will co-exist covering the same ground.

4.2 Option 2 – acknowledgement that the review of Play Alert and its accompanying action plan will encapsulate all of the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations will avoid duplication and confusion and result in the production of one all-embracing action plan.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 There are no implications at this stage.

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

6.1 The production of one action plan will ensure transparency and help to minimise anti-social behaviour in North Lincolnshire.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 Consultation has taken place with colleagues involved in the review of Play Alert, which itself has been the subject of extensive stakeholder consultation. All parties are agreed that Option 2 represents the best way forward.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That Cabinet supports Option 2 and agrees that the Play Alert action plan will supersede the requirement to produce a separate action plan as a consequence of the recommendations of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel in relation to play, playgrounds and open spaces in North Lincolnshire.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – Scrutiny report on Play, Playgrounds and Public Spaces.