

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES  
CABINET MEMBER**

**WAVE 2 PLAYBUILDER SITES**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member of the recommendations made by the Playbuilder Evaluation Panel for the sites to be redeveloped in 2009/11.
- 1.2 To seek the Cabinet Member's approval of the sites and to note the procurement process as recommended by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report in March giving details of the award of Wave 2 Playbuilder status by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The Cabinet member confirmed the governance arrangements for the project on 31 March 2009 (minute 61 refers).
- 2.2 An Evaluation Panel of officers met on 18 March 2009 to identify a list of sites for each of the two years using a robust set of evaluation criteria, based on those used in the recent Big Lottery play project.
- 2.3 The sites are identified in Appendix 1 with details of the consultation process as described in the final Project Plan, which was submitted to the DCSF on 30 March 2009 in accordance with its timetable. The Cabinet Member will note that it is recommended that four sites will be open to bids from Town and Parish Councils (the DCSF expects to see such an allocation). The Assistant Service Director attended a meeting of the Town and Parish Council Liaison Group on 16 April 2009 to inform attendees of the process and gave a verbal update at the Briefing.
- 2.4 Following the Cabinet Member Briefing and approval of the sites, the consultation process with the local communities will begin. The precise form of the consultation is yet to be determined but officers are able to draw from the experiences of Wave 1 Pathfinder authorities and, as outlined in Paragraph 2.3 of this report, potential methods of consultation are set out in Appendix 1.

- 2.5 The DCSF has provided advice on the appropriate procurement process to be used. This takes the form of a framework agreement, which greatly expedites the process. Details are set out in paragraph 5.2 of this report.
- 2.6 The Cabinet Member will receive progress reports during the course of the two-year project.

### 3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Option 1 - That the Cabinet Member approves the sites as identified in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Option 2 - That the Cabinet Member amends the sites as set out in Appendix 1.

### 4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The list of sites described in Appendix 1 of this report has been identified as a result of an objective non-political evaluation exercise carried out by a group of officers of the council. Provision is made for 4 sites to be allocated to Town and Parish Councils resulting from an objective bidding process. Option 1 is therefore recommended.
- 4.2 Should Option 2 be preferred, the process could be seen as subjective. Option 2 is therefore not recommended.

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

- 5.1 Details of the grant were set out in Paragraph 5.1 of the report to the Cabinet Member on 16 March 2009 as follows:

<b>Capital</b>		
Year 1	Year 2	Total
£526,950	£593,982	£1,120,932
 <b>Revenue</b>		
Year 1	Year 2	Total
£27,095	£18,063	£45,158

- 5.2 The DCSF has recommended the following procurement process, which the council will follow:

“From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 there will be a new procurement framework available for play equipment design and installation. It has the potential to help local authorities reduce the cost and time involved in their procurement process.

The Pro5\* group of local authority consortia, working with the DCSF, will make this national framework available for the entire public sector to access. The framework will cover all aspects of the refurbishment and building of outdoor playgrounds.

**This framework will:**

- be available at no cost to the purchaser
- facilitate mini-competition - addressing an authority's specific requirements regarding stakeholder engagement (children, parents, local communities, planning requirements etc) - full details will be provided in the *methodology to adopt* document
- provide discounts from a range of companies
- be fully EU compliant. The framework will not only provide purchasers with savings compared with the "going it alone" approach, but will save considerable time and cost in relation to compliance with the EU Procurement Directives. Local authorities should not rely on the EU Works threshold to avoid EU compliance
- seek to achieve best value by aggregating the purchasing power of the DCSF play funding
- cover bespoke design, manufacture and installation
- offer a supply-only schedule if requirements are confined to supply only

**The DCSF urges all local authorities to take note of this new procurement framework when deciding on your procurement approach. This could enable you to get the best value from your capital investment in play, and has the potential to make the procurement process more straightforward."**

5.3 In the original funding bid the council made reference to the appointment of a full-time Project Manager. In view of the very tight timetable, it is recommended that such a position be filled by way of an internal secondment funded from the capital grant. A job description is being prepared for fast-track evaluation and it is envisaged that an appointment could be made in early May.

5.4 The project will also require the services of the council's Landscape Architect, who will liaise with the design teams of the successful contractors and undertake a Clerk of Works role. His services are fee-based, but his involvement will be kept to a minimum.

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

6.1 The project will make a positive contribution to the anti-social behaviour agenda.

- 6.2 The requirements of disabled children will be taken account of in the consultation and design process.

## **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Consultation with local communities forms a key part of the Playbuilder project. Consultation will begin in the weeks immediately following the Briefing in order that construction can take place later in the calendar year. The Cabinet Member should note that the DCSF requires the council to have developed 11 of the 22 sites by 31 March 2010. The 4 sites allocated to Town and Parish Councils will form part of the Year 2 construction work.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That the sites as described in Appendix 1 of this report be approved.
- 8.2 That the procurement process as recommended by the DCSF be followed.

SERVICE DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report Nil**

## North Lincolnshire Council Year 1 & 2 Plan for Play Builder

This is North Lincolnshire's proposed PlayBuilder two year plan. These sites have been initially chosen following a robust process of site assessment by an independent panel. The criteria used included, quality of provision, economic and social deprivation levels, play deprivation levels and other local factors such as existing consultation information. The sites shown below are those that community groups, C & YP, local residents, stakeholders and elected representatives will be consulted on. If local consultation demonstrates no need for further play provision in a specific area reserved sites have been identified to replace this initial selection.

Site	Year of Delivery	
	Year 1	Year 2
Westcliff Precinct		Yes
Enderby Road	Yes	
Parkwood	Yes	
Lilac Avenue	Yes	
Everest Road	Yes	
Brat Hill	Yes	
Teale Street		Yes
Asterby Road	Yes	
Riddings Park	Yes	
Woodbine Park, Brigg		Yes
Manley Street	Yes	
Grosvenor Street	Yes	
Lodge Moors	Yes	
Copse Road	Yes	
Baysgarth Park, Barton		Yes
Berkeley Park		Yes
Manor Park		Yes
Town & Parish Council		Yes
Town & Parish Council		Yes
Town & Parish Council		Yes
Town & Parish Council		Yes
Hempdykes		Yes

Key	
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 2 but Year 1 reserved sites.	

### Methods of consultation

Community based open days / events  
 Utilising existing groups and meetings e.g. local resident associations, neighbourhood watch groups, youth  
 School visits / project  
 Local partnership meetings e.g Police  
 Elected Member briefings  
 Regular local media updates  
 Questionnaires / surveys  
 Collation of existing anecdotal evidence / consultation

### Desired outcomes from the

Assessment of need for play improvement in local area  
 Assessment of Suitability of location / site  
 Design requirements  
 Local issues to be overcome  
 Opportunities for local input  
 Community ownership  
 Match funding opportunities