

PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	BCP Green Spaces Play and Wheeled Play Strategy development
Meeting date	11 October 2023
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>To provide Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a presentation on the progress to develop a BCP Greenspaces Play & Wheeled Play Strategy</p> <p>BCP Council does not currently have a strategy in place for play and as such does not have any tangible foundation from which to support the development and provision of play opportunities. The Council's fixed play assets are ageing and in decline. Given the financial context the Council is facing it is vital that data and evidence captured as part of the strategy development is used to support future decisions in terms of play location, investment and maintenance.</p> <p>The Council is committed to the development of the strategy recognising the importance of play to the physical, social and psychological wellbeing of children and young people living and visiting the conurbation. The strategy will set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vision for play • A design standard • An evidence base of current provision
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Place Overview and Scrutiny committee support the development of a BCP Green Spaces Play and Wheeled Play Strategy.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>No current strategy or policy exists, with existing assets in a growing condition of decline due to age. The strategy will enable the development of a conurbation wide needs assessment and evidence base to identify key areas to prioritise improvement, type of facilities required to support demographic need and shape longer term investment ambitions.</p>

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Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. BCP Council does not currently have a strategy in place for play and as such does not have any tangible foundation from which to support the development and provision of play opportunities.
2. BCP Council manage approximately 180 play and wheeled facilities on green spaces on Council land.
3. Play areas are expensive to maintain and replace, with a typical lifespan of around 10-20 years, depending on style and materials.
4. In recent safety inspections, over 50% of our current facilities have medium to high-risk faults on equipment. Typical revenue funding is c £2,000 per site and is inadequate to cover the scale of costs required to remedy these faults.
5. The presentation to Place Overview and Scrutiny committee outlines the strategy development including legacy funding, maintenance arrangements and requirements, costs of the service and an overview of capital funding required. It then details how the strategy will be developed over the next 9-12 months, with the following draft structure to be discussed:
 - a. Strategy – vision, national and local context, current provision and aims
 - b. Design Guide – standards and requirements for the quality of play and wheeled facilities, future maintenance and robustness of provision.
 - c. Summary of Evidence base
 - i. Matrix for priority investment
 - ii. Annual inspection reports
 - iii. 2023 site Audits
 - d. Action plan – using the evidence base to inform actions
 - e. Appendices
 - i. 2022/23 consultation report
 - ii. EIA
 - iii. Spatial mapping
 - iv. Financial summary of revenue costs

- v. Funding opportunities
 - vi. Strategic and neighbourhood CIL
 - vii. External funding
- 6. This strategy will also include wheeled play, such as bmx, skate and related facilities.

Options Appraisal

- 7. Officers to work alongside a O&S members to develop the strategy and related documents.

Summary of financial implications

- 8. The Strategy will provide a review of financial implications, both of existing and likely future revenue costs, and opportunities for capital funding.

Summary of legal implications

- 9. None identified at this time.

Summary of human resources implications

- 10. None identified at this time.

Summary of sustainability impact

- 11. The strategy will include the approach to sustainability within play design, standards, supply, surfacing and installation.

Summary of public health implications

- 12. Play is a right stated within the UN convention of human rights and is a key way to keep young people healthy and active. Our play and wheeled facilities should promote and stimulate people of all ages to be healthy and active.
- 13. The strategy will seek to establish multiple ways for people of all ages to engage with play for the

Summary of equality implications

- 14. An EIA is yet to be written and will be part of the strategy. This will consider and include play for all ages and how to make space for girls in play and wheeled spaces.

Summary of risk assessment

- 15. To be developed and written as the strategy is formed.

Background papers

N/a

Appendices

N/a