

# COMF Business Case Template

*Please delete the supporting guidance as you go*

## Project/ Proposal Title: Capital Funding for the Redevelopment and Upgrade of Play Areas in the Stroud District

Project Manager:

Version no: 1 - 26/10/2021

### **Purpose**

Investment in play areas will to help reduce health inequalities by providing accessible play spaces for all. It will improve physical and mental health and wellbeing for children and their adult carers. It will aid community resilience and contain added value by linking other work around Children’s Play/Children & Young People (e.g. through the GCC commissioning programme).

Capital investment would provide a HWB legacy for the benefit of children who have lived through the pandemic, as well as future generations.

### **Strategic Context & objectives**

Give an overview of the context within which the project sits – how does this proposal sit with delivering the LOMP? The project:

- Responds to the impact of covid -19 on our community, by encouraging play, the exploration of open space and recovery within our communities
- Fosters community participation by working with communities to deliver improvement projects, increasing trust and encouraging interaction
- Ensures vulnerable individuals have access to quality provision via associated physical interventions
- Supports the 20-year Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy that is an SDC commitment, ensuring the legacy funding will be supported via continual open space improvement
- Reflects the outcomes of the Stroud District Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study 2019
- Improves mental health and wellbeing
- Lessens the impact of health inequalities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aims to work with Community Hub Development Leads to support the network across the district</li> </ul>
<p><b>Critical success factors</b></p> <p>What must be in place for the work to be successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SDC Health and Wellbeing Team, working with partners to create outreach in association with communities</li> <li>• A project team, supplemented with an external project lead to ensure timely project progress</li> <li>• Consultation with communities to determine key drivers</li> <li>• Analysis of health inequality indices to focus investment in areas with the highest need</li> <li>• Links with Town and Parish Councils to ensure sites are spread across the whole district</li> </ul>
<p><b>Benefits</b></p> <p>Provide a summary of the <b>main</b> benefits associated with the investment. The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Generate healthier lifestyles by enhancing opportunities to engage in physical play.</b> The Active Lives Survey (April 2021) has shown that 24.4% of children aged 5-16 are inactive in Stroud, with obesity rates at 14.9% for children in Year 6 (Public Health Research). Good quality, accessible play equipment would help reduce these figures, especially if children had access from early years. SDC is committing £30k funding via MHCLG to create an outreach network, to encourage the use of formal play space. The physical improvements will provide further incentivisation.</li> <li>• <b>Recognise that the 10% of children in the Stroud District that come from low income families (Public Health), need access to good quality, free outside play.</b></li> <li>• <b>Distribute funding in such a way to lessen health inequalities.</b> The report by Public Health England, entitled Improving Access to Greenspace; A New Review for 2020, explains that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ the most economically deprived areas have less available good quality public greenspace; and</li> <li>➢ unequal provision of good quality greenspace means those who are at greatest risk of poor physical and mental health may have the least opportunity to reap the health benefits (of greenspace)</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, Covid 19 has exacerbated inequalities associated with physical inactivity, with those from lower socio-economic groups less likely to be active (Sport England). This project aims to further balance play provision in socio-economically deprived areas, acknowledging that “providing greener environments for deprived groups could help to reduce health inequalities” (Public Health England 2020).</p> </li> <li>• <b>Empower communities to engage in the transformation; improving trust between communities and SDC/GCC.</b></li> <li>• <b>Improve mental wellbeing.</b> Studies show that inactive children are less likely to be happy, which has a detrimental effect of their mental wellbeing (Active Lives Survey April 2021). The project will tie in with the SDC healthy lifestyles scheme, offering low cost Green Recreation and Outdoor Wellbeing (GROW) to young people and families.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Proposal detail</b></p> <p>The project will:</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund the redevelopment of a minimum of 4 play areas, ensuring district wide impact</li> <li>• Be informed by existing Play Area Inspection Reports and the Play and Pitch Strategy to ensure a strategically sound profile</li> <li>• Redevelop at appropriate scale particular to the site, with detail ranging from equipment upgrade, to site expansion</li> <li>• Ensure final plans are be subject to consultation by community hubs, where redevelopment will further support the structures already in place</li> <li>• Consider the following primary locations:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highfields Play Area, Stroud – possible redevelopment</li> <li>• The Brambles Play Area, Berkeley – possible redevelopment</li> <li>• Lawnside Play Area, Nailsworth – possible redevelopment</li> <li>• Cambridge Ave Play Area, Dursley – possible redevelopment</li> <li>• Stratford Park Destination Play Area – possible improvement</li> <li>• Orchard Road Play Area, Ebley and Mason Road Play Area, Stroud – equipment upgrade</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Procurement Route</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement of equipment will be undertaken via our procurement portal with SDC staff complemented with a project manager.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Funding and Affordability</b></p> <p>Please indicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total requested £300k</li> </ul> <p>This will ensure that a broad spectrum of locations can be touched throughout the entire district. Further consideration will be given to how the expenditure can have a positive impact on the most number of people, but provisionally the distribution will be as described above.</p>
<p><b>Management Arrangements</b></p> <p>Stakeholders across Community Services, Property Services and Housing Services will come together to deliver the project, utilising existing management structures. SDC will report updates to GCC at regular intervals to be defined.</p>