

# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## HOUSING COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2022

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>PLAY AREA CONSULTATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS</b>			
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To brief members of Housing Committee on the Play Area and Development Action Plans Progress.			
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>The Committee RESOLVES to recommend to Community Services and Licensing Committee that it approve the recommendations for investment as identified.</b>			
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	Project Manager for Leisure, Health & Wellbeing, Housing Manager, Senior Community Services Officer, Cllr Rebecca Aldam, Cllr Julie Job, Cllr Jenny Miles, Cllr Chris Brine, Cllr Mattie Ross.			
<b>Report Author</b>	Hannah Drew, Physical Activity & Health Development Manager Email: hannah.drew@stroud.gov.uk			
<b>Options</b>	None			
<b>Background Papers</b>	<a href="#">Play Area Consultation and Development Action Plan</a>			
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A – Stroud District Council Play Framework – August 2022 Appendix B – Stroud District Council Play Area Consultation Report - July 2022 Appendix C – Play Area Community Consultation Visits Appendix D – Images of recommended investment play areas Appendix E – Equality Impact Assessment			
<b>Implications (further details at the end of the report)</b>	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

### 1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In October 2021, Stroud District Council applied to Gloucestershire County Councils Covid Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) for capital investment for SDC owned play areas to help reduce health inequalities by providing accessible play spaces for all.
- 1.2 In November 2021, Stroud District Council had confirmation that their bid for £300,000 had been successful.
- 1.3 A further £25,000 became available from COMF to resource the project.
- 1.4 In February 2022, Community Services & Licencing Committee approved the Play Area Consultation and Development Action Plan to start the work on the action plan.

## **2. Play Area Consultation and Development Action Plan – Progress**

### **2.1 Stage 1 – Physical Condition Survey** – A review of all SDC owned play areas conducted by ROSPA

2.1.1 All play areas had a Safety Inspection completed in March 2022. These reports highlighted any risks and rated them low, medium, or high.

### **2.2 Stage 2 - Insight** – Understanding the community around the play areas including current user profile, demographics now and future, activity level, current budget provision.

2.2.1 In May 2022, Ethos, instructed by SDC to update the data from the Open Spaces and Green Infrastructure Study from the original data in 2019 to 2022.

2.2.2 Ethos created a prioritisation framework (page 2, Stroud District Council, Play Framework, August 2022) in consultation with the Physical Activity & Health Development Manager to determine where improvements are most needed (Appendix A). The framework considered the following: -

- Quality of site
- Proximity/access to other play areas
- Demographics e.g., number of children in the area
- Child health and wellbeing
- Levels of child deprivation
- Geographical barriers to play – rurality
- Proximity to a community hub

2.2.3 The Play Framework outlines the sites that are high, medium, and low priority. This data helped to inform the recommendations for investment. (Section 6, pages 21- 30, Stroud District Council, Play Framework, August 2022)

2.2.4 In May 2022, Leisure Net, instructed by SDC to undertake community consultation with residents, key stakeholders, town and parish councils and members. (Appendix B) The report highlighted the need to improve our play provision across the district. Residents well regarded town and parish council owned play areas.

### **2.3 Stage 3 - Identify** - How the insight could be delivered including a management options appraisal, facility investment and links to community delivery and community hubs.

2.3.1 In July 2022, we set up Task and Finish group including, members from Housing and Community Services & Licencing committees. The group analysed the data and insight from both external reports (appendix A & B), conducted play area site visits and created a set of recommendations for investment.

### **3. Recommendations for Investment**

3.1 The recommendations for investment of the £300,000 COMF funding based on the data and insight gained via consultation are as follows:-

1. Cambridge Avenue, Dursley
2. Acacia Drive, Dursley
3. Mason Road, Stroud
4. Archway Gardens, Cainscross
5. Wharfdale Way, Stonehouse

#### **3.1.1 Recommendations for Signage**

3.1.2 New signage for all 32 Stroud District Council owned play areas.

### **3.2 Recommendations for Repair**

3.2.1 Repairs to play areas highlighted by the ROSPA inspections and Ethos Report include:

- Deveraux Crescents
- Daffodils Play Area, Kings Stanley
- Innocks Estates Play Area
- Norton Wood, Nailsworth
- Orchard Road, Cainscross
- Bunting Hill Play Area, Nailsworth

These repairs to be funded by existing budget from the Housing Revenue Account or General Fund.

### **3.3 Recommendations for Repurpose**

3.3.1 Repurposing existing play areas into an alternative green space provision include:

1. The Brambles
2. Manor View
3. Little Mill Court

3.3.2 Community consultation is required prior to any repurposing of the play areas.

## **4. IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Financial Implications**

There are financial implications associated with this report for both the General Fund and HRA. Any spend based on the recommendations for investment (3.1) must be managed within the existing funding resources from COMF. Repairs outlined in 3.2.1 will need to be funded from existing SDC budget.

Adele Rudkin, Accountant

Tel: 01453 754109 Email: [adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk)

## **4.2 Legal Implications**

As the County Council are providing a grant, SDC must comply with any terms imposed as a condition of the funding and legal advice should be sought on those terms.

The Council's Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules will need to be complied with when appointing third parties to carry out the improvements.

One Legal: [legalservices@onelegal.org.uk](mailto:legalservices@onelegal.org.uk)

## **4.3 Equality Implications**

An EIA has been carried out by Officers in relation to the decision made in this report and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

## **4.4 Environmental Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category.