

Executive

18 January 2011

Report of the Assistant Director of Legal, Governance & ITT

Review of Casual Play Opportunities – Final Report

Summary

1. This report presents the final report arising from the review of Casual Play Opportunities undertaken by the Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee in 2010 (as shown at Appendix 1). As Chair of the Committee, Councillor Looker will attend this meeting to present the report.

Background

2. In coming to a decision to review this topic, the Committee agreed the following aim and key objectives for the review:

Aim

To participate in the consultation on the revisions to CYC's Play Policy, and carry out a comparison of the play opportunities for 5-13yr olds, within a number of residential areas/wards (one city centre, one suburban and one village)

Objectives:

- i. to understand the different types of provision suitable for each type of area
- ii. to assess the potential space within the identified areas/wards that could be utilised for play
- iii. to recommend a strategy for the provision of suitable play opportunities within the identified areas
- iv. To be consulted on the revisions to the Council's play policy and if appropriate, the Local Development Framework (LDF)

Consultation

3. The Head of Play & Young People's Cultural Entitlement provided support to the committee throughout the review. The Head of Parks & Open Spaces also participated in the review and in April 2010, the Committee held an informal meeting to consult with representatives from Playspace.
4. In addition, members of the committee carried out a number of informal visits to schools to gather the views of parents on the opportunities for casual play in their area.

Recommendations Arising from the Review

5. The Committee recommend that the Executive authorise officers to:
 - a) support the introduction of a pilot scheme by working with the new 'Taking Play Forward' Strategic Board to:
 - identify 3 diverse areas within the 'area based service delivery' pilot area which would benefit from such a scheme
 - identify all the relevant parties from within the council, external organisations, and from within the identified area of the city to participate in the scheme
 - draft a framework for the scheme for the Executive's consideration
 - b) encourage ward committees, parish councils and residents associations to promote the value of outdoor play and take up any opportunities for encouraging community buy-in to play opportunities in their locality

Reason: To increase access to casual play opportunities and conclude this review in line with scrutiny procedures

Options

6. Having considered the final report and its annexes attached at Appendix 1, the Executive may chose to amend and/or approve, or reject the recommendations arising from this review.

Corporate Strategy

7. The review of this topic supports the Council's corporate aim to inspire residents and visitors to free their creative talents and make York the most active city in the country, by providing high quality cultural and sporting activities for all.
8. It also supports the Council's aim to make York a 'Healthy City' by improving the provision of facilities for children and teenagers to participate in active play.

Implications Associated with the Recommendations Arising from the Review

9. There are no known significant Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal Crime & Disorder, Property or Other implications associated with the recommendations from this review. However, there may be some minimal administrative costs associated with introducing a pilot scheme as recommended below.

Risk Management

10. There is no known risks associated with the recommendations arising from this review.

Recommendations

11. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee ask the Executive to:
- i. note the contents of the final report attached and its annexes
 - ii. approve the recommendations as shown at paragraph 5 of this cover report.

Reason: To fully inform the Executive of the outcome of the review of Casual Play Opportunities

Contact Details

Author:

Melanie Carr
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
Tel: 01904 552063

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
Assistant Director Legal, Governance & ITT
Tel: 01904 551004

Report Approved



Date

01 December 2010

Specialist Implications Officer(s): N/A

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Final Report and associated Annexes

Committee Members

Councillor J Looker (Chair)
Councillor J Brooks (Vice-Chair)
Councillor K Aspden
Councillor S Crisp
Councillor H Douglas
Councillor K Hogg
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor I Waudby