
DRAFT PLAY STRATEGY – CABINET BRIEFING PAPER

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an opportunity to undertake the scrutiny of the Cabinet briefing paper on the Council's New Delivery Model for Children's Play, which is due to be considered by Cabinet in the near future (copy attached at **Appendix A**).

Background

2. The Budget approved by Council on 26 February 2015 agreed that an alternative operational model be put in place for Play Services that include funding to enable the engagement of three Community Development Officers, to help develop and support the transition to alternative operational arrangements relating to the completion of the transfer of buildings into community use, by 31 March 2016.

Key Issues

3. The Briefing Report (copy attached at **Appendix A**) sets out a proposed new delivery model, which would enable a greater emphasis on partnership, community ownership of the Play agenda and a clear pathway allowing a targeted response to those in need, based on clear evidence providing integration with existing Council provision for young people.
4. The new delivery model is based on the premise of the Council working with partners and the community to develop a dynamic service approach which is both accessible and responsive to the needs of children and

young people. The model will be developed on the following three principles:

- Community Play provision will be targeted at 5 – 14 years olds to enable a transition between flying start service (0 – 4) and Youth Services Provision (15 – 25);
 - There will be a move away from delivery in traditional play centres to a flexible model of community outreach in accessible venues across each of the city's six neighbourhoods;
 - there will be a targeted approach to provision based on needs of communities, derivation and the evidence prepared as part of the play Sufficiency Assessment to be completed by 31st March 2016;
5. The Briefing Paper also contains details of the current provision of Children's Play, and the Play Centres being considered for potential asset transfer, for operations under licence by 31 March 2016. The briefing also contains (in paragraphs 25 to 27) details of the transitional Play provision models and (at paragraphs 28 to 34) the Play Grant Commissioning Model for operation from April 2017.

Scope of Scrutiny

5. At this meeting Members may wish to consider the New Delivery Model for Children's Play Briefing Paper and to pass on any observations, comments or recommendations to Cabinet (copy attached at **Appendix A**).
6. Councillor Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise) has been invited and may make a statement. Andrew Gregory (Director of City Operations) and Malcolm Stammers (Operational Manager, Leisure and Play) will make a presentation and will be available to answer any questions Members may have.

Way Forward

7. Members may wish to comment on the draft Cabinet briefing report attached at **Appendix A**, submit any comments or recommendations to the Cabinet Member and Director of City Operations, and consider any issues for further investigation.

Legal Implications

8. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

9. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. These financial implications will need to be considered before any changes are implemented. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to

Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to review the information contained in **Appendix A**, and submit any comments or recommendations to the Cabinet Member and Director of City Operations.

Marie Rosenthal
Director of Governance and Legal Services

6 January 2016