

TORBAY COUNCIL

Report No: **174/2005**

Title: 'Our Time, Our Space, Our Choice' – Torbay's Play Strategy

To: Executive on 12th July 2005

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval for the adoption of Torbay's Play Strategy for 2005-2010 "Our Time, Our Space, Our Choice".

2. Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The development of the Play Strategy is a targeted priority in the Corporate Plan 2005/2006. This can be found in - Developing Torbay's Culture, key action (h).

3. Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 That Torbay's Play Strategy 'Our Time, Our Space, Our Choice', as set out in Appendix 1 to this Report, be approved.

4. Reason for Recommendation(s)

- 4.1 In response to the government's recently published Play Review, Torbay Council and other key children's and youth agencies joined together to develop the first Play Strategy for Torbay. The document as well as taking a strategic approach to play development also includes an associated statement of principals and values which is also required under BVPI 115.
- 4.2 The government in response to their Play Review has recently allocated £155m grant funding address areas of need in relation to play provision. This grant will be allocated to local authorities and other providers on the basis of most need. The adoption of this strategy will ensure that Torbay can evidence need and be allocated, fair associated funding through this scheme. This offers a significant opportunity for Torbay to be allocated additional funding for development of Play.

5. Key Risks associated with the Recommendation(s)

- 5.1 No significant risks have been identified in relation to the adoption of this strategy.

Likelihood	6	6	12	18	24
	5	5	10	15	20
	4	4	8	12	16
	3	3	6	9	12
	2	2X	4	6	8
	1	1	2	3	4
		1	2	3	4
		Impact			

Low risk
 Intermediate risk
 High risk

The "x" in the above matrix denotes where the author has assessed the level of final risk to fall

6. Alternative Options (if any)

- 6.1 Not to adopt Torbay's Play Strategy.

7. Background

- 7.1 The need for a Play Strategy was identified as part of the Torbay Community Action Plan and the Cultural Strategy. These plans identified the need for play provision of both good quality and accessible to all.

- 7.2 There are 29,101 children and young people aged 0-19 living in Torbay. This figure can more than double during the six weeks of the school summer holidays with many families visiting Torbay on holiday. The needs for both these groups has been addressed in Torbay's Play Strategy.

- 7.3 The definition of play, used to develop this strategy and which is widely shared by national play agencies and organisations, is as follows:

Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child or young person

The method of developing the themes follows this ethos, and therefore formal education activities have not been included within this document.

- 7.4 A review of council play areas was conducted as part of the strategy development. The results of this review showed that the limited equipment provided was old and of low value, failing to be challenging and interesting to those who used it. The review also showed that only 2 of the council's 55 play areas were fully accessible to disabled children. The strategy sets out how the Council will address these needs in the future.
- 7.5 There are already 8 new play areas planned or under construction at the time of writing the Torbay Play Strategy.
- 7.6 Extensive consultation has taken place with children, young people, parents and play professionals, and the general public through the Viewpoint Panel. Their feedback is an integral part of how the Torbay's' Play Strategy has developed.
- 7.7 The priorities that have emerged from the development of the strategy are as follows:
- More facilities for teenagers;
 - Children and young people are consulted about future play provision;
 - Raising the profile of Play locally;
 - Provide more challenging play facilities which makes more of the natural environment;
 - Involve adults in a passive role within the play environment to increase safety and facilitate challenging activity;
 - Rationalising existing facilities to raise the quality of play spaces and ensure they meet the needs of the communities they serve
 - Planning and developing for better play provision;
 - Provision for informal play and formal play spaces need to be close to the neighbourhoods they serve; and
 - Change attitudes of adults towards children's play activities and their right to play spaces.
- 7.8 As part of the Play Strategy Development a mapping exercise was undertaken to show the existing playgrounds/informal play areas against numbers of children and young people between 0-19 years. The areas in the high % deprivation are closely linked to

areas of high child populations. The four key areas that emerge from this study are: Shiphay with the Willows, Ellacombe, Tormohun, Watcombe, St Marychurch and Blatchcombe. In terms of play provisions, these areas need to be specifically targeted to ensure provision is adequate to address the need.

- 7.9 The mapping exercise also confirmed that some of the existing council play provision was located in areas with low child populations. It is proposed that some play areas are closed, and the equipment relocated in areas where there are high numbers of children and a lack of facilities. This will increase the ongoing investment in a smaller of high quality play facilities.
- 7.10 The Audit Commission produced a Best Value model to assess the quality of and access to good play provision. It is recommended this be adopted by the council and other providers, to ensure a consistent approach is adopted and that our children and young people have a quality experience when they go out to play.
- 7.11 The Play Strategy – ‘ Our Time, Our Space, Our Choice’ is attached at Appendix 1 and includes full details of the consultation and priorities.

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IMPLICATIONS, CONSULTATION AND OTHER INFORMATION

Part 1

These sections may have been completed by the Report author but must have been agreed by the named officers in the Legal, Finance, Human Resources, Estates and Property and Procurement.

Does the proposal have implications for the following issues? If "Yes" - give details. <i>delete as appropriate</i>		Name of responsible officer
Legal	No	Bill Norman
Financial – Revenue	No	Sue Kane
Financial – Capital Plan	Yes – This strategy will aid in the prioritisation of capital funding available through grant, or capital resources in relation to the council's play provision. The council has already identified on its capital reserve list the need to invest in play provision although no funding has been allocated to date..	Lynette Royce
Human resources	No	Jeff Williams
Property	No	Steve Parrock
Procurement and Efficiency	No	Steve Parrock

Part 2

The author of the report must complete these sections.

Could this proposal realistically be achieved in a manner that would more effectively: <i>delete as appropriate</i>		
(i)	promote environmental sustainability?	No
(ii)	reduce crime and disorder?	No
(iii)	promote good community relations?	No
(iv)	promote equality of opportunity on grounds of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief?	No
(v)	reduce (or eliminate) unlawful discrimination (including indirect discrimination)?	No

If the answer to any of the above questions is "Yes" the author must have addressed the relevant issue/s in the main report and have included a full justification and, where appropriate, an impact assessment.

Part 3

The author of the report must complete this section.

	<i>delete as appropriate</i>	If "Yes", give details
Does the proposal have implications for any other Business Units?	Yes	This proposal may have links to work being undertaken in Children Services – Particularly Early Years and the Youth Service

Part 4

Is this proposal in accordance with (i.e. not contrary to) the Council's budget or its Policy Framework?		<i>delete as appropriate</i>
		Yes
1.	If "No" - give details of the nature and extent of consultation with stakeholders and the relevant overview and scrutiny body.	
2.	If "Yes" - details and outcome of consultation, if appropriate. Consultation details are contained in the main body of the report. Further consultation is being undertaken in Viewpoint 11 due to be completed in June 2005.	

Part 5

Is the proposal a Key Decision?	<i>delete as appropriate</i>	If "Yes" - give Reference Number
	Yes	X14/2005

Part 6

Wards

All wards are affected as the Torbay Play Strategy is bay wide.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - 'Our Time, Our Space, Our Choice' – Torbay's Play Policy and Strategy

Documents available in Members' Room

None

Background Papers:

The following documents/files were used to compile this report: