

## ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January, 2017
<b>Report Subject</b>	Play Areas, Play Schemes and Strategic Play Forum Update
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Organisational Change)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council has made a commitment to the sustaining of play activity in the County through:

- Continuation of the revenue match funding for play areas (£0.105m per annum);
- Provisional allocation of capital funding through the capital programme to refurbish play areas and synthetic pitches (£0.887m over three years subject to Council decision in February);
- To continue to maintain all play areas during 2017/18;
- One year of transition funding to enable play schemes to continue during 2016/17 after the cessation of Welsh Government Grant from Families First;
- The agreement to re-invigorate the Flintshire Strategic Play Forum to co-ordinate play activity across Flintshire.

This report provides a progress update against these issues.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To support the approach outlined to sustaining play activity in the County.
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## **REPORT DETAILS**

1.00	BACKGROUND INFORMATION
1.01	<p>The Council operates a revenue match funding scheme aimed at maintaining play areas that requires a match fund from Town and Community Councils. Detailed at Appendix A are the list of schemes put forward by Town and Community Councils that will go forward to Cabinet for approval in January.</p>
1.02	<p>The Council has provisionally allocated £0.887m of capital funding to refurbish play areas over the next three financial years (subject to agreement of the capital programme in February). It is proposed based on need and sustainability to develop a programme of schemes early in 2017.</p>
1.03	<p>This year the Council provided one off funding to continue the level of play scheme provision provided in previous years (see Appendix B). These schemes have been funded partly by the County Council and partly by Town and Community Councils. The Council has made it clear to communities that this funding would not continue in 2017/18 and has been working to enable sustainability of provision without funding by offering a scheme co-ordinated by the Council but paid for by Town and Community Councils. The result is that the Council is presently discussing a three week offer to the majority of communities and a tailored offer to those that have indicated they would like a specific provision. Town and Community Councils have been verbally notified of this approach. Some have indicated that they have put funding aside for next year, others have said that they have put part of this funding away and that they would need to reduce provision in line with funding. As a result of these discussions the Council Cabinet in January will consider a proposal for one off support of £40,000 to play schemes in 2017/18 with the aim that this enables as many play schemes to be sustained as possible. The final programme will be finalised together during January and February in discussion with Town and Community Councils to take into account their final funding decisions.</p>
1.04	<p>Given the requirement of the national Play Sufficiency Assessment and the challenges of providing these type of services in the current climate it was agreed to re-establish the Flintshire Strategic Play Forum to co-ordinate work across the County. An initial seminar was held in November 2016. An event to 'kick-start' this process was held on November 2nd at Deeside Leisure Centre, facilitated by Play Wales and Doctor Stuart Lester with an invitation extended to all community members and officers. The next steps will be to identify in late January/Early February, a new Chair/Vice chair for the Flintshire Strategic Play Forum, and the arrangement of training for members after May 2017. The Play Development Officer will be present at the meeting to talk through this approach.</p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	All resource implications are contained within current budgets. The additional Play Scheme allocation of £0.040m will be consider at January Cabinet.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	Ongoing updates to the County Forum and individual discussions with Town and Community Councils.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	The lack of sustainability of play schemes – An offer has been developed based on discussions with town and community councils and following their formal responses this programme will be adapted to best meet needs and funding available.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Play Area Match Funding Proposals 2016/17 Appendix 2 – Play Schemes 2016 Appendix 3 – Play Sufficiency Seminar Report November 2016

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None  <b>Contact Officer:</b> Ian Bancroft, Chief Officer (Organisational Change) <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704523 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:ian.bancroft@flintshire.gov.uk">ian.bancroft@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) - A duty under the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010