

Report To:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Date:	7th November 2018
Heading:	PLAY STRATEGY FOR THE RURAL AREAS / GREEN SPACE PROJECTS		
Portfolio Holder:	COUNCILLOR HELEN-ANN SMITH, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (OUTWARD FOCUS)		
Ward/s:	SELSTON, UNDERWOOD, JACKSDALE		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose of Report

This report provides the further information requested on the Play Strategy for the rural areas / green space projects following the call-in meeting of the Cabinet decision, held on the 17 October 2018 by the Overview and Scrutiny meeting.

In conclusion of the extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee Call-In meeting, the Committee resolved;

- (a) the content of the Play Strategy and the emerging Car Parking Strategy, as referred to in the original Cabinet report, be further considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with suitable recommendations being made to the Executive as deemed appropriate.
- (b) the Committee report back to the Executive in a timely manner to ensure that the time limited additional funding is utilised appropriately.

Recommendation(s)

Members are requested to;

- Consider the additional information contained within the report
- Provide a suitable response to Cabinet regarding the Call-In

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To comply with the provisions of part 4 of the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules No.13 (Call-in)

Alternative Options Considered

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet must consider/reconsider the matter in accordance with the provisions of part 4 of the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules No.13 (Call-in).

Detailed Information

Following the meeting on 17th October and the request for additional information, the status of the various strategies is detailed below.

Car Parking Strategy 2016-2021

The current Car Parking Strategy is due for an annual review which will be completed before the end of March 2019. The Car Parking Strategy was not referred to in the original Cabinet report and the proposed project at Brand Lane would not be covered by the strategy which focuses on need and demand in town centres and the Rural area rather than localised issues. At the time of preparation of the strategy no issues with parking provision in the Rural area had been identified and no proposals were made for further or amended provision. However it is understood that since 2016 usage of the car park in Jacksdale has increased and there are capacity issues at certain times and days.

Public Open Space Strategy 2016-2026

This strategy was adopted by Ashfield District Council in 2016 and sets out the catchment areas for play areas, part of the preparation of the strategy included an assessment of the quality of each play area and this has been used to prioritise projects across the District.

Ashfield District Council Play Strategy

This is a plan of action (not an adopted document) to continue to improve play facilities across the District over a four year period, with an additional funding stream. The strategy provides £120k per year for four years to one area per year. The Rural area has seen less investment in play areas due to the relatively low level of housing development and associated Section 106 payments and grant funding, as per the table below.

Section 106 received for public open space and grant funding secured since 2014/15

	S106 received	Grant funding secured	Total
Hucknall	193,000	140,000	333,000
Kirkby	476,000	269,000	745,000
Rurals	28,000	56,000	84,000
Sutton	151,000	344,000	495,000

The Rural area is therefore the first area to receive funding. A stock condition survey has been completed for Ashfield District Council play areas which has reviewed the annual independent inspections and the projected lifespan of equipment. This has helped to identify priorities for replacement of equipment in future years which include the following:

Hucknall: Nabbs Lane and Titchfield Park

Kirkby: Titchfield Park, Nuncargate Recreation Ground

Sutton: Riley Recreation Ground, Huthwaite Welfare Park

Other priorities will continue to emerge, mainly when significant vandalism occurs, equipment needs to be replaced and the costs cannot be covered by the maintenance/ revenue budget.

Play area improvements funded through Section 106 and grant funding are continuing this year and through 2019 and include the following: West Park and Morven Park, Kirkby, Sutton Lawn and Roundhills Recreation Ground, Sutton and Broomhill Park in Hucknall. The new play area planned for Lindley’s Lane, Kirkby will be planned and installed once the land has been transferred from the housing developer. Two new play areas have been opened this year provided as part of developments at Papplewick in Hucknall and Larwood Park in Kirkby.

Selston Parish Council Play strategy

This document identifies priority projects in the Rural area. Ashfield District Council supported the parish council in identifying priorities for play and it is these projects which are due to be taken forward and implemented this financial year. We will continue to support the parish council with a phased programme to rationalise the number of play areas within the Rural area, focusing on the quality of provision over the number of play areas to meet the needs of communities in the future.

Wharf Road improvements

As per standard procedure a pre-tender risk assessment will be completed as part of the procurement process. The site includes the area of land owned by Ashfield District Council and the adjacent Highway land where there has been at least one incident of a resident slipping and falling.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Implementation of the proposed projects will support the Council’s priorities of Health and Well-being and Communities and Environment.

Legal:

The Call-In has been accepted In accordance with the provisions of part 4 of the Council’s Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Rules No. 13 (Call-in). It should also be noted that the proposals detailed within the report form part of a four year programme of investment for Ashfield’s District’s Parks and Open Spaces and are all subject to approval through the Council’s Capital Gateway Process and by Cabinet and Council in November.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	No direct financial implications at this stage. These will be confirmed once the proposed capital schemes have been considered through the Capital Gateway Process. If all of the above schemes are subsequently supported this will require additional net funding of £117,375 which would need to be secured via Prudential Borrowing.
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	There are no additional General Fund Revenue implications for the schemes in Sutton. Any additional Revenue implications for the schemes in the Rural area will be the responsibility of Selston Parish Council.

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
None identified at this stage.	Not applicable.

Human Resources:

None

Equalities:

None

Other Implications:

None

Reason(s) for Urgency

Not applicable

Reason(s) for Exemption

Not applicable

Background Papers

Not applicable

Report Author and Contact Officer

Sarah Daniel

Place Team Leader

s.daniel@ashfield.gov.uk, 01623 457249