

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 12TH DECEMBER, 2006

Present – Councillors J. Byrne (Chairman), Peel (Vice-Chairman), Dennis, Hollick, Lever, R. Silvester and J. Walsh.

Also in attendance

Mr. P. Molyneux	-	Assistant Director of Environmental Services
Mr. C. Bullough	-	Head of Environmental Services
Mr. J. Gorton	-	Asset Development Manager
Mr. M. Russell	-	Greenspace Manager
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hayes.

Councillor J. Byrne in the Chair.

21. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Policy Development Group held on 21st November, 2006 and the Joint meeting of the Environmental Services and Recycling and Waste Policy Development Groups held on 27th November, 2006 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

22. PLAY AREA STRATEGY

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which informed Members of the strategic priorities identified for each Area Forum in respect of the first phase of the implementation of the Play Area Strategy.

By way of background information, the report indicated that in July, 2006, the Environmental Services Policy Development Group received a report which detailed the level of investment required in fixed play facilities over the next five years, together with a proposal that the options appraisal work that had been undertaken be shared more widely through the Area Forum structure prior to any formal decisions on particular individual sites being made.

The report went on to explain that the first phase of this consultation had now been completed and Officers were currently attending all Forums to give a public presentation on the rationale and methodology used in the development of the Play Area Strategy.

In addition, since the last report, a joint bid with Play and Children's Services had been submitted to the National Lottery for a combination of both capital and revenue funding. The portfolio of projects focused on the development of a

mobile play outreach team to support the development of activities on and around sites where new or refurbished facilities were to be developed and concentrated on the inner wards where the largest funding gaps had been identified. The report went on to provide a summary by Forum of the locations identified for investment and with a detailed breakdown of estimated costs and potential funding sources shown in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 identified the proposed use of Section 106 funding for the implementation of the initial schemes in the first phase.

In conclusion, the report explained that the works identified were clearly significant and would require scheduling over the next twelve to eighteen months to ensure there was sufficient capacity to implement them in a structured way and ensure maximum benefit was gained by linking with both other planned investment in parks and green spaces and wider corporate initiatives, such as Extended Schools, the roll out of Neighbourhood Management and LAAs and Neighbourhood Action Plans. It was, therefore, proposed that future Greenspace Capital Programme reports incorporated both details of timescale and funding approval for the implementation of the Play Area Strategy.

In their deliberations Members referred to the following:-

- development of Brownlow Fold in the context of the Jubilee Centre Site;
- the position regarding the Anchor Lane site near to Derwent Road;
- community provision at the Bolton Wanderers Academy Ground;
- vandalism and ownership of the play facilities by young people;
- the slotting in of new section 106 agreements into the strategy;
- play site procurement options; and
- town centre skate board parks being investigated by Development and Regeneration.

It was agreed that the report and discussions be noted.

(The meeting started at 3.30 p.m. and finished at 4.25 p.m.)