

NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting:	ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and Time:	THURSDAY, 17 JUNE 2021 AT 2.00 PM*
Place:	COUNCIL CHAMBER - APPLETREE COURT, BEAULIEU ROAD, LYNDHURST, SO43 7PA
Enquiries to:	Email: karen.wardle@nfdc.gov.uk Karen Wardle Tel: 023 8028 5071

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Members of the public may listen to this meeting live on the Council's website at the following link:-

<https://democracy.newforest.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=584&MId=7438>

*Members of the public may speak in accordance with the Council's public participation scheme:

- (a) immediately before the meeting starts, on items within the Panel's terms of reference which are not on the public agenda; and/or
- (b) on individual items on the public agenda, when the Chairman calls that item. Speeches may not exceed three minutes.

Anyone wishing to speak should contact the name and number shown above no later than 12.00 noon on Monday, 14 June 2021.

Bob Jackson
Chief Executive

Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire. SO43 7PA
www.newforest.gov.uk

This Agenda is also available on audio tape, in Braille, large print and digital format

AGENDA

Apologies

1. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the following meetings as correct records:

- 11 March 2021 (Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel)
- 5 May 2021

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To note any declarations of interest made by members in connection with an agenda item. The nature of the interest must also be specified.

Members are asked to discuss any possible interests with Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To note any issues raised during the public participation period.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PANEL

To note that the Panel is responsible for the overview and scrutiny of the following Cabinet Portfolio Holders and their areas of responsibility:

1. Leader (Portfolio Holder - Cllr Edward Heron)
 - a. Sustainability
2. Environment and Coastal Services (Portfolio Holder - Cllr Steve Davies)
 - a. Waste Strategy
 - b. Refuse & Recycling Collection
 - c. Land Drainage
 - d. Coastal Protection
 - e. Car Parking/road Closures
 - f. Beach Huts and Keyhaven
3. Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure (Portfolio Holder - Cllr Diane Andrews)
 - a. Local Plan
 - b. Development Management
 - c. Building Control
 - d. Listed Buildings and Conservation
 - e. Town Centre Regeneration
 - f. Land Charges

5. PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S REPORTS

To receive an oral update from the Portfolio Holders for Environment and Coastal Services, Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure and the Leader (Sustainability).

6. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND PROVISIONAL BUDGET OUTTURN 2020/21 (Pages 5 - 28)

To consider the annual performance of services under the review of this Panel and the provisional budget outturn figures.

7. WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE - DEFRA WASTE CONSULTATIONS (Pages 29 - 36)

To receive an update on the Waste Strategy and the Defra waste consultations.

8. GREENER INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY (Pages 37 - 40)

To consider the scope of work in relation to a Greener Infrastructure Strategy.

9. DESIGN GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR PLAY SPACE (Pages 41 - 92)

To consider the proposed design guidance for play spaces.

10. PROCESS ON THE JOINT STRATEGY FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE

To receive an oral update on the Joint Strategy for South Hampshire.

11. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 93 - 94)

To agree the work programme to guide the Panel's activities over the coming months.

12. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

To:

Councillors:

Councillors:

Steve Rippon-Swaine
(Chairman)
Sue Bennison (Vice-
Chairman)
Ann Bellows
Geoffrey Blunden
Allan Glass

Andrew Gossage
Stephanie Osborne
Tony Ring
Derek Tipp
Malcolm Wade

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL – 17 JUNE 2021

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND PROVISIONAL BUDGET OUTTURN 2020/21

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Panel:
 - a) Note the Annual Performance Statement for 2020/21, including the impact of Covid-19 on performance;
 - b) Note the provisional outturn of the General Fund revenue and capital budgets for 2020/21;
 - c) Note the provisional outturn of the Housing Revenue Account for 2020/21; and
 - d) Provide feedback or comments back to Cabinet.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 2.1 This report provides an overview of performance and delivery of the corporate plan for 2020/21. It is a backward-looking report that reflects the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and sets out provisional outturn results for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account.
- 2.2 The Council's statutory Statement of Accounts will be completed and signed by the Responsible Financial (S151) Officer by 30 September and will be presented to Audit Committee following external audit. Should there be any significant variations from the figures presented in this report, they will be highlighted at that Committee. The Outturn now presented is in management format.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 Community Matters, the Council's Corporate Plan for 2020-2024, sets out the overarching commitments and vision for the Council and focuses on the challenges faced and the plans to address them, including priorities for each Portfolio. It was approved in March 2020, just prior to the first lockdown. The Annual Performance Statement reflects the progress in delivering the corporate plan and the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- 3.2 Understandably some of the priorities of the corporate plan were overshadowed by the more immediate and necessary response to the pandemic and this is reflected in the Annual Performance Statement appended to this report. Performance for each Portfolio has also been presented to overview and scrutiny panels during the year in the form of Portfolio Dashboards, which reflect the progress of specific activities within the corporate plan.
- 3.3 In light of the impact of the pandemic there is a need to revisit the corporate plan to ensure that priorities continue to reflect the needs of the community, to update associated actions and to align responsibilities with the new Cabinet structure that came in to effect in April 2021. This will be reported back to Cabinet later in the year.

- 3.4 The Council's financial planning process further supports the delivery of the corporate objectives and the annual budget, and its performance is an important element of the overall corporate plan.
- 3.5 The provisional outturn report was presented to Cabinet in April 2021. This followed the adoption of the emergency budget in September 2020, and subsequent financial monitoring report in December 2020.
- 3.6 The latest budgets for 2020/21 as reported to the Cabinet resulted in revised General Fund, Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account budgets as follows:

	Original Budget	Latest Budget April Cabinet	Reported Variations
	£'m	£'m	£'m
General Fund	19.194	20.211	1.017
Capital Programme	25.694	27.238	1.544
Housing Revenue Account (Income)	(28.199)	(28.077)	0.122
Housing Revenue Account (Expend.)	19.726	19.796	0.070

4. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

- 4.1 The pandemic dominated the Council's delivery of services during 2020/21 and this is reflected in the performance overview. Some services were significantly impacted and were unable to be offered, whilst other services saw demand increase or new responsibilities arise, directly linked to supporting individuals and businesses during the crisis.
- 4.2 The Annual Performance Statement (Appendix 1) illustrates the performance for 2020/21, highlighting the Council's Covid-19 response and providing an overview of the performance for each Portfolio, including an assessment of performance for key service areas in terms of the availability of staff, the impact on budget and overall service delivery impact.

5. BUDGET OUTTURN

- 5.1 The Annual Budget is an important element of the delivery of the Council's financial strategy which supports the delivery of core services and provides value for money to local taxpayers. Financial Monitoring Reports and Medium-Term Financial Plan updates are presented to Cabinet throughout the year, providing up to date information on current performance and the budget outlook over a medium-term period.
- 5.2 The mitigating factors put in place by this Council during the emergency budget process, and subsequent savings identified through financial monitoring, identified savings of around £1.5m. The updated General Fund revenue outturn position confirms a spend of £23.200m. Retained Business Rates income was originally budgeted at £7.287m, with the provisional outturn being £6.437m. When combined, these two variations result in a total adverse variation for the year as against the original budget of £4.856m. Government support of £6.472m has been received during the year; £4.235m through the Sales, Fees and Charges compensation

scheme, and £2.237m in general support funding. The Financial Monitoring reports presented through Cabinet during the year confirm the reasoning for the significant variations and the summarised position is shown within Appendix 2. The overall resultant balancing position allows for a transfer to Capital Programme reserves of £1.515m.

- 5.3 The original Capital Programme budget was set at £25.694m. This was increased via financial monitoring to take into account the scheme rephasing's from 2019/20 and updated for new requirements, including £5.25m for investment in economic regeneration and employment projects as well as £1.825m for Emergency Works to the sea wall at Milford. The Capital Programme outturn position confirms a spend for the year of £26.959m. This is a yearend variation in comparison to the revised budget of £279,000, and results in a total variation for the year as against the original budget of +£1.265m.
- 5.4 The updated Housing Revenue Account position confirms income for the year of £28.131m and revenue spend for the year of £19.818m. After a transfer to an earmarked reserve of £72,000, this results in an overall deficit for the year of £88,000, with this sum being transferred from the Acquisition and Development reserve.
- 5.5 The following table summarises the positions as explained above (although all stated positions are still subject to change during the course of External Audit):

	Original Budget	Outturn Position	Total Variation
	£'m	£'m	£'m
General Fund – Portfolio Budgets	19.194	23.200	4.006
General Fund – Business Rate Retention	(7.287)	(6.437)	0.850
General Fund – Financial Support	0.00	(6.472)	(6.472)
Capital Programme	25.694	26.959	1.265
Housing Revenue Account (Income)	(28.199)	(28.131)	0.068
Housing Revenue Account (Expend.)	19.726	19.818	0.092

6. CRIME & DISORDER / EQUALITY & DIVERSITY / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

Further Information:

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Corporate Services
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Sheryl Parry
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Background Papers

The Corporate Plan 2020-2024
'Community Matters'
Cabinet 4 March 2020

April Financial Monitoring Report

POSITION STATEMENT 2021

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT



Foreword from the Leader of New Forest District Council



2020/21 has been dominated by the Covid-19 Pandemic. The impact on all communities could never have been envisaged when plans and budgets were first agreed.

Many services had to be halted - some for the whole year, some in part - as we moved in and out of lockdowns. The impact on our wide

range of services has been varied as they all faced different circumstances and challenges.

Some of our frontline services, such as waste & recycling collection, continued throughout the pandemic, ensuring they followed social distancing guidelines, but at a cost that had not been budgeted for.

Our Health and Leisure Centres were closed for most of the year with staff on furlough. This created a significant budget cost as well as impacting the health and wellbeing of our residents.

Our 350 office-based staff were predominately working from home. Many were performing new tasks - like our Revenue & Benefits teams that distributed over £60 million of business support grants - or working in the community undertaking new roles like our Environmental Health teams that were undertaking Covid-19 work for Public Health England and not carrying out normal business inspections as premises were closed.

New Covid-19 services had to be delivered, like the Local Response Centre established to support those most vulnerable in our community. This service was set up rapidly,

using staff from all areas of the Council, including Elections, Coastal, Car Parking and Health and Leisure.

Some of our usual services, like Housing Estates Management and Homelessness saw their workload increase significantly.

The following annual report tries to identify how we have got on delivering services during the pandemic. To help understanding, Covid-19 impact on services has been flagged and a traffic light system provided to indicate general performance.

Overall, the Council has done remarkably well thanks to the efforts and dedication of staff from across our services. The investment in ICT enabled many services to carry on as it enabled office-based staff to deliver through home working. The budget position has been maintained with the help of approximately £8 million of central government grants. Service performance, where it has been able to continue, has been largely unaffected despite a significant increase in staff absences created by self-isolating and Covid-19.

Looking ahead there are some areas that will come under more pressure. Environmental Health teams face a backlog of inspection work, the Housing Estates Management team face resolving many neighbourhood issues that arose, and the budget will face pressure from rising costs, particularly housing materials. The wellbeing of staff will remain a priority. Monitoring our performance and achievement has never been more important. I hope you find the reports of my portfolio holders interesting on a year like no other.

Edward Heron

Leader of New Forest District Council

Introduction

The New Forest

The New Forest is an area of southern England which includes one of the largest remaining tracts of unenclosed pastureland, heathland, and forest in the heavily populated south east. It is a unique place of history, wildlife and beauty and was established as a royal hunting preserve.

The local government administrative area of New Forest District Council (290 square miles) includes the New Forest National Park (206 square miles) and within the district there are 145 square miles of Crown land, managed by Forestry England.

The New Forest is a working forest that has prospered for nearly 1,000 years. Many of the historical agricultural practices are still retained overseen by the Verderers. The most significant of these is the depasturing of ponies, cattle, pigs and donkeys in the open forest by authorised inhabitants known as Commoners.

The District Council was created on 1 April 1974 and is one of the most populated non-unitary authorities in England (179,753 - in 2018). Within its boundaries there are 37 active town and parish councils.

Hampshire County Council are responsible for upper tier services and operating within the heart of the District Council area is the National Park Authority (NPA) established in

2005. The NPA is the planning authority for its area, and other services share responsibilities and work in close collaboration with New Forest District Council.

Approximately 70% of the population of the district live in the New Forest District Council authority area in several medium-sized towns. To the south and east of the district border there lies 40 miles of coastline. The broad range of organisations and community groups that exist means that the Council works collaboratively with and in the community to deliver solutions.

At the start of 2020 the New Forest was home to the third largest economy in Hampshire, with a total Gross Value Added of £4.4bn. The district contained just under 8,000 businesses in total. Leisure, tourism and marine along with their associated supply chains are significant employment and economic sectors within the district.

The very special nature of the New Forest, coupled with its excellent transport connections to the rest of the UK and to Europe, makes it an extremely attractive place to live, both for those in work and those wishing to retire (28.4% of the population is over 65). Housing development is made more difficult by many of the environmental constraints of the area.

Community matters and performance 2020/21

Community Matters, the Council's Corporate Plan for 2020-2024, sets out the overarching commitments and vision for the Council and focuses on the challenges faced and the plans to address them. A summary of Community Matters can be read on page 4 of this document. It recognises the ongoing financial constraints, whilst building on the strong financial position created and sets priorities that matter to the people of the district to deliver a prosperous New Forest and put the community first.

Although Community Matters was only approved in March 2020, the Council had to respond and adapt to unprecedented events which altered priorities during the year that followed. Critical services were all maintained with some areas more significantly disrupted or experiencing new pressures in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. The majority of office-based staff worked remotely throughout the entire year, and members meetings moved online. Staff were redeployed, and new tasks and responsibilities were delivered including the Local Response Centre to support those under the Government's shielding measures, additional homelessness support during the pandemic, paying business support grants, administering self-isolation payments, supporting public health and enabling businesses to reopen or trade safely, and encouraging social distancing and Covid-19 safe behaviour. Page 5 of this document summarises the Council's response to Coronavirus pandemic.

As such the Coronavirus pandemic dominates the Council's performance for 2020/21, its service delivery and the impact on the community.

This annual performance statement is a backward-looking document that serves to reflect upon the performance of each Portfolio outlined in the Corporate Plan for 2020/21, whilst acknowledging the necessary redirecting of resources to deal with the more immediate response to the Coronavirus crisis.

Performance Summary

A summary of the performance for each Portfolio is accompanied by an assessment of the performance of key service areas, supported by relevant performance indicators. This considers:

- 1) **Staffing** - the availability of staff over the past year, factoring in absences as a direct result of Covid-19, including self-isolation and shielding, and re-deployment where the resources have been needed elsewhere;
- 2) **Budget** - the impact on costs and income; and
- 3) **Service delivery impact** - the impact on the overall delivery of services to the public.

The assessment of performance is shown as red amber or green which represent the following:

● significant impact ● slight impact ● as planned

Where services have been unable to deliver their existing functions because of new Covid-19 responsibilities then an assessment has been made of the performance of these existing functions and of the new responsibilities.

In light of the impact of the pandemic, and the changes to Portfolios, Community Matters 2020-2024 will now be revisited to ensure that priorities continue to reflect the needs of the community, to update associated actions and to align responsibilities with the new Cabinet structure.

Community Matters

Corporate Plan 2020-2024

Delivering a prosperous New Forest and putting the community first

Leader and Corporate Affairs PORTFOLIO



- Excellence in services to our residents and continuing to maintain front line services.
- Being an employer of choice.
- Working with regional partners to ensure the prosperity of the New Forest area.
- Ensuring effective democratic engagement and representation.

Planning and Infrastructure PORTFOLIO



- Delivering the vision of the local plan and encouraging development that meets local needs and delivers positive, economic, social and environmental outcomes.
- Working with partners, applicants and developers to ensure a positive, timely and enabling attitude to development.
- Using contributions to deliver projects that mitigate the impact of development on the natural environment.
- Ensuring building control are engaged at the earliest stage to make future in development projects safe.
- Working with Partnership for South Hampshire authorities on a Joint Strategy and Statement of Common Ground to address future growth and unmet housing need.

Finance, Investment and Corporate Services PORTFOLIO



- Protecting front line services through sound financial planning, including the collection of taxation with appropriate support for individuals and businesses.
- Modernisation and innovative use of ICT to enhance operational efficiencies across all services.
- Using investments to support financial resilience and the local economy.
- Supporting the migration to universal credit.

Leisure and Wellbeing PORTFOLIO



- Working with partners to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents.
- Ensuring that public health prevention principles are embedded within core services of the Council.
- Increase the levels of physical activity within the district.
- Providing affordable and accessible leisure facilities.

Housing Services PORTFOLIO



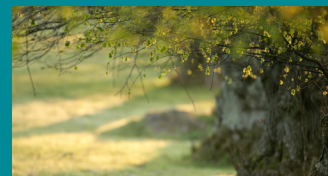
- Meeting local housing needs and promoting sustainable growth.
- Increasing the supply of high quality affordable homes.
- Improving the housing circumstances of those most in need.
- Enabling the best use of housing to meet the needs of local people, including support for a strong high quality private rented sector.

Community Affairs PORTFOLIO



- Putting customers at the centre of what we do and how we do it.
- Modernising customer services and responding to changing needs.
- Engaging with partners and the community to inform and contribute towards wider service outcomes.
- Ensuring the New Forest remains a safe place to live, work and visit.

Environment and Regulatory Services PORTFOLIO



- Taking actions that address the impact of climate change locally.
- Working with others to protect and enhance our natural environment.
- Reducing waste and increasing recycling.
- Ensuring regulatory services are delivered for the benefit of our residents, businesses and visitors.

Economic Development PORTFOLIO



- Continuing to work with partners and businesses to grow the New Forest economy.
- Supporting improvements in broadband and mobile connectivity.
- Helping businesses, industries and High Streets respond to social, environmental and technological changes and innovation.
- Continuing to promote the New Forest as a filming destination.

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

CUSTOMER SERVICES

78,985 CALLS
39,557 EMAILS
5,136 CHATS



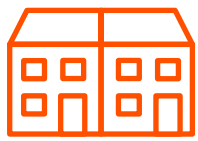
VIRTUAL MEETINGS

70+ COUNCILLOR MEETINGS VIEWED
8,950+ TIMES ON YOUTUBE



BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANTS

£67.6m TO **4,500+** BUSINESSES

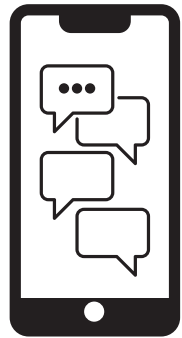


HOUSING

1,600 HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING ADVICE REQUESTS

207 HOUSEHOLDS PLACED INTO COVID-19 SECURE ACCOMMODATION

358 SOCIAL HOUSING PROPERTIES RELET



SOCIAL MEDIA

186 POSTS PER MONTH
6 MILLION+ REACHED



TAX AND BENEFITS RELIEF

56,000+ COUNCIL TAX, BENEFITS AND BUSINESS RATES SUPPORT CALLS

615 PEOPLE HELPED BY **£367,000** DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS

4,000 PEOPLE HELPED TO PAY THEIR COUNCIL TAX

£127,000 OF COMMUNITY GRANTS

9 NEW FOOD LARDERS SUPPORTED

WEBSITE

50,000+ CORONAVIRUS PAGE VIEWS
2,000 IN ONE DAY



WASTE AND RECYCLING

COLLECTED FROM **22,000** HOUSEHOLDS EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK
RUBBISH INCREASED BY AROUND **10%**

LOCAL RESPONSE HUB



1,494 REFERRALS FOR SUPPORT

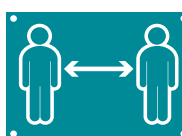
60 WELFARE CHECKS

1,182 FOOD PARCELS PACKAGED AND DELIVERED

£10,000 IN EMERGENCY GRANTS

SOCIAL DISTANCING SIGNAGE

430 SIGNS ERECTED



122 JOBS RECRUITED

6,051 BUILDING CONTROL INSPECTIONS

42,356 APPLE TREE CARELINE ACTIVATIONS

63 SAFEGUARDING REFERRALS

3,858 GAS SAFETY CHECKS

131 BONFIRE COMPLAINTS

Leader and Corporate Affairs

Delivering a prosperous New Forest and putting our community first

The response to the pandemic became the priority for 2020/21 despite the strategic direction set out in Community Matters. The continued commitment to delivering modernised and innovative services and putting the community first was at the centre of this response.

Enabling office-based staff to work from home throughout much of the year was instrumental in the continued delivery of many services, with Appletree Court remaining open for essential reasons only. Engaging with staff and ensuring their wellbeing through this challenging time was a key focus and along with two staff surveys, steps were taken to support individuals with the appropriate ICT equipment to effectively work from home and in providing information and training to support employees' mental health.

Member meetings were also moved online, allowing the continuation of the democratic process throughout, with Members being supported with the appropriate technology so that they could engage in these meetings.

Recruitment into vacant positions continued with **122 vacancies** filled during the year, and the HR team were successful in their application for **18 placements** on the Government Kickstart Scheme, providing funding for the creation of new jobs for 16 to 24-year-olds on Universal Credit. Five placements have already been filled.

During the year, four Covid-19 Recovery Task and Finish Groups were set up to assess the impact on the Council's finances and resources, the local economy and the community, each reporting recommendations back to the Cabinet to help determine future recovery plans.

A significant contribution to the Portfolio's priority to work with regional partners to ensure the prosperity of the New Forest area was demonstrated in the Council's support for the **£2 billion** Solent Local Enterprise Partnership Freeport Bid, approved by the Chancellor in March. This will help strengthen the local position and rebuild the economy attracting much needed investment into the area.

The Council submitted its Council Size submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in October 2019, recommending a reduction in the number of councillors which was consequently agreed at **48**, down from 60. The Council went on to submit warding pattern proposals in February 2020. Following the publication of Draft Recommendations by the LGBCE, the Council responded to the consultation process in September 2020. In January 2021, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England published final recommendations for a Council Size of **48**, with new ward boundaries. These will be implemented at the 2023 elections.

Key Performance Indicators

KPIs	Unit	Desired DOT	Target	2019/20	2020/21	Actual DOT
Vacancies filled first time	%	↑	-	83%	94%	↑
Sick days per FTE	Num	↓	-	8.66	5.81	↓
Total sick days	Num	↓	-	6,567	4,579	↓
Covid-19 absence per FTE	Num	-	-	-	9.88	-
Covid-19 total absence days	Num	-	-	-	7,783	-

Planning and Infrastructure

Encouraging development that meets local needs and enhances the special qualities of the environment

Despite the pandemic, Building Control and Planning services were delivered throughout 2020/21. This included **14 virtual Planning Committee** meetings, the start of a procurement project to upgrade the IT system to deliver a more efficient customer friendly experience and dealing with over **1,000 calls** in to the Planning department per month. A virtual Waterside Conference took place in January and the Vision for the Waterside was launched. A review of all supplementary planning documents also commenced with the Parking and Mitigation of Recreational Impact documents which will make it easier for developers to engage with the planning process. The pre-application service has been redesigned, this includes the introduction of a virtual duty officer services which is proving very popular with customers and staff. Work has now commenced on Local Plan Part 2 which includes workstreams, amongst other matters, relating to Climate Change and Green Infrastructure.

Delivering the vision of the local plan and encouraging development that meets local needs and delivers positive economic, social and environmental outcomes remains a priority. The number of new planning applications received during the year remained steady with **1,433 applications** (1,437 2019/20) although the number of planning decisions made fell slightly by **5% to 1,280**. Whilst performance on the time taken to determine planning applications has remained good for smaller applications there has been a drop in performance on major applications, a series of actions are being taken to address this issue. July, a number of the strategic sites have come forward as applications and pre-application enquiries.

Building control market share fell to **44%** in May 2020 but recovered and rose to **58%** by January 2021, an overall increase of 9% since January 2019 which was a positive position given the lockdown restrictions at the time. At a virtual planning committee, members resolved to grant planning permission for a new sustainable community and centre of marine and maritime innovation at the former Fawley Power Station, the largest brownfield regeneration project in the South of England.

New Forest District Council are also one of the first Councils in the UK to require biodiversity net gain on all new development plans

and are supporting landowners to identify potential additional projects.

Working with Hampshire County Council, the service has developed a Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan for the Waterside recognising the important role cycling and walking plays in addressing the impact of climate change and promoting the health and wellbeing of residents. Work now continues on a joint Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan for the rest of the district working with HCC, the NPA and Forestry England. This document will enable funding applications and secure project delivery for the future.

Green infrastructure projects have been delivered, including both the Sweatford Water and Poulner Lakes projects to enable the enhancement of informal open space to create safer pedestrian routes, improve accessibility and enhance biodiversity.

Car park charges were suspended during the initial lockdown and usage was subsequently impacted throughout the whole year as a result of further lockdowns and national restrictions. The Portfolio lost revenue of approximately £1m as a direct result. The parking enforcement team were redeployed, in part, to support the delivery of food parcels to individuals.

Performance Summary

Development Control	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
Planning Policy	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
Building Control	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
Parking*	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●

*Significant Covid-19 impact

Key Performance Indicators

KPIs	Unit	Desired DOT	Target	2019/20	2020/21	Actual DOT
Increase in the number of houses completed each year (as set out in the Annual Authority Monitoring Report)	Num	↑	300	308	Expected July	-
Increase in the number of mitigation projects delivered each year	Num	↑	3	3	3	→
Total amount of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) spent	%	↑	35%	6%	5%	↓
Increase in the total amount of open space play and sport provision, and cycling and walking infrastructure delivered each year	Projects	↑	5 projects	4 projects	4 projects	→
Increase in NFDC Building Control Market Share	%	↑	65%	54%	55%	↑

Housing Services

Creating balanced communities and housing options that are affordable and sustainable

The Housing teams continued to work towards the strategic objectives set out on the Housing Strategy whilst responding to additional impacts and pressures due to the Covid pandemic.

During the first 6 months of the pandemic, the Homelessness Team provided safe accommodation for rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness, helping **130 households** as part of the government's "everyone in" campaign. The additional costs were offset by **£800,000** in government funding to support vulnerable homeless people. **207 households** were offered emergency temporary accommodation during the year and, at the height of the pandemic, over **85 households** were in external emergency temporary accommodation, many with complex needs. These households were supported with food, transport, benefit claims and referrals to specialist agencies by the Housing Support Team, funded by a successful bid to MHCLG. The scale of the increase in homelessness at this time had an impact on the medium term aspiration to minimise the use of external B & B accommodation.

Over **49%** of applicants presenting themselves as threatened with homelessness were prevented from becoming homeless with **267 households** securing alternative accommodation.

In total the Homelessness Team received **1,600 approaches** for assistance, awarding **1,004** statutory duties to help secure accommodation and successfully secured accommodation for **524 households**.

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, the Allocations Team relet **358** social housing properties during the year for all registered providers in the district, including **292** council properties.

Throughout the lockdown periods many of our tenants were affected financially as rent arrears increased by over **40%**. The Tenancy Account Team supported many tenants to seek financial advice, help with Universal Credit Claims and provided the reassurance and time to tenants to help resolve their situations. By the year end, arrears were **back in line** with performance targets.

The priority of increasing the provision of temporary accommodation continued at a pace with major works completing on a further **18 additional units, whilst another 13** are due to finish in 2021/22, offering an improved alternative to external B&B accommodation.

During the year a total of **190 new affordable homes** were provided across the New Forest; with **64** delivered by the District Council and contributing to the Corporate Plan target of 600 additional homes by 2026. 2020/21 also saw the first pair of new-build properties acquired and sold for **shared ownership**, with many more planned for the future.

And, as part of the Government's initiative to help Rough Sleepers, the Council competitively secured capital and revenue funding to set-up and support a **specialist accommodation scheme** which was delivered by the year end.

Lockdown restrictions meant that access to people's homes had to be carefully considered for planned and reactive maintenance services and disabled adaptations in order to prioritise safety. Resources were focussed on emergency repairs and essential maintenance and a two-stage screening process was implemented

for appointments to ensure individuals weren't symptomatic, self-isolating or shielding before work commenced. Work to deal with the backlog of non-essential repairs was ongoing throughout the year and continues.

From January 2021 maintenance services were re-prioritised to deal with the backlog in empty properties, which had increased during the year due to difficulties in sourcing materials, social distancing rules, and whilst resources were directed to essential maintenance work. External subcontractors were appointed to assist with turning around empty properties faster. This resulted in increased costs but rent income on such properties helped to offset some of the costs. It is anticipated that this backlog will be fully addressed during 2021/22.

The capital maintenance programme was delayed at the start of the year due to the lockdown restrictions, although with the easing of these restrictions in the summer, the programme was restarted which meant that the programme was not significantly impacted with **236 bathroom or kitchen modernisations** completed (246 for 2019/20).

Despite the pandemic, safety inspections were maintained during the year and measures were put in place to protect and reassure tenants and staff. **3,858 gas safety inspections** were undertaken during 2020/21, in line with previous years. Access to a small percentage of properties was challenging due to tenants self-isolating or being reluctant to have trade staff in their homes.

During the height of the pandemic, Housing Estates Management dealt with an increased volume of neighbourhood complaints and disputes, with follow up investigations, visits and mediation required. Between March and August 2020, the team responded to **407 separate neighbour complaints** compared with 123 for the same period the previous year. To manage the significant increase in these cases, the demand for lettings, and in recognition of local lockdown restrictions, the team shifted resources from estate and property inspections and in-person tenancy sign ups, to deal with the increase in neighbour disputes. Despite this, the team were still able to deliver **349 remote sign ups** of new tenants and temporary accommodation applicants during the financial year.

The Portfolio was successful in bidding for over **£250,000 of government funding to provide energy efficient heating upgrades** to homes of tenants on lower incomes with support from the **Greener Housing Task and Finish Group**. Plans also include a proposal to provide a greener housing scheme at the former Testwood Social Club site in Totton, to include the installation of air source heat pumps and triple glazing.

The new Private Sector Housing Strategy was approved by Council in December 2020, and a new bespoke software system was developed and implemented to help deliver new strategic actions. The Team prioritised disabled adaptations post lockdowns and completed works to the value of **£1.2m**.

The Tenant Involvement Group (TIG) switched to digital meetings and continued to scrutinise performance and processes, developing new ways to hold the service to account ahead of fundamental changes to landlord governance in the next 2 years.

Housing Services

Performance Summary

Housing Estate Management*	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
Housing Register Management and Allocations	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
Homelessness*	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
Housing Repairs and Maintenance*	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●

*Significant Covid-19 impact

Key Performance Indicators

KPIs	Unit	Desired DOT	Target	2019/20	2020/21	Actual DOT
Additional council affordable homes by April 2026	Num	↑	600 (2026)	90 (147)	64 (211)	↑
Increase in prevention Duty cases successfully prevented	%	↑	60%	61%	49%	↓
Net increase in the number of private sector lease properties	Num	↑	140	138	141	↑
Increase in rough sleepers entering accommodation pathway	Num	↑	Monitor	31	62	↑
Reduction in the number of Households in external emergency B&B accommodation at year end	Num	↓	30	43	69	↑

Community Affairs

Keeping our communities safe and listening to their needs

As an essential service, Appletree Careline have maintained 24-hour service delivery, responding to **42,356** calls during this period in line with the previous year. As part of the Control Room, the team have also handled **2,501 Out of Hours emergency enquiries**, including calls for Covid-19 related support.

In response to Covid-19, a Local Response Centre was established in March 2020 providing support to people under the Government’s shielding measures, and other vulnerable members of the community. Scheduled elections for May 2020 were postponed and the elections team, along with other officers, was redeployed, in part, to set up and run the Local Response Centre (LRC). The LRC, in partnership with Community First, responded to **1,494 referrals** for support with food, prescription collection and social isolation as well as directly distributing **1,182 food parcels** from the Food Hub at Applemore Health & Leisure Centre. The response involved staff from across the organisation handling and making phone calls, providing reassurance and supporting independence, identifying local food offerings, shopping for essential food items, boxing and delivering food parcels and making over **60 welfare checks** to the homes of vulnerable individuals. Lymington Basics Bank took over the preparing of food parcels on behalf of the LRC from June, as the Leisure centres reopened, until shielding was paused at the beginning of August. The CCTV and Appletree Careline team took on the handling of referrals from December 2020.

Partnership working with town and parish councils, Hampshire County Council and the voluntary sector was instrumental to the pandemic response in supporting the needs, and recovery efforts, within the community. Along with the **£116,000** in revenue grants and **£97,650** in capital grants paid during the year, around **£10,000** in small grants to local voluntary organisations was distributed to assist in providing emergency support to those most vulnerable. Members grants were increased to **£1,000** to further support local community efforts.

The Community Covid-19 Recovery Task and Finish Group met with community and voluntary organisations to better understand the impact of the pandemic and to identify the actions required for recovery.

The reformed approach to the annual electoral canvass was still able to be delivered, with the revised electoral register published on 1 December 2020.

Modernising service delivery progressed with the Council’s new website, launched in July 2020, enabling greater digital service delivery with an easy to use design for customers. Since the launch, and up until end of March 2021, there were over **1million page views** and more services are now available online. The new website provided an alternative to some face-to-face contacts which were unavailable during the lockdown closures of the local information offices and **15,000 parking clock applications** were made online during this time. Staff from the Information Offices moved to working from home supporting Customer Services by taking calls. Phased re-opening of the information offices was brought in to support essential services.

Customer services, all working remotely throughout the year, also saw increased demand with calls up by **4% to 78,985**, emails up by **9.5% to 39,557** and webchat contacts of **5,136**, an increase of 21% on the previous year. There was a 63% increase in garden waste calls in response to a significant uplift in demand for the service.

Providing timely and accurate information to residents was a key strategy in the Council’s Covid-19 approach and a regular weekly resident’s email was introduced in direct response to the pandemic. This communication now has over **14,200 subscribers**, who, in a recent survey rated this service 9 out of 10 for usefulness, relevance and how easy the information was to understand. This communication was further enhanced by dedicated Coronavirus webpages providing information and signposting to guidance and available support. In total these pages have received over **50,000 page views**, with a **peak of 2,000 in one day** (the most of any single page).

Alongside our partners within Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service our Community Safety team undertook five dedicated days to engage and listen to residents’ views across the district. Due to the pandemic the partnership held a community safety webinar online in November 2020 joined by 100+ delegates from services across the district area.

In a resident engagement survey, **96% of residents** asked were either satisfied or very satisfied with the area they live in regarding crime, disorder, or anti-social behaviour.

Priority was given to supporting those at risk from domestic abuse with the continuation of the Domestic Abuse forum with partner agencies, and regular communications highlighting help available for those affected. In November the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership supported 16 Days of Action reminding people of services available and releasing different messages each day to different target audiences. A staff policy was also published directed at employees affected by domestic abuse with training sessions for staff. Helpline information was displayed on refuse vehicles and sacks.

63 safeguarding referrals were received during the year.

Performance Summary

Customer Services and Information Offices*	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
Electoral Services*	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
CCTV & Appletree Careline	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●

*Significant Covid-19 impact

Community Affairs

Key Performance Indicators

KPIs	Unit	Desired DOT	Target	2019/20	2020/21	Actual DOT
Number of engagement activities (Community Safety)	Num	↑	5	5	5	→
Residents satisfaction survey re: crime and disorder	%	↑	95	96	96	→

Finance, Investment and Corporate Services

Enabling service provision and ensuring value for money for the council tax payer

Soon after the budget was set for 2020/21 the pandemic caused a significant adverse impact on the Council's projected income, resulting in a need for the Council to revise its spending plans and restate a balanced budget for the year. An emergency budget was set and approved in September 2020.

The closure of the Health and Leisure Centres had the biggest financial impact with lost income totalling approximately **£6m**. Government support of £5.2m offset much of this loss, including use of the furlough scheme for around **400 members of staff**.

The Covid-19 Recovery Finance and Resources Task and Finish Group was set up to review the financial impact as the situation developed and were instrumental in making recommendations to Cabinet on the necessary mitigating actions.

Measures put in place in response to the financial pressures included the review of asset maintenance budgets, revised Capital Programme Financing and reserve transfers, and a complete and thorough review of service budgets to account for savings and allow for expenditure increases as a direct impact of Covid-19. Measures were also implemented to control employee costs by adopting a Vacancy Control procedure to ensure only essential staffing posts were filled, including considerations for redeployment of existing staff where roles have been impacted by Covid-19. HR provided additional support to managers and staff on wellbeing, self isolation and furlough, they saw a reduction in recruitment during the year.

Government funding support subsequently eased much of the pressure. The existing strong financial position enabled the Council to respond well and reformulate its financial strategy to ensure future plans are sustainable and resilient.

Revenues and Benefits administered in excess of **£60m** worth of business support grants and **£28m** in business rate discounts to businesses who suffered as a result of the closure and reduced trade, whilst offering over **£700,000** in Council tax relief to assist individuals and families in financial hardship. Additional responsibilities also extended to the administration of self-isolation payments, whilst providing business as usual services.

Three more employment properties were acquired during the year within the district. The Crow Lane Ringwood development

was progressed with the appointment of technical advisors and letting consultants, and the procurement process for contractors commenced. The lettings for the Lymington Town Hall south wing were delivered including the completion of the Police station on the ground floor. These investments will continue to support the Council's financial resilience.

As at 31 March 2021, Appletree Property Lettings have purchased seven properties with offers accepted on a further two. Seven of these properties have been let. The roll out of the Commercial Property Investment and the Residential Property Investment strategies has been affected by Covid-19, especially in the early stages of the financial year.

The pandemic highlighted the value of the investment in, and modernisation of, ICT, which positioned the Council well to respond by working in alternative ways, particularly the ability for office-based staff to work from home at very short notice. Virtual meetings were also enabled within a very quick time frame and any members whose existing equipment wasn't appropriate were provided with new equipment to enable their continued participation in meetings. ICT effectively supported the workforce remotely throughout the year, along with HR and other corporate services.

Performance Summary

Financial Services	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
Revenues and Benefits*	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
Estates and Valuation	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
HR*	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
ICT*	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●

*Significant Covid-19 impact

Key Performance Indicators

KPIs	Unit	Desired DOT	Annual Target	2019/20	2020/21	Actual DOT
Maintain high level of Council Tax collected	%	↑	98.24%	98.69%	98.31%	↓
NNDR collected	%	↑	98.19%	98.97%	97.79%	↓
Increase the value of commercial investment	£M	↑	20	9	9.887 spend altogether	↑
Increase the value of residential investment	£M	↑	4	1.43	2.08	↑
Availability of NFDC Website	%	↑	100%	100%	100%	→

Leisure and Wellbeing

Improving the health and wellbeing of our community

This portfolio saw the biggest impact of the pandemic on service delivery with the closure of the Health and Leisure Centres, and just under **400 staff furloughed** throughout most of 2020/21. The remaining staff were retained to maintain plant and buildings and support other services of the Council, including the Local Response Centre providing a food hub from Applemore Health & Leisure centre and the distribution of food parcels to those who needed them.

The financial impact on the Portfolio was also significant. The closure of the Health and Leisure Centres resulted in lost income totalling approximately **£6m** (86% of the original budget), although **£5.2m** of this loss will be covered through government support.

The Health and Leisure recovery plan ensured that when centres could reopen in line with government guidelines, they could do so in a Covid-19 secure manner including one-way systems, maintaining social distancing requirements, increasing cleaning regimes in all the facilities, reconfiguration of gyms to allow 2m distancing, closing some facilities such as showers, and making sanitisation stations available in all public and staff areas.

The centres, with support of leisure staff, have also been used as Covid-19 vaccination and testing sites. The Lateral Flow Test Community Covid-19 Test Centre, based at Totton Health & Leisure centre, was operated 6 days a week for 6 weeks. **1,441 tests** were carried out during that time.

Despite the pandemic, the review of Health and Leisure concluded, with a partnership with Freedom Leisure announced in February 2021. This will not only help to sustain the service but also to increase participation and improve the health and wellbeing of our community.

The quarterly meetings of the Health and Wellbeing board were suspended and did not take place due to the pandemic. The partners of the Health and Wellbeing Board (Public Health Hampshire, West Hampshire CCG, the voluntary sector and NFDC) worked together to ensure a joined-up approach to supporting the most vulnerable residents during this time. The impact of the pandemic on widening the existing health inequalities will be reflected in recovery planning.

This year's Active Lives report showed that inactivity levels sat at **19.5%** to May 2020, with **65.4%** of New Forest adults and **53.3%** of children reporting being physically active, however the impacts of the pandemic on physical activity will not be known until the next bi-annual report. This is an area that will also need to be kept under review as part of the recovery activities.

Performance Summary

Health & Leisure*	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
Dibden Golf Centre*	Staffing	NA
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
Sports and Community Development*	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●

*Significant Covid-19 impact

Key Performance Indicators

KPIs	Unit	Desired DOT	Target	2019/20	2020/21	Actual DOT
Increase in physical activity in adults	%	↑	Monitor	-	65.4%	-
Increase in physical activity in children	%	↑	Monitor	-	53.3%	-
Reduction in inactivity levels	%	↓	Monitor	-	19.5%	-

Environment and Regulatory Services

Working to tackle climate change and enhancing our special environment

Taking action to address the impact of climate change remains a long term key priority and there are numerous workstreams across the council to address this issue. Work on the Environment Strategy was delayed due to other priorities, further consideration will be given to what needs to be included in the Environment Strategy that is not covered in other workstreams.

Despite the impact of the pandemic the Waste and Recycling service maintained weekly collections to the 22,000 households in the district. The Council collected over **63,000** tonnes of household waste in 2020/21, a **9% increase** on 2019/20. With more people at home during three national lockdowns and an increase in online shopping, take away dinners and home clear outs, more waste was collected than in previous years.

2020/21 saw a **28% increase** in Garden Waste customers with an additional **4,437 sign ups** throughout the year. There was also a **63% increase** in Garden Waste enquiries to Customer Services.

Work to deliver a new, modern Waste Strategy continued with the draft going to Cabinet in November 2020. This was also released for consultation and **3,865** residents responded with comments.

In May 2020 the #Crabby campaign helped change the behaviour of those who litter. This coincided with a **40% increase** in visitors to the beaches in the district and resulted in a **29% reduction** in rubbish collections, creating a **£10,000 saving**.

The number of fly tipping incidents reported to customer services increased by 28% to over **1,100**. In addition to this, operatives encountered increased fly tipping incidents at Council recycling bring sites (1,898) as well as unreported fly tips at other locations across the district (519), amounting to an additional **2,417 fly tips** throughout the financial year. The Council issued **17 fixed penalty notices** during 2020/21, an **increase of 88%** when compared to the previous year.

As a response to the pandemic cleaning activities on public conveniences were increased and this continues to be budgeted for in 2021/22 to ensure they remain Covid-19 safe. The public conveniences at Milford-on-Sea were replaced in 2020 as planned.

Environmental Health were diverted from their normal functions to support the Covid-19 response. The Portfolio dealt with over **1,100** Covid related service requests from March 2020, including complaints and queries from the public and requests for advice from businesses. **300 new businesses** were set up during the year (248 2019/20), although food hygiene interventions fell significantly

from 701 (2019/20) to 146 (2020/21). Officers visited over **100** supermarkets and food retailers and **37** other premises such as garden centres, DIY stores and builders' merchants to help them keep staff and residents safe, ensuring Covid-19 compliance.

Environmental Protection received an increase in nuisance requests - including noise, air, drainage, and public health - from 548 in 2019/20 to **657** in 2020/21, with support for planning consultations also increased by **16%** to 455 during the year. The team also introduced a no charge pavement license to support local businesses to operate safely.

Work began to repair damage to the district's coastlines, most significantly damage to the Westover cliff and sea wall at Milford-on-Sea. Urgent works began in August 2020 after **48 properties** were deemed to be at risk with over **15,000 tonnes** of rock imported to support the failing wall. The Environment Agency has provided funding of **£250,000** to carry out scoping work for what could be a longer-term project in this area.

Although funding was in place to undertake drainage trials at Barton-on-Sea, work was not completed due to the change in priorities during the year.

A new cemetery was opened at Calshot, and work continued to identify potential sites in Totton and Lymington to help meet the demand for burial space. Assessments of remaining capacity and associated timescales are underway.

Performance Summary

Waste and Recycling*	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
Street Scene*	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
Environmental Health & Licensing*	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●
Coastal	Staffing	●
	Budget	●
	Service delivery impact	●

*Significant Covid-19 impact

Key Performance Indicators

KPIs	Unit	Desired DOT	Target	2019/20	2020/21	Actual DOT
Household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	%	↑	35%	34%	34%	→
Reduction in the number of flytipping incidents	Num	↓	900	923	1183	↑

Economic Development

Helping local businesses to grow and prosper

This Portfolio was instrumental in the response to mitigate, as far as possible, the economic impacts of the pandemic. Instead of delivering many of their normal functions the services within the Economic Development Portfolio were focussed on supporting the local economy with over **£6 million** in discretionary funding allocated to local businesses. **60%** of businesses were supported under the additional restrictions' grants provided to limited companies, new enterprises, and trades people with most applications being assessed and paid within one week.

Additionally, **£120,000** was secured from the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, including the rural resilience fund, in direct response to Covid-19, and the rural growth fund to support wider business investment.

The pop-up Business School initiative supported over **40** local individuals through week long online courses focused on starting their own enterprise.

Throughout 2020 engagement with businesses significantly improved and the Council are now are in weekly contact with **60%** of the businesses in the district. The Economic Development team have also compiled a comprehensive employer database, listing detailed information on local businesses to enable relevant timely contact.

The town and parish councils were supported through the Reopening High Streets Safely initiatives, to give people the confidence to return to the High Street safely. Work has now commenced on the Welcome Back fund.

The Local Economy Task & Finish Group met with business leaders, key employers, small businesses, arts organisations and further education providers to better understand the ongoing impact to

the hospitality and tourism sector, as well as other key sectors and employers. These meetings were crucial to supporting recovery efforts as we move forward.

Improving broadband connectivity remains a priority and is arguably more important than ever as working from home has become the norm. The Economic Development team have worked in partnership with the Hampshire Superfast Broadband Team to promote community broadband funding programmes, and this is supported further through the local plan, with all new homes having a high-speed fibre connection.

In the wake of Covid-19 there has been an increased focus on initiatives to promote training and skills opportunities. The Portfolio has worked closely with Solent Apprenticeship Hub and specific schemes like the Government Kickstart to ensure that take-up in the New Forest District is maximised.

A full review of the Economic Development webpages was undertaken as part of the new NFDC website and the content was fully updated to offer a better experience for residents and businesses.

Performance Summary

Economic Development *

Staffing ●
Budget ●
Service delivery impact ●

*Significant Covid-19 impact

Key Performance Indicators

KPIs	Unit	Desired DOT	Target	2019/20	2020/21	Actual DOT
Increase in apprenticeships within the district	Num	↑	-	-29%	-19%	↓
Increase in Businesses engaged in economic development programme	Num	↑	-	N/A	2232	-
Increase in subscribers to 'Helping local businesses grow' e-news	Num	↑	-	N/A	3780	-

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FINANCIAL MONITORING 2020/21

GENERAL FUND OUTTURN 2020/21

GENERAL FUND OUTTURN 2020/21	Feb 20	Sept 20	December 20	April 21	Previously	Outturn 2020/21			
	2020/21 £'000's Original Budget	2020/21 £'000's Emergency Budget	2020/21 £'000's Updated Budget	2020/21 £'000's Updated Budget	Reported Item Split across Portfolio's	2020/21 £'000's New Variations Expend.	2020/21 £'000's New Variations Income	2020/21 £'000's New Variations Rephasings	2020/21 £'000's Outturn Position
PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS									
Community Affairs	1,497	1,612	1,612	1,418	-20	-59	37	-5	1,371
Contain Outbreak Management Grant						77	-180		-103
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Grant						11	-181		-170
COVID Compliance/Enforcement						71	-71		0
COVID Test Centre						54			54
Emergency Assistance/Community Response Grant				75		102	-139		38
Economic Development	-11	-85	-85	-130	28	-14	-13	0	-129
Environment and Regulatory Services	9,177	9,535	9,533	9,629	-107	-5	-79	-33	9,405
Environment - Income Support Scheme		0	0	-98	0		98		0
Finance, Corporate Services and Improvement	3,863	3,708	3,379	3,178	350	842	-955	-10	3,405
Finance - New Burdens Funding		-170	-170	-170		12	-366		-524
Finance - Emergency Assistance Grant		-134	-134	-134			134		0
Housing Services	1,847	2,393	2,496	2,375	-49	-72	-40	-84	2,130
Housing Services - Accomodation Support Funding		-100	-438	-438					-438
Leader and Corporate Affairs	68	168	175	175		-8	0	0	167
Leisure and Wellbeing	1,403	6,361	6,239	6,825	-78	-354	132	-32	6,493
Leisure and Wellbeing - Income Support Scheme		-2,220	-2,220	-3,803			3,803		0
Leisure and Wellbeing - Furlough		-1,100	-1,100	-1,059					-1,059
Planning and Infrastructure	1,361	2,316	2,291	1,956	-124	193	-234	-20	1,771
Planning and Infrastructure - Income Support Scheme		-620	-620	-585	0		585		0
	19,205	21,664	20,958	19,214	0	850	2,531	-184	22,411
Reversal of Depreciation	-1,545	-1,535	-1,535	-1,495	-40	131			-1,404
Contribution (from) / to Earmarked Revenue Reserves	-256	-435	158	864		-379	277	184	946
Contribution to Revenue Reserves	1,250	5	5	1,250					1,250
NET PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS	18,654	19,699	19,586	19,833	-40	602	2,808	0	23,203
Minimum Revenue Provision	1,181	1,204	1,204	1,164	40	-110			1,094
RCCO	375	0	0	0					0
Interest Earnings (Net)	-730	-500	-500	-500		19	-330		-811
New Homes Bonus	-286	-286	-286	-286					-286
GENERAL FUND NET BUDGET REQUIREMENTS	19,194	20,117	20,004	20,211	0	511	2,478	0	23,200

FINANCIAL MONITORING 2020/21

CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2020/21

	Portfolio	Feb 20 2020/21 Original Budget	Apr 20 2020/21 Updated Budget	Outturn 2020/21		
				2020/21 New Variations Expend.	2020/21 New Variations Rephasing	2020/21 Outturn Budget
Disabled Facilities Grants	HSG (GF)	1,200,000	590,000	-45,000		545,000
Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring (15-21)	ENV	1,495,000	1,739,000	19,000	-100,000	1,658,000
Hurst Spit	ENV			15,000		15,000
Barton Drainage Test (19-21)	ENV	50,000				
Public Convenience Modernisation Programme	ENV	300,000		8,000		8,000
Public Convenience Additional Enhancements	ENV/LEADERS	75,000				
Lymington Sea Wall	ENV	400,000				
Emergency Works - Milford Sea Wall			1,825,000			1,825,000
Emergency Works - Milford Sea Wall S151 Contingency			300,000	-216,000	-15,000	69,000
Westover Seawal Scheme Appraisal and Development					10,000	10,000
New Depot Site	F,CS&I	3,000,000	170,000		-10,000	160,000
V&P; Replacement Programme	F,CS&I	1,682,000	242,000		-36,000	206,000
Smarter Working; Future Delivery	F,CS&I	500,000	250,000	-255,000		-5,000
Commercial Property Acquisitions	F,CS&I		3,400,000	33,000		3,433,000
Residential Property Acquisitions	F,CS&I		1,850,000	-2,000		1,848,000
Open Space Schemes	P&I	292,000	56,000	47,000	67,000	170,000
Transport Schemes	P&I	265,000	172,000			172,000
Mitigation Schemes	P&I	635,000	144,000		-33,000	111,000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME		9,894,000	10,738,000	-396,000	-117,000	10,225,000
HRA - Major Repairs	HRA	5,600,000	5,600,000	-15,000		5,585,000
Estate Improvements	HRA	200,000	200,000	-69,000		131,000
Council Dwellings - Strategy Delivery	HRA	9,000,000	10,000,000	376,000		10,376,000
Disabled Facilities Grants	HRA	1,000,000	700,000	-58,000		642,000
TOTAL HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME		15,800,000	16,500,000	234,000		16,734,000
GRAND TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME		25,694,000	27,238,000	-162,000	-117,000	26,959,000

FINANCIAL MONITORING 2020/21				
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT OUTTURN 2020/21	Feb 20	Apr 20	Outturn 2020/21	
	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Original Budget	Updated Budget	New Variations	Outturn Position
INCOME				
Dwelling Rents	-26,354	-26,354	-5	-26,359
Non Dwelling Rents	-786	-724		-724
Charges for Services & Facilities	-660	-660	-1	-661
Contributions towards Expenditure	-64	-64	-69	-133
Interest Receivable	-78	-18		-18
Sales Administration Recharge	-32	-32	14	-18
Shared Amenities Contribution	-225	-225	7	-218
TOTAL INCOME	-28,199	-28,077	-54	-28,131
EXPENDITURE				
Repairs & Maintenance				
Cyclical Maintenance	1,337	1,257	65	1,322
Reactive Maintenance	3,356	3,610	102	3,712
Supervision & Management				
General Management	5,095	4,885	64	4,949
Special Services	1,222	1,222	-54	1,168
Homeless Assistance	64	64	3	67
Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges	54	54	36	90
Provision for Bad Debt	150	150	-42	108
Capital Financing Costs - Settlement Adjustment	8,376	8,376	-15	8,361
MRP	72	72	-31	41
Capital Financing Costs - New Borrowing				
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	19,726	19,690	128	19,818
HRA OPERATING SURPLUS(-)	-8,473	-8,387	74	-8,313
Contribution to Capital - supporting Housing Strategy	8,473	8,473	0	8,473
Contribution to/from(-) Earmarked Reserves			-72	-72
Transfer to Acquisitions/Development reserve	0	86	2	88

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ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17 JUNE 2021

PORTFOLIO – ENVIRONMENT & COASTAL SERVICES

WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE - DEFRA WASTE CONSULTATIONS

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Panel note the programme of Defra waste consultations.
- 1.2 That the Panel comment upon the key elements of the “Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England” consultation response, which is due for submission by 4th July 2021.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In response to national and regional changes in waste management strategy and approach, as well as a desire to ensure that local goals are met, the Council is developing a new Waste Strategy.
- 2.2 A Draft Waste Strategy was published in November 2020, with a period of engagement with residents and other stakeholders following on. Since then, the Government has released four new waste consultations.
- 2.3 This report provides an update on the key issues affecting development of a new Waste Strategy for the New Forest.

3. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Government's National Waste Strategy (NWS), "Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England" was published in December 2018. It contained new objectives for dealing with the nation's waste and suggested how these objectives can be achieved. In the future, the waste streams that the Council collects and the way they are collected will be heavily influenced by the NWS.
- 2.2 The key measures within the NWS were subject to consultation, and the council responded to the four consultations between February and May 2019. The results of the consultation indicated strong support for many of the objectives suggested in the NWS and this informed the content of the draft Environment Bill 2020.
- 2.3 Shortly after this original consultation period, NFDC convened a Member Working Group to consider the national, regional, and local factors that were likely to shape the development of a new Waste Strategy for the New Forest. This group has carried out research, reviewed case studies and worked with partners to assess options for the future frontline service.
- 2.4 The Council released a Draft Waste Strategy in November 2020. There followed a period of engagement, where residents and other stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on how some of the changes in the Council's “preferred option” would affect them. The “preferred option” consists of:
 - A weekly separate collection of food waste
 - Dry recycling collected in a reusable bag (paper and card) and a wheeled bin (glass, plastic, metal), both of which are collected on the alternate week to general waste

- General waste collected in a wheeled bin on the alternate week to dry recycling
 - Collection of garden waste every two weeks in a reusable bag or wheeled bin
- 2.5 Under the sponsorship of the Hampshire and IOW Local Authorities (HLOWLA) group, all Council partners in Hampshire have been considering:
- The future of collections, recycling, and disposal infrastructure in the County; and
 - How the District Councils (as Waste Collection Authorities) will work with the County Council (as Waste Disposal Authority) in the future, in an operational and financial sense.
- 2.6 Central Government are now consulting again, on the following initiatives:
- Deposit Return Schemes
 - Extended Producer Responsibility
 - Waste Prevention
 - Consistency in collections
- 2.7 To take these and other issues forward, a new “Sustainable Waste Management Member Task and Finish Group” has been set up.

3. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

3.1 Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland

3.1.1 A DRS applies a surcharge to a drinks container (glass, metal, plastic) when it is purchased by a consumer. The surcharge is returned to the consumer if the packaging is then returned to a designated point for recycling. The aim of a DRS is to reduce littering, boost recycling levels for relevant material, and to collect high quality materials in greater quantities.

3.1.2 The Government sought views on two options for how the DRS could work if introduced. The first option, known as the ‘all-in’ model, would target a large amount of drinks beverages placed on the market, irrespective of size. The second option, known as the ‘on-the-go’ model, would restrict the drinks containers in-scope to those less than 750ml in size and sold in single format containers. This model would target drinks most often sold for consumption outside of the home (while ‘on-the-go’).

3.1.3 NFDC Officers have worked with the Member Task and Finish Group and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coastal Services to draft and submit a response to this consultation. A summary of the key elements of NFDC’s response is as follows:

- NFDC believe that a DRS has an important role in reducing litter, and lack of on-street recycling, and therefore supports the option to introduce ‘on-the-go’ model of a DRS.
- However, the Government should consider whether there is a case to delay DRS until the key elements of EPR and Consistency in Collections have been implemented, to better inform design and implementation of a DRS, if the aforementioned measures do not deliver the required performance improvements by themselves.
- NFDC note that a DRS scheme will significantly impact the infrastructure required to collect, transfer, sort, and dispose/reprocess materials. With less high-quality material flowing through this system, the Government should consider this further and allow time for Local Authorities to adapt.
- Covid-19 has greatly impacted consumer shopping habits with many now shopping online for groceries. For those that live in rural communities or have

mobility issues, returning containers to redeem the deposits may be more difficult.

- NFDC note that an 'all-in' DRS has the potential to create a complicated, more difficult to manage dual recycling system for householders. Householders would have to separate recyclable material which is "in-scope" for DRS, from recyclable material which is not in-scope, but which could be recycled at the kerbside.
- NFDC believe that if material in-scope of a DRS is collected by the Council at the kerbside, payments for unredeemed deposits should be paid to local authorities based on data from a sampling programme.

3.2 *Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging*

3.2.1 EPR is a way of passing the cost of dealing with packaging waste back to the producers. This encourages producers to reduce the amount of packaging they put on the market and to improve recyclability of packaging. Payments from packaging producers will be passed to the EPR scheme administrator. LAs will receive payments from the EPR administrator to help cover the costs of collecting and disposing of packaging. However, funding levels for LAs are likely to be closely linked to the efficiency and effectiveness of their services, and therefore there will also be a requirement for local authorities to ensure their waste and recycling service design encourages maximum material recovery and waste minimisation.

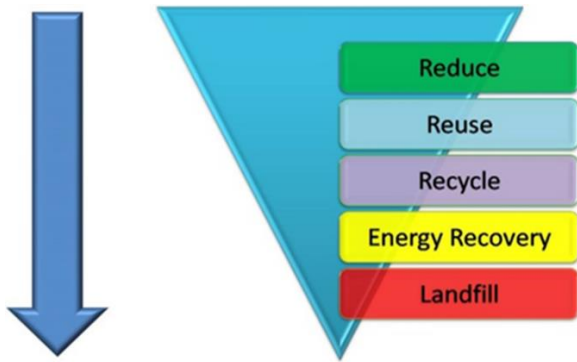
3.2.2 The Government are seeking views on how the scheme will function to ensure it achieves the desired outcomes, and to help inform final policy decisions on key aspects of the scheme, such as governance, recycling targets and implementation timelines.

3.2.3 NFDC Officers have worked with the Member Task and Finish Group and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coastal Services to draft and submit a response to this consultation. A summary of the key elements of NFDC's response is as follows:

- Agreement with Government's definition of the "necessary costs" for LAs when dealing with packaging waste – encompassing collection, transport, sorting, treatment/disposal and education and communications.
- NFDC agrees that payments to local authorities should be based on good practice, and "efficient and effective" system costs. However, more information is needed so that Local Authorities can understand how payments will be calculated and allocated. In addition, the payment calculation methodology must be able to reflect local circumstances, for example where collection costs increase due to rurality and distance between properties.
- The cost of dealing with litter, including prevention activity, provision of litter bins and clearance from the ground, should be included in EPR. Payments should be established through compositional analysis of littered waste, and costs allocated proportionally based on prevalence in the waste stream.

3.3 *Consultation on the Waste Prevention Programme for England: Towards a Resource-Efficient Economy*

3.3.1 Growing populations and greater demand for products globally are putting increasing pressure on our natural resources and contributing to climate change. Waste prevention is often the most efficient way of addressing these pressures, as it reduces unnecessary production and processing, and therefore costs, as well as carbon emissions associated with those steps. For this reason, it is at the top of the waste hierarchy shown below.



3.3.2 The Waste Prevention Programme for England was published in December 2013. This updated 2021 document focuses on preventing waste by reuse, repair and remanufacture of products.

3.3.3 NFDC Officers have worked with the Member Task and Finish Group and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coastal Services to draft and submit a response to this consultation. Our response is closely aligned to that of Project Integra, Hampshire's waste partnership. A summary of the key elements of NFDC's response is as follows:

- Reduction or prevention is not as prevalent in Government's plans as reuse and repair, despite being higher in the waste hierarchy.
- More should be done to ensure that products that carry good eco credentials are not only accessible but also affordable.
- NFDC agree that more should be done to improve the design of products to prevent waste, but also note that there is a need to expand and increase financial resources, to allow for more education and behaviour change projects
- NFDC note that local authorities could do more to encourage reuse and repair with more resource from Government.
- Extended Producer Responsibility for additional materials such as textiles and furniture would be welcomed. The resultant funding could be used within local authorities and the charity sector to improve the collection process for these types of materials.

3.4 *Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England*

3.4.1 Creating more consistency in how waste and recycling is dealt with across English local authorities and businesses is a key aim within the National Waste Strategy.

3.4.2 The Government have made proposals for, among other things:

- What materials should be collected for recycling
- How they should be collected
- How often they should be collected
- How charges should or shouldn't be applied

3.4.3 NFDC Officers have discussed this consultation with the Member Task and Finish Group and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coastal Services. The response is to be submitted by 4th July 2021. A summary of the key considerations is as follows:

Area	Govt. Proposal	NFDC comment
Collection of dry recyclables	<p>That the following should be collected for recycling from the kerbside (by March 2024 at the latest, except for plastic film which is 2027):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass bottles and jars • Paper and Card • Steel and aluminium cans and aerosols • Foil and aluminium tubes* • Plastic bottles • Plastic pots, tubs, and trays* • Plastic films* • Food and drinks cartons* <p>*denotes materials not currently collected at kerbside by NFDC</p>	<p>From a collection perspective, the collection of these materials would be relatively straightforward as part of the “preferred option” detailed earlier in this report. The additional materials listed are those which residents want to be able to recycle.</p> <p>However, NFDC does need to consider the implications on the sorting of these materials, and will liaise with PI partners on this part of our response. Timescales for implementation may need to be flexible to take account of changes in contracts and infrastructure.</p>
Collection of dry recyclables	<p>That the recycling listed above should largely be collected as separate streams, with the mixing of different materials minimised. This is to maintain the quality of materials collected. There may be some exceptions to this, with the mixing of glass with metal and/or plastic with metal permitted. Authorities wishing to mix together other materials may be required to demonstrate their rationale for doing so in order to be compliant.</p>	<p>Overall, it is felt that the Council should support the proposal regarding plastic/metal and glass/metal, whilst also proposing that glass/metal/plastic is added as a further exemption, because it is felt that mixing glass/metal/plastic (see the “preferred option”) can deliver the same benefits as collecting them separately.</p>
Collection of food waste	<p>Food waste should be collected weekly, and separately from other materials, so that it can be recycled, by 2024-25. This would be classed by Government as a “new burden”, and it is proposed that capital, transitional and ongoing operational costs would be funded by Government.</p>	<p>Overall, it is felt that the Council should support this proposal but take the opportunity to highlight some of the challenges and suggest flexibility in the target dates. In addition, the Council should suggest that further clarity is needed on the extent and longevity of new burdens funding. Separate food waste collection is included within the “preferred option”.</p>
Collection of garden waste	<p>That local authorities should be required to introduce a free minimum standard garden waste collection (240 litre containers, fortnightly collection frequency and throughout the growing season). This would be fully funded by Government and would cover both reduced income and increased operational costs.</p>	<p>Overall, it is felt that the Council should oppose the proposal, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It doesn’t encourage home composting of garden waste • It would lead to increased vehicle movements • Overall increased burden on all taxpayers, not just those with gardens • Questionable benefit when garden waste only makes up 3.6% of Hampshire’s residual waste stream

4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

4.1 In November and December 2020, NFDC undertook an engagement exercise, whereby residents and other stakeholders were asked to comment upon how the preferred option would affect them. There were responses from the following:

- 3,863 residents survey responses
- 125 resident letters and emails
- 20 Parish and Town Councils

- Other organisations – e.g. HCC and the Verderers
- Waste and transport service staff

4.2 The resident engagement gave the following headline results:

- 74% thought food waste collection was a good idea
- 65% thought that it was a good thing that recycling is improving
- 50% expressed support for wheeled bins
- 27% expressed support for alternate week collections, an additional 44% were supportive but noted concerns about storage, of which 26% would need a bin/container if frequency reduced
- 59% of garden waste customers would prefer a bag to a bin
- 62% thought that removing bring sites was a good idea

4.3 Of additional comments received, top comment themes were:

- Aesthetic impact of wheeled bins and the impact on streetscene
- Size and storage of containers
- Support for proposals

4.4 The results of the engagement exercise will be a key consideration for the Member Task and Finish group when proposing a final Waste Strategy.

5. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

5.1 Under the sponsorship of the Hampshire and IOW Local Authorities (HLOWLA) group, all Councils in the Project Integra (PI) partnership (including NFDC) have been working together to consider the future of collections, recycling, and disposal infrastructure in the County. This is in the context of the National developments described earlier in this report, and desires within all partners to increase recycling and reduce overall waste generation.

5.2 Hampshire authorities commissioned a waste industry consultant to carry out modelling of different waste and recycling collection systems. The modelling indicated that a collection system that aligns with NFDC's preferred option would deliver the best economic and environmental results, if it were to be implemented.

5.3 Hampshire County Council (HCC) are now working with their long term waste disposal contractor, Veolia, on the impacts of changes to collections on current and future infrastructure, including a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) which would be capable of sorting the expanded range of dry recyclables described earlier. These changes will have both operational and financial implications on all PI partners. To facilitate the transition, two of the key PI documents – the “Memorandum of Understanding” and “Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy” - are being revised. It is hope that these revised documents can be adopted by all partners in the autumn of 2021.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The four Defra consultations will have significant impact on the Council's waste service, and as such the Council has or will be submitting responses to all of them.

6.2 The Council will work with Hampshire partners to understand the implications on waste infrastructure and cost.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct implications resulting from submission of consultation responses. However, in future there will be changes in expenditure and income resulting from necessary service changes, and these will be further detailed in a final waste strategy.

8. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are none.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct implications resulting from submission of consultation responses. The Council's final waste strategy will be aiming to increase recycling levels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

10. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no direct implications resulting from submission of consultation responses. However, the Council's final waste strategy will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

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NFDC's Draft Waste Strategy can be found here:
<https://democracy.newforest.gov.uk/documents/s16332/Draft%20Waste%20Strategy%20-%20Appendix%201.pdf>

The Government's consultation pages for EPR and DRS, which include full supporting information, can be found via these links:

DRS:
<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environment/consultation-on-introducing-a-drs/>

EPR:
<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environment/consultation-on-introducing-a-drs/>

Waste Prevention:
<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/waste-prevention-programme-for-england-2021/>

Consistency:
<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/consistency-in-household-and-business-recycling/>

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUNTINY PANEL – 17 JUNE 2021

PORTFOLIO: PLANNING, REGENERATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. That the Panel supports and agrees the scope Green Infrastructure Strategy work outlined in this report.
- ii. Agrees that an all Member workshop be held.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Green infrastructure is a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation.
- 2.2 Elements of green infrastructure include formal and informal public open spaces, play areas, country parks, cemeteries and churchyards, assessable natural green spaces, woodlands, hedgerows, trees (including street trees and verges), landscape features, allotments, beaches, ponds, rivers and watercourses, wetlands and marshes and public rights of way. While usually referred to as 'green' infrastructure, some important elements are 'blue' water-based assets.
- 2.3 Green Infrastructure is both part of our countryside and part of our towns and villages. It is the 'green lungs' of the places we live in. It provides important space for wildlife habitats and enhances the health and well-being of local communities.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management adopted by the Council in 2014 recognised the growing significance of green infrastructure in planning for the district and the need to 'plan' for green infrastructure as well as plan for development recognising that development itself is not the only delivery route. It recognised the important role that green infrastructure plays in creating well designed healthy communities, building low carbon communities and supporting nature recovery by delivering new or improving existing green infrastructure. (Policy DM9 Green Infrastructure Linkages)
- 3.2 Since that Plan was adopted the importance of green infrastructure for delivering a wider environmental agenda has grown. This became clear during work on the Local Plan Review and, at a national level, with the Government's emerging environmental policies, seeking biodiversity net gain, nature recovery, tackling climate change by reducing carbon dependency and spending up targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions. It is now widely recognised that green infrastructure has an important role to play, not just as nice places to be and enjoy, but to address issues such as climate change, carbon capture, air quality, water quality, habitat creation and biodiversity enhancement Further, the presence (and absence) of green infrastructure can have a significant impact on the health (physical and mental) and well-being of communities.

- 3.3 The report to Cabinet on 5th May 2021 on The Local Plan Review Part Two and supporting work (<http://go-moderngov01:9070/documents/s17781/The%20Local%20Plan%20Review%20Part%20Two%20and%20Supporting%20Work.pdf>) identified (in Section 5 of the Report) Green infrastructure as a priority work area for Local Plan Part 2. The Local Plan work will include appropriate policies to ensure longer-term sustainability and resilience to climate change in new development. Section 6 of the report identified a need for a wider piece of work, the preparation of a district-wide Green Infrastructure Strategy, reflecting the role of the Council, not just as a local planning authority, but as an owner and manager of green infrastructure across the district.

4. WHY WE NEED A GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY AND WHAT IT WILL COVER

- 4.1 Sustainable development cannot be achieved without recognising the fundamental role played by green infrastructure. Green infrastructure can be vulnerable to pressures from development, and yet it is also essential to support new development and has potential to deliver on important environmental issues such as:

- Biodiversity net gain and nature recovery
- Carbon capture and storage
- Mitigation of the impacts of development and climate change – cooling, air quality, flooding, sea level rise

It is important that in recognising the value of enhancing existing and providing further green infrastructure it is not simply linked and triggered by development. Whilst this Strategy will be used to inform Local Plan Part 2 it will also be used to inform future projects that are not directly linked to development.

- 4.2 The value of Green Infrastructure is significantly enhanced if it is joined up to form a network. For example, while isolated pieces of public open space may have some value, the benefits of joining those up with ‘green’ corridors (linear routes with space for trees, hedgerows and grassland) and footpath routes, (including Public Rights of Way) can significantly increase their value for both people and wildlife. This requires a wider ‘strategic’ approach to green infrastructure.
- 4.3 The work will include looking at the Council’s own open spaces and coastline, which include woods, grass areas, streams and ponds, and vary in size from a few square metres to several hectares. It will consider how the Council could help deliver wider environmental gains for our local communities.
- 4.4 The work on the Green Infrastructure Strategy will include:
- An audit and mapping of existing strategic green infrastructure across the district
 - Identification of network of important habitats – designations, SINC’s, ancient woodland, coastal marshes, areas of biodiversity potential
 - Identifying important linkages and green infrastructure corridors – and identifying where and how they need strengthening.
 - Identification of ‘areas of opportunity’ for BNG, mitigation, carbon storage and for supporting nature recovery

- Consideration of the potential of NFDC landholdings

4.5 Output will be:

- Overview Strategy setting out objectives
- Strategic Green Infrastructure Framework – map based
- Identifying potential areas for Green Infrastructure improvement and projects.
- Projects including on NFDC land

4.6 This work will need to involve partnership working with organisations outside the Council as well as across Council services.

5. THE NEXT STEPS

5.1 This piece of work is multi-dimensional. It brings together consideration of many environmental issues and the potential to deliver cross-cutting measures benefiting the environment and our communities.

5.2 It will be valuable for all Members to have the opportunity to input to this area of work from an early stage. It is suggested that a Member Workshop be held as soon as it can be arranged, to enable Members to discuss these issues and put forward their thoughts and ideas.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 This is an important piece of work that will make a significant contribution to the delivery of the 'green agenda' and 'green growth' in the whole of New Forest District.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 No direct immediate implications.

8. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There will be significant potential for environmental benefits to be achieved through this work.

10. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None

11. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None

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Background Papers:

None

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUNTINY PANEL - 17 JUNE 2021

PORTFOLIO: PLANNING, REGENERATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

DESIGN GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR PLAY SPACE

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel reviews the Draft Design Guidance for Outdoor Play Spaces and provides any comments before finalising the draft document for further internal and a public consultation. If, however the Panel consider that there is merit in the document being considered through a Task and Finish Group the Panel are asked to advise.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 New Forest District Council, as local planning authority, delivers high quality, well designed children's and young people's play space as part of the delivery of the strategic housing sites across the district for the benefit of existing and future residents, and communities. Doorstep play provision is also delivered in smaller scale residential development schemes.
- 2.2 It is important that these spaces are fit for purpose, well designed and implemented to a high quality, with durable, well-constructed features and assets that are maintainable.
- 2.3 This report introduces a new Planning Guidance document to support the requirement for high quality, integrated design for children's and young people's play spaces as part of the delivery of the strategic housing sites across the district.
- 2.4 It can also inform the refurbishment/replacement of existing play spaces and is aimed at a variety of users; planners, designers and the public, setting out how high quality outdoor play provision can be delivered, maintained and managed into the future, reflecting current knowledge and best practice.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Design Guidance for Outdoor Play Space' is part of a suite of new planning documents that seeks to ensure the delivery of high quality new residential development across the district, supporting the Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy policies.
- 3.2 In particular, it explains the Local Plan saved planning policy CS7 in relation to play provision, typologies for play spaces, based on the benchmark standard and made relevant for our District, and describes principles of designing for play using current knowledge and best practice.
- 3.3 The document also covers more specific information such as describing how equipped play spaces can be defined for management purposes, whilst also enabling children's contact with nature as a critical part of learning through play. There is reference to materials and standard construction methods that links to the 'Guide to Performance Specifications and Standard Details for Public Accessible Spaces'. It also provides

information for developers about how play space proposals will be evaluated and option for future management and maintenance.

4. WHY DO WE NEED THIS GUIDANCE?

- 4.1 The delivery of high quality outdoor play provision that is designed to be managed as safe community assets in the future is integral to delivering quality places for future residents of the Strategic Sites. This guidance sets out our expectations and will guide developers and designers of these developments.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 This guidance document has an important role to play in ensuring that well designed, quality outdoor play space is provided in all new residential developments across the district.
- 5.2 Comments from the Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel will inform advice to the Portfolio Holder. Officers will consider the need for any revisions following comments of the Panel and through a further internal and external consultation process before seeking a Portfolio Holder decision on the document.

6. FINANCIAL, CIME AND DISORDER AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are none.

7. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The document discusses accessibility and inclusion as an important factor when designing for play, reversing the idea that play provisions fits into 'ages', but should be aimed at 'ability' ranges, enabling children of all abilities to play together, providing graded challenge and peer learning.

8. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None. All photographs have consent to be used in this document.

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Background Papers:

Appendix 1- DRAFT Design Guidance for Outdoor Play Space



Design Guidance for Outdoor Play Space

New Forest District outside the New Forest National Park

.....'Play and recreation facilitate children's capacities to negotiate, regain emotional balance, resolve conflicts, and make decisions. Through their involvement in play and recreation, children learn by doing, explore and experience the world around them, experiment with new ideas, roles, and experiences, and in so doing, learn to understand and construct their social position within the world'.....

Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Foreword

This document provides planning guidance on the provision of outdoor play as part of new residential development across the New Forest District (outside of the New Forest National Park).

It sets out the Council's approach to the provision of outdoor play for children and young people through play spaces and playable landscapes:

- As part of an Integrated masterplanning approach to new residential development,
- As part of well-designed informal public open space and Alternative Natural Recreational Greenspace,
- As part of their home environment.

It describes how high-quality design for play can be delivered, maintained and managed into the future, reflecting current knowledge and best practice.

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NFDC Standards for Play Provision

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References and Further Reading

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Play England Charter for Children Play

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Fields in Trust Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard, 2015

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Play Types

Appendix D

Extract from the Design guidance for the provision of integrated greenspace on large scale sites, including Alternative Natural Recreational Greenspace (ANRG)

Appendix E

Play Space Assessment Tool

images kindly supplied by:

Jupiter Play

New Forest National Park Authority

NFDC Environmental Design Team

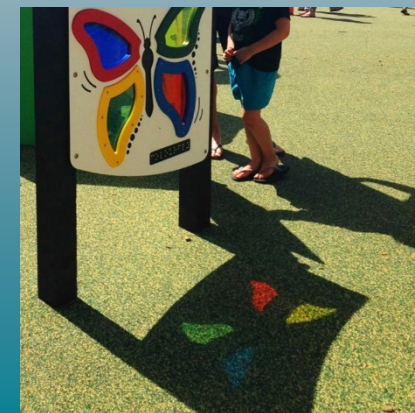
Purpose of the Design Guide

The purpose of this document is to assist developers and designers in providing play spaces and play opportunities as part of an integrated masterplanning approach to new residential development.

This document describes the types of play spaces, and the quality of design that New Forest District Council (NFDC) requires as part of the planning process, and to inform the enhancement and refurbishment of existing provision.

The guidance sets out:

- How to provide a hierarchy of identifiable play spaces within development – how much and what type of space
- How to integrate play design into wider, enjoyable landscapes
- What materials and construction methods are acceptable to provide robust and manageable play space
- The requirements and process for bringing into use by the community



1 Introduction

What is play?

Leisure pursuits and play, whether undertaken by adults or children, share the common characteristics of being undertaken voluntarily, requiring no necessary outcome. These activities are intrinsically worthwhile, and in creating space and opportunities for children's play, adults affirm the value of children in our society. Play is adaptive, restorative, intergenerational, and is fundamental to promoting health and wellbeing.

Play takes many forms and happens in a variety of settings, both formally and informally. For this design guide we focus on designated outdoor play spaces as part of public open space: creating playful landscapes.

Why is play important?

NFDC recognises the value of high quality, well designed outdoor play spaces and are

committed to delivering a range of play opportunities to enable children and young people to learn through play, develop essential life skills and an understanding of their culture and local environment, as an important element on the path to adulthood.

How will we achieve our aim?

Our aim is underpinned by the principles set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, NFDC's Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Guidance, Play England's best practice guidance publications and the Charter for Children's Play¹. It is guided by the benchmark standards of the Fields in Trust (FiT) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard, 2015, and NFDC's Corporate Plan. Our aim aspires to meet the following objectives:

- To meet the spatial quantity requirements for children and young people set out in planning policy, as a minimum

In the New Forest District, the aim is to provide high quality, design led play provision as part of the home environment.

Play provision in New Forest District's public spaces will be an integral part of new residential layouts, with a view to encouraging a rich diversity of play opportunities.

¹ Appendix A

- To embed the concept of design led, high quality provision as part of playable landscapes
- To deliver a range of provision that provides sufficient challenge and adventure-acknowledging the benefits of challenging play experiences using appropriate risk management tools
- To deliver safe, manageable play spaces that are located in the right places
- To contribute to high quality, distinctive places to live, that are sustainable
- To support the development and well-being and to enrich the lives of children and young people in our District.



2 Principles of Designing for Play

Creating Successful Play Spaces

In the next chapters we set out the expectation of the quantity and type of play spaces that the Council want to deliver, and set out the requirement to embed play spaces as part of the landscape, that stimulates playful behaviour in the wider environment.

Natural Play

The term Natural Play was developed to promote children's access to the natural environment as part of a playscape: enabling children to manage their own risk taking and providing the loose part of play that gives endless variety and can be manipulated in different ways.

By ensuring that play spaces are located well, and integrated with planting, natural features

We know that the more complex the play environment the greater the quality of learning through play, and recognise that play takes many forms

and materials; the benefits to children become greater than the sum of the parts.

Design for play should be site specific and use the landscape as its starting point to integrate play opportunities within an informal recreational setting



Where children play

Successful locations for play are where children want to play, where they feel safe and can play freely without being stopped or criticised by adults. Play activities are often undertaken in spaces which are not designated specifically for play purposes.

When reviewing development proposals, due regard will be given to the design of all recreational green space as areas where children will undertake 'play' activities.

However this guidance focuses in particular on the provision of spaces specifically designed to meet Local Plan requirements set out in Policy CS7 of 0.2 hectares per 1000 population of designed play spaces for children and young people.

The following matters need to be considered and addressed in the design of play space.

Getting there easily

Younger children in particular need places very near their home where they can play freely, within an easy walk.

Being able to walk or cycle to a local play space is important in developing

independence as children get older. Locating play spaces on familiar routes, such as walking routes to school, also helps accessibility for children gaining independence.

Accessible and Inclusive to all

There is a wealth of guidance on designing inclusive and accessible facilities for disabled people which should be used to ensure that play spaces are accessible and attractive, including disabled parents and carers.

All children of all abilities should be able to access their local play space in the same way. This is especially pertinent when considering the range of play offered in one particular space with a focus on abilities rather than age.

While a play space may be accessible, it also needs to be inclusive.



Informal Oversight or Natural Surveillance

Depending upon age and independence, children want to 'see and be seen' and later, 'be where it's at' to a greater or lesser degree. This should be considered alongside the level of need for natural surveillance to reduce risks of anti-social behaviour. Finding the right balance can be difficult to anticipate in a new residential development, but providing the design of the place is right, informal oversight will promote its use by children allowing ownership to occur naturally.

Ground Conditions

Play spaces should be well drained and free from standing water all year round, unless specifically designed to provide a water-based play activity. Land performing as part of a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) is unlikely to be suitable for a play space. Play equipment should not be sited too close to SUDs

Community Hubs

Locating large, well equipped play spaces near community hubs, such as schools and sports facilities, will bring wider benefits by bringing other people near to the play space,

which makes it feel safer and more social, and will provide a focal point for the community.

Flexibility

Careful design can include elements for both younger and older children, recognising that differing age ranges access play spaces at different times of day, requiring differing levels of supervision and challenge, and creates fully accessible and inclusive play spaces.

Design for flexibility also recognises that the requirements of local communities change over time, therefore capacity to adapt play spaces in the future to meet different needs should also be a siting and design consideration.




Zoning

Sometimes it may be appropriate to link spaces visually and with landscape feature to ensure that siblings and families can enjoy the landscape together. Often creating age appropriate zones within a play environment will offer the best solution.



Play area designed as a series of 'play zones'. Zones are arranged according to age and ability. The zones are distinct areas but also blend into the next zone. This allows children to progress to the next challenge when they are able, encourages socialising with the next age group, whilst still providing play areas that feel safe to use for the younger children and play zones geared towards older age groups.

Key:

-  Pre-school/accessible play
-  Junior play
-  Older children and teenagers

Transitions between play zones are indicated with overlapping symbols.



Example Play Area:

Using active zoning to enable play focused on abilities rather than age that provides a truly inclusive and accessible play space and flexible enough to adapt in the future. Images on the right are the play area in use



Summary:

Use the principles above to create successful play spaces that are site specific and focused on ability rather than age:

- Located in the right place
- Easy to get to
- Accessible and inclusive
- Overseen by others
- Connected
- Flexible

3 Standards for Play Space Provision

Benchmark Standards for Play Provision

Fields in Trust (FiT) guidelines have long been recognised as the appropriate resource in developing benchmarks for considering play typologies, quantities and accessibility for open access play provision, as shown on the table at appendix B.

New Forest District Standards for Play Provision

The Council requires clearly identifiable play spaces in a hierarchy based upon the FiT guidelines. The typologies are described in detail in chapter 4, maintaining the spatial requirements, scale in relationship to size of development, and accessibility standard of the benchmark standard.

Local Plan Policies

New Forest District Council require provision of defined children and young peoples's play

space at a rate of 0.2 ha, or 2000m² per 1000 population, as a minimum.

For the purposes of calculating the population of a new housing development the following occupancy levels will be assumed.²

Dwelling	Assumed population/occupancy
1 bedroom	1.4
2 bedrooms	2.1
3 bedrooms	3
4 bedrooms	3.75

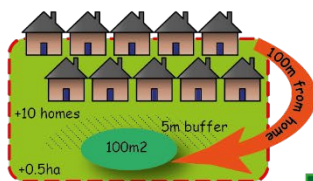
Table 1: Assumed population in new dwellings by bedroom provision.

Residential development sites of over 0.5ha will be expected to provide play space on site though there maybe situations where a contribution is taken.

It is important to note the that changes to the mix of dwellings proposed changes the spatial requirements, as a guide, the infographic below expresses the general scale of

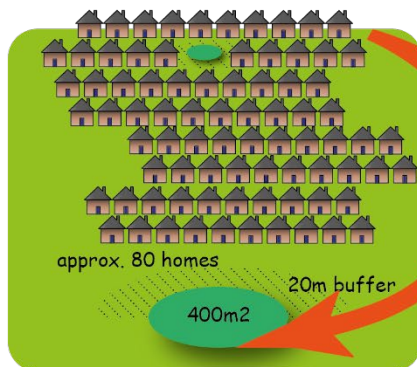
development and resulting play space requirements.

It is essential that the planning of play areas, along with all other green infrastructure requirements, is considered as an integral part of the development from the earliest concept masterplanning stage of a scheme. Taking into account advice in this guidance, local knowledge, current best practice, and National Design Guidance, developers will be expected to set out their approach to play provision and show how it meets policy requirements from an early stage in discussions with the local planning authority.



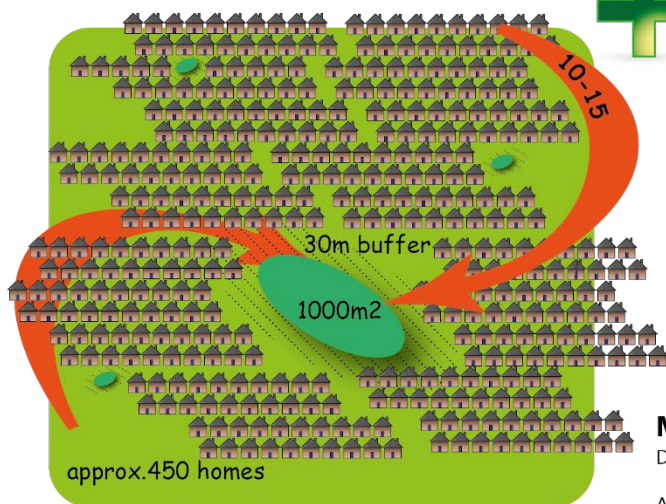
Doorstep Playable Space

- DPS • 100m² play space
- Access • 100m from home
- Pos • 5m buffer to habitable rooms



Play Area

- DPS • 400m² play space
- Access • 400m from home (5 min walk)
- Pos • 20m buffer to habitable rooms



Major Play Area

- DPS • 1000m² play space, including hard surfaced area of approx.450m²
- Access • 10-15 minute walk from home
- Pos • 30m buffer to habitable rooms

Key:

- DPS** Defined play space - the minimum amount needed for play type
- Access** The ideal maximum distance from home, with no barriers to access
- Pos** Position of a defined play space to neighbours living rooms

NFDC Typologies: scale and spatial parameters

4 New Forest District Typologies

Doorstep Playable Space

equivalent to a Local Area for Play (LAP)

Tier 1

Policy Requirement

New residential development on sites over 0.5ha shall normally offer a Doorstep Playable Space as a minimum. The exact provision requirement will depend on the number of dwellings and their sizes, and will be subject to consideration of connectivity, surveillance and character of the landscape.



Where



Doorstep Playable Spaces are likely to be appropriate as small green spaces or parts of wider green spaces where they can be easily reached without crossing roads and cycleways and where overlooked by people's homes to offer natural surveillance – often small greens at intersections between housing blocks.

In providing 'doorstep play' the aim is to ensure that very young children can access a safe space for play within close proximity to the home and have ample opportunity to experience play in a natural environment.

Example Doorstep Play location:

Small development sites

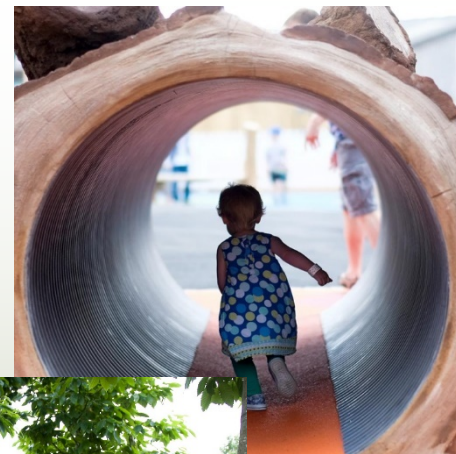
What

Doorstep Playable Spaces enable young children to play safely outdoors, very close to home, and should be an integral part of the external home environment.

These spaces should include a flat area, earth modelling to give some 'humps and bumps' and planting, with static features that allow young children to identify and claim the space as theirs. Seats or opportunities for sitting should be designed into the space.

In more urban locations, these spaces could also be part of the street design: more linear in nature and using components such as level changes and planting to create alternative, playful detours.

The key quality being
'space that invites play'



Play Area

equivalent to a Local Equipped Area for
Play (LEAP)
Tier 2

Policy Requirement

This type of play space will be generated by residential schemes proposing a population increase of 200 people (or approximately 80 units, depending on the mix of housing). The required provision should be fully met on-site as part of the integrated masterplanning approach to the development. For developments at this scale, a Play Area may be required in combination with Doorstep Play Spaces.

For development proposals where the population requirement does not meet the threshold for this Play Area provision, the play area requirement may be met by more or larger Doorstep Play areas.

Design of these spaces will need to complement the natural landscape and its

features to present play opportunities within the space and any features will also need reference in the wider landscape beyond.

Where

Play Areas should be located where children can gain access safely, avoiding barriers such as busy roads. They may be alongside well used familiar walking routes or as part of larger areas of informal recreational greenspaces. They need to have some natural surveillance from neighbouring homes.

What

Using the FiT guidance (appendix B), the size and buffering dimensions provide a base from which to develop a combined equipped and natural play space.

As a minimum, the equipped part of Play Areas should be 400m² with a sufficient range of equipment to offer a variety of locomotive activities, such as swinging, sliding, climbing and rotating, (that are difficult to replicate without fixed equipment), together with its

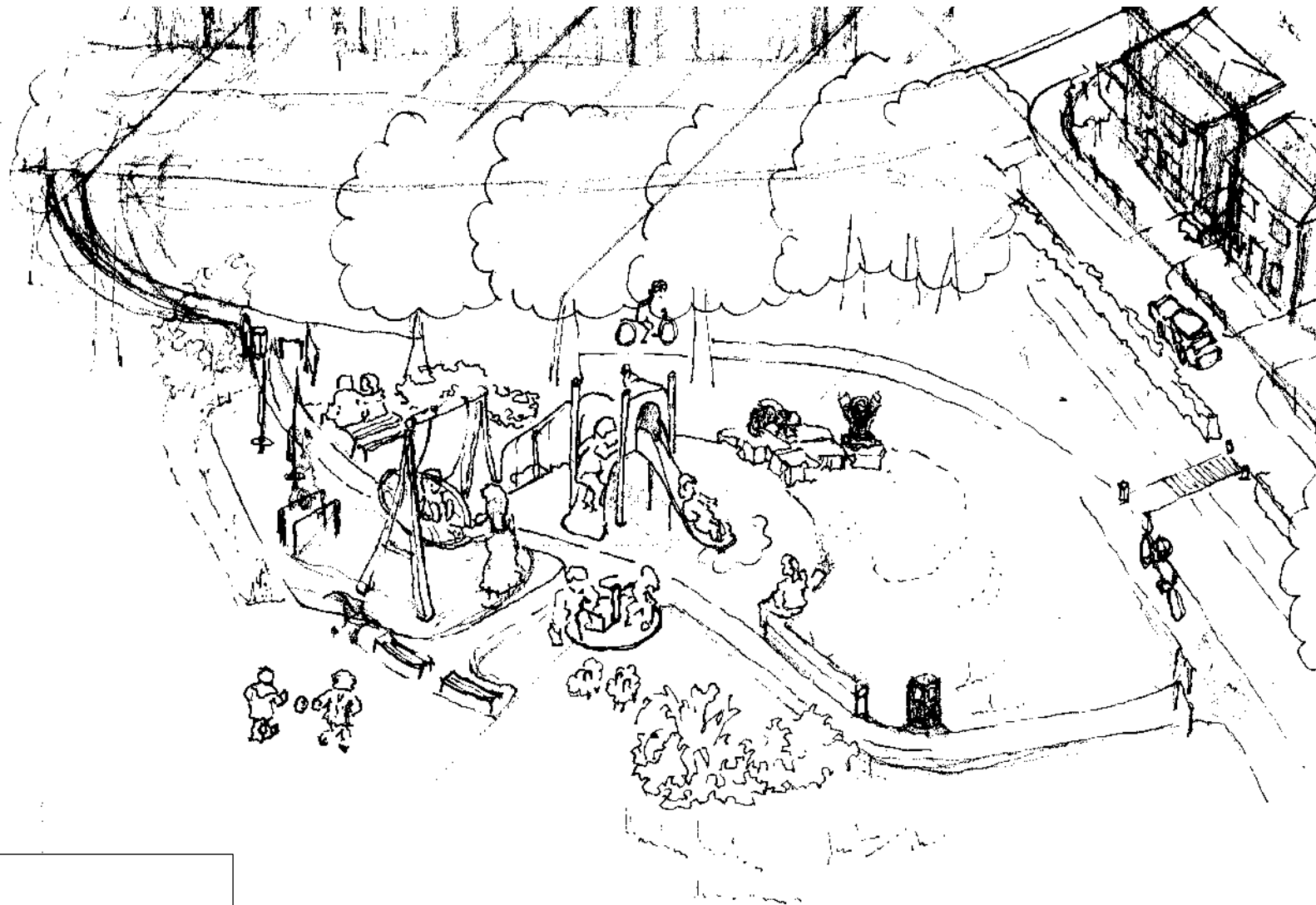
The aim is to provide a well distributed range of Play Areas that meet the needs of accompanied younger children, and children gaining independence through a combination of fixed equipped spaces that actively link to the wider environment.

layout and ancillary features that encourage many types of play³.

Play Areas should provide for a range of children's abilities, offering appropriate, challenge. Careful choice is needed to ensure the play equipment installed provides a range of opportunities for active play. Grouping a range of equipment aimed at a variety of abilities needs careful consideration to minimise conflicts. A zoning approach (see example at chapter 2) works well, in that it minimises conflict between ability ranges, introduces graduated challenge and has the advantage of peer learning and sharing, as well as enabling supervision across abilities.

Ensuring that equipment and landscape features relate to each other is an important way to add value. Linking items with fun routes; creating a theme or circuit and combining equipped activities with the natural materials and form of spaces will ensure optimum play value.





DRAFT
Play Area

Major Play Area

equivalent to a Neighbourhood Play Area

(NEAP)

Tier 3

Policy Requirement

Where a development forms part of a new neighbourhood⁴ (500+ dwellings) provision of a major play area can provide a focus for the new community. A single 'Major Play Area' will not replace the need to provide accessible Doorstep Playable Spaces and Play Areas, but there are occasions where the masterplanning of the new neighbourhood, in combination with the scale of development and location, determines that Major Play Area provision is appropriate.

Design of these places will need to complement the natural landscape and its features to present play opportunities within the play space and such features will also

⁴ The New Forest District Local Plan 2016-2036 has strategic land allocations which will create new Neighbourhoods at North

need reference in the wider landscape beyond.

Where

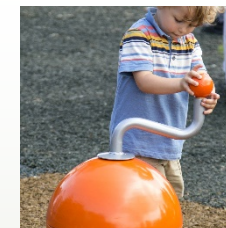
A major play area can provide a focal point for a new planned neighbourhood, particularly when located at the heart of a community alongside other facilities such as formal sports pitches. These areas are designed for older children and young people who are able to travel longer distances independently, to get there safely on their own, as well as catering for the whole range of abilities. Careful consideration should be given to the location and interaction of different facilities, and community involvement and consultation is a key ingredient of successful design and community acceptance.

What

As a minimum, Major Play Areas should be at least 1000m² in area. They should include approximately 500m² (20x25m) which are suitable for ball games or wheeled activities. It should also provide for more challenging

Totton, Marchwood, Fawley Waterside, Ringwood and Fordingbridge.

The aim is to provide a neighbourhood focal point that, as well as offering sufficient challenge for young teenagers, also meets the needs of accompanied younger children and children gaining independence, through a combination of fixed equipped spaces that actively link to the wider environment.



activities attractive to older children such as skateboard ramps, a rebound wall, or climbing structures, with places for meeting and socialising, as well as equipment for all abilities. Seating and cycle parking facilities will also be required.

The form of provision will be expected to provide opportunities for contact with nature through planting, ground modelling and features that link to the wider context to optimise play value.

Elements of a Major Play Area, in accordance with the FiT benchmark standard, also fall into the category of a Multiple Use Games Area, but don't meet the ultimate space needed for a formal open space Multiple Use Games Area. Therefore, where provision for older youths and teens is required, as noted above, they may be provided as an element of on site provision, off-set against the formal open space requirement.

Summary:

New Forest District typologies are based on the FiT benchmark standards, but are re-described to better reflect our local requirements.

5 Defining the 'Play Space'

Equipped play spaces are subject to specific legal requirements regarding safety, and therefore need to be clearly defined on the ground so that a play inspector can easily identify the equipment and features that make up what is designated as the 'play space', as described by the typologies in the previous chapter.

Play Space

This space must meet the required safety standards. The defined area will have undergone a suitable risk/benefit assessment at design and implementation stages.

The defined play space will be clearly shown on statutory signage for play spaces.

Visual boundaries to help identify the play space should be achieved through imaginative use of a variety of features, such as embankments, surfacing, physical markers, planting or fences (where appropriate). Where items such as logs, ditch crossings, banks, boulders, etc are located within a defined play space, they need to meet the requirements of the relevant standards for play.

Landscape Features

-beyond the 'play space'

Landscape features are the elements that extend the play value beyond the 'play space' boundary through the use of such elements as embankments, bridges, boulders or logs, existing features and new planting, drawing playful behaviour into the wider environment. These features are also valuable as sitting, meeting areas or even landmarks and destination points of interest, and also make up the landscape's character.

Where such features are outside the defined space, they will be subject to different safety and maintenance inspections.

Play will not stop at the edge of the play space. It should flow into the wider environment by design.



These examples illustrate how Doorstep Playable Spaces and Play Areas can be designed based on the principle of a clearly defined 'play space' within a wider enjoyable landscape with 'landscape features' that take advantage of existing natural features and therefore offers a rich and inspiring play environment.



Risk Management Approach

Managing risk is an important part of the design of Play Areas. Applying the fundamental principles of risk management outlined in Managing Risk in Play Provision⁵, the Council encourages the designers of play spaces to take a risk/benefit approach to play provision.

This approach weighs up the potential risk involved in using a whole play space or individual item of play equipment against the potential benefits to children's development, enabling children to manage their own risk by providing sufficient and graduated challenges.

Where potential risks are identified these should be addressed in a risk management plan of the site. The Council recognises that ultimately children will make choices where they play and if play spaces do not offer them the level of challenge they desire, they will play elsewhere possibly in less safe places.

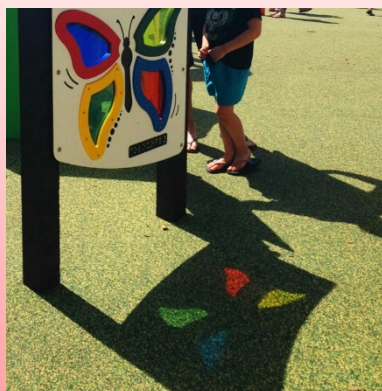
⁵ Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide. Play England 2012

6 Materials and Construction

In this chapter we set out how the common elements of all play spaces should be considered, and when used creatively together, will enhance the overall play value on offer.

By setting out these requirements the Council can be certain that the required quality, safety, robustness and longevity is provided.

A set of common construction details have been published by the Council.



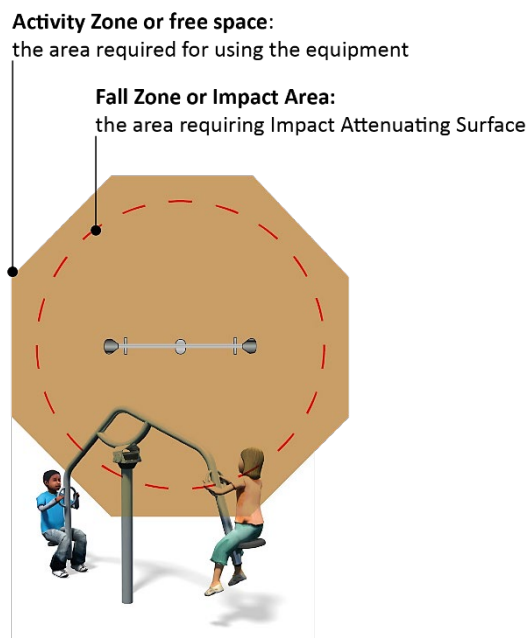
Manufactured Play Equipment

There are many suppliers of play equipment. The Council is not prescriptive about which manufacturer or supplier is used, provided that each piece is certified, its layout conforms to BS EN1177, and is suitable for its environment.

Careful choice is required in order to get equipment that offers a range of play opportunities and has the flexibility to be used by children of different abilities. Also, layout is important to ensure that the play space can be used as intended and avoids some common pitfalls that create unnecessary hazards.

Activity and Fall Zones

Any item that is used for play needs to have due regard to recognised standards of layout that determine fall zones (the space likely to be taken up should a fall occur) and activity zones (the space around a play item that is required for its intended use).



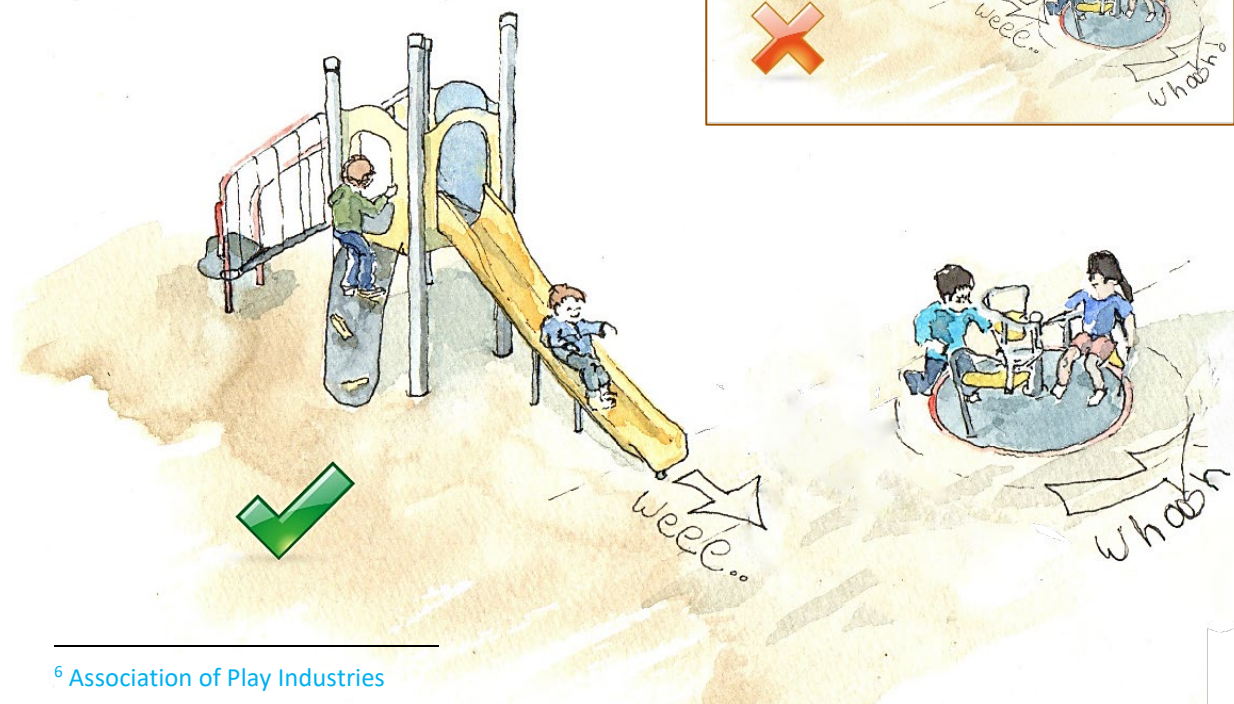
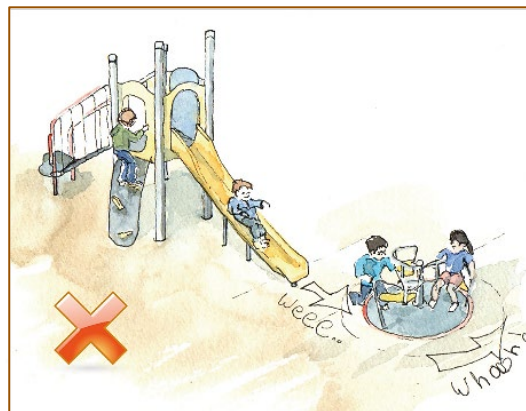
Design Note:

- Land performing as part of a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) is unlikely to be suitable for a play space
- Consider how to accommodate the needs of less able children inclusively and children of different ages
- Consider where you would wait for a turn on a swing or take 'time out'
- Think about how equipment is orientated – slides facing south get very hot.
- Consider the interaction of various movements of each piece of equipment, such as the run-off area at the end of a slide: where children need space to lose the physical momentum of such an experience or use it to propel them to the next activity.

Equipment Relationships

Locate equipment carefully. Unintended consequences can arise if the way equipment is used has not been considered.

The Council expects any proposal for fixed, equipped play spaces to be appropriately laid out, and recommends that an on-plan assessment by an API⁶ registered play inspector is undertaken.



⁶ Association of Play Industries

Basics – Falls, Tripping, Trapping

It sounds obvious, but attention to detail is required to prevent avoidable hazards such as objects placed within fall or activity zones, tripping on poorly installed or worn surface edgings or at the interface of differing surfaces, and trapping of body parts – whether that's fingers in a gate or a head between railings or netting on climbing structures.



Construction Quality Note:

- Timber play equipment should not be installed straight into the ground, unless it is a class 1 resistant timber and can be evidenced by case studies to last more than a decade
- Play spaces should be well drained and free from standing water all year round, unless specifically designed to provide a water-based play activity.

Management Note:

- **Do not mix and match between different suppliers on the same site:** From a management aspect it is more efficient to be able to inspect and maintain play equipment from the same source, as materials and fixings will be common.
- **Ensure bespoke equipment is certified** to BS EN1176, or where this is not available, it is accompanied by a risk assessment where the TuV* certificate or Kitemark forms part of that assessment.
- **Ensure materials and workmanship are guaranteed** – to provide certainty that supplied equipment is fit for purpose and has an appropriate life span.
- **Ensure spare parts are readily available:** most play equipment suppliers offer a kit of spare parts- those items that will need replacing at regular intervals.

**A recognized test mark that validates that product-specific quality has been checked by an independent third party*

Surfacing

Impact Attenuating Surfacing (IAS or safer surfacing) is required under and around play equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, BS EN1176 and BS EN1177. In addition, areas of high wear, such as at access or meeting points, will require reinforcement.

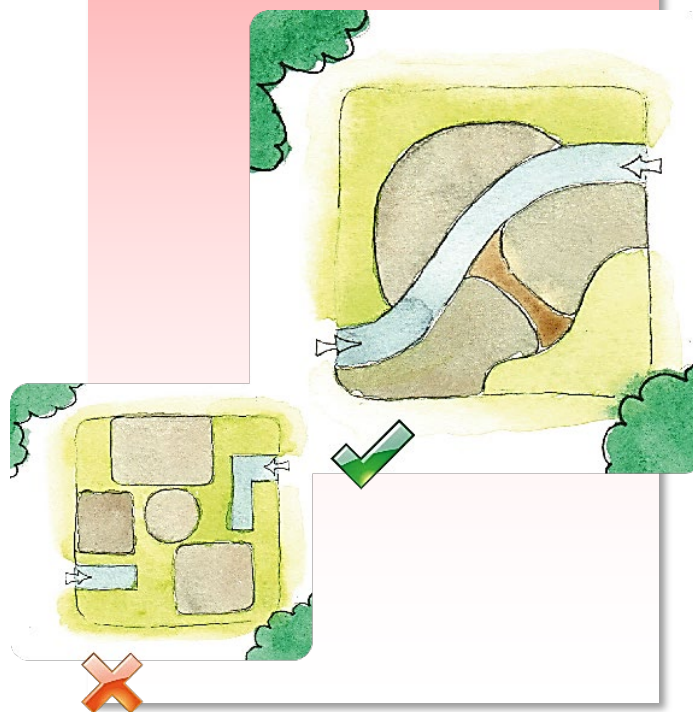
Preferred materials are:

- Bonded rubber mulch
- Wetpour rubber crumb
- Grass mats, for low fall heights (less than 600mm) and as ground reinforcement

Loose fill materials, such as sand or bark mulch, offer high play value as materials for manipulation, but require intensive management and are therefore expensive to maintain. If these materials are proposed, an early discussion is required to ensure that the management of such surfaces are agreed.

Design Note:

- Within a defined play space avoid unnecessary surfacing material changes and unmanageable fragments of grass cover
- Do consider the play value offered by a variety of colours and textures, and the access requirements for wheelchairs and buggies.



Construction Quality Note:

- A permeable sub-base must be used under wet pour rubber crumb and bonded rubber mulch.
- Use soft rubber grass mats for impact attenuation and ground reinforcement.
- Where different materials join, such as wear pads in bonded rubber mulch, the adherence of materials will be carefully inspected to ensure there is no lifting or shrinkage.



Enclosure

The location and type of boundary needed will depend on a number of influencing factors: adjacent uses; location of potential hazards such as roads; or to steer and direct movement.

Is it not usually desirable to tightly enclose a play space as the use of fencing often detaches a space from its environment, and so limits its play value for the present and its flexibility for future change.

Barriers such as fencing, railings and hedges can be used to enhance safety, but not necessarily located on the edge of the defined play space.

Defining the play space can be achieved through a number of recognisable features

used in combination, always recognising that the definition of the space is two-fold:

- Physical/visual edges, barriers, and surface changes
- Signs to define extent of play space with a simple plan.



Management Note:

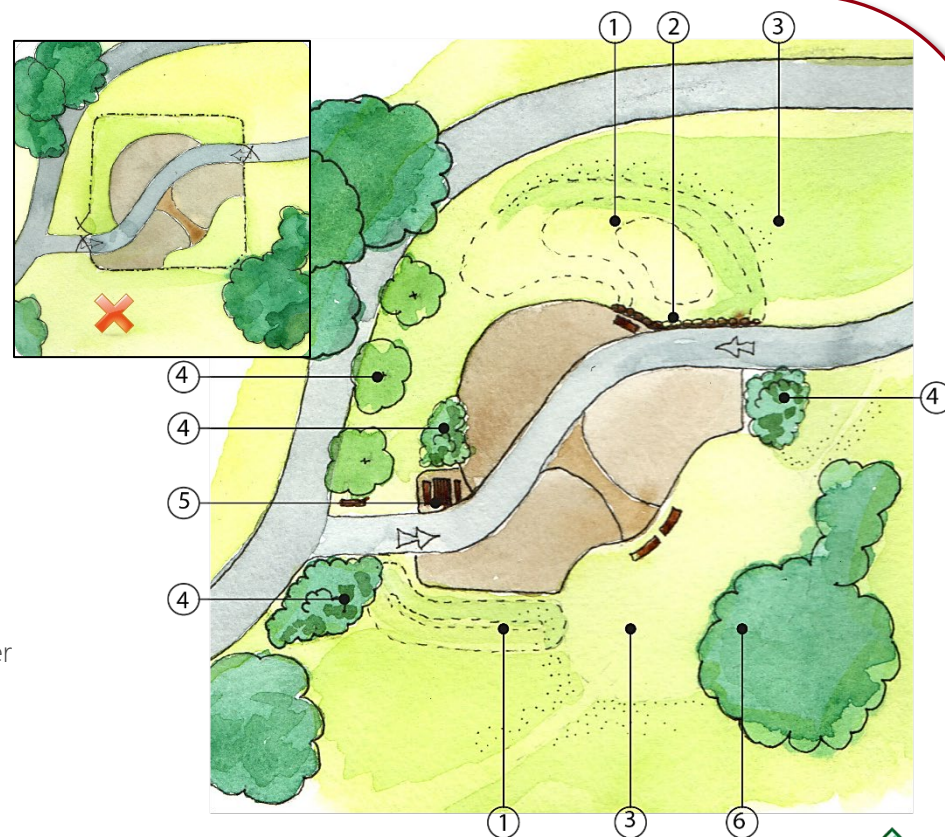
All open spaces, including play spaces, should enable easy access for regular maintenance:

- A minimum width of 3m clear access for machinery is required as a general rule of thumb
- The ground may need to be reinforced to enable all year access
- Parking for maintenance vehicles should be practical: usually within 100m of the access

Design Note:

- Tight fencing of fixed play equipment should be avoided.
- Consider the site as a whole to locate boundary features that provide sufficient safety effects, such as discouraging uncontrolled dogs from gaining access or deterring children from running into a road.
- Consider methods of using boundary features that also have play value: low walls for balancing or seating, mounds or ditches, planting, or level changes, for example
- Consider accessibility
- Consider intervisibility of boundaries: is a clear view over a boundary feature required?
- Boundary features must be visually appropriate to the character of the place.
- Where fencing is required to deflect access to hazards, use fencing outside the defined play space where possible. Where fencing is used to define the play space in whole or in part, it must conform to BS EN1177, together with any matching gates.

In this example it is clear what constitutes the defined play space. For legal and management purposes, this should also be defined on the welcoming sign.



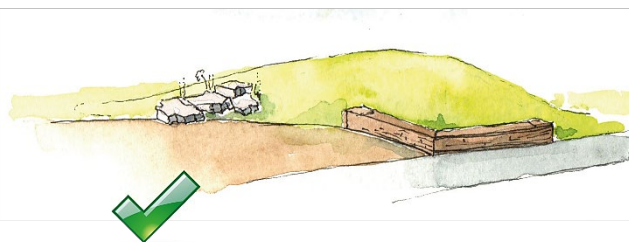
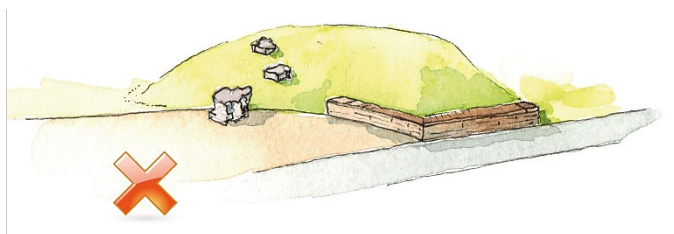
- ① Use mounds and ditches to create level changes
- ② Use retaining features or low walls
- ③ Use mowing patterns and long grasses to create fuzzy edges
- ④ Use appropriate planting to create soft boundaries and entrance features
- ⑤ Use seating (intercept opportunities)
- ⑥ Use existing features

Ground Modelling and 'Natural Features'

Natural features and elements provide the 'loose parts' of play and can enhance and give special character to individual play spaces, supplementing the experience derived from the formal play equipment. They can be used in a variety of ways according to the abilities and interests of the player. Such play is uniquely satisfying as there is no pressure to conform and offers a different experience with every visit; these features can be especially valuable in doorstep play spaces that do not offer formal play equipment.

Landform and ground modelling can be used to define spaces or provide boundaries. It inspires different activities and provides enhanced play value. For example, earth banks provide support for slides, enable tunnels and bridge crossings, or can create quiet or performance spaces.

Consider how natural features can blend the defined play space into the wider environment. See enclosure illustration above.



Management Note:

- Unless the Land Management Plan indicates otherwise, grass swards within defined play spaces will usually be kept short.
- Bank and dip gradients should be mowable rather than relying on strimmer or spray operations.
- Bank and dip gradients are usually mowable at 1:3 provided that there are level access margins alongside banks, structures, or hedges
- Carefully consider maintenance and inspection requirements – propose adaptive management

Design Note:

- Ensure mounds and dips can be maintained as intended
- Use boulders purposefully
- Apply activity and fall zone principles
- Where stepping features are used, ensure that they are within safer surfacing (to limit strimming and enable cleaning and sweeping) or part of an acceptably natural long sward.

Construction Quality Note:

- Ensure soil depths over tunnels are sufficient where they are covered with reinforced grass
- Ensure climbing logs and boulders are secure from rolling or lifting



Planting

Planting and grassy areas should be introduced within defined play spaces first and foremost to enhance play value. It can provide colour, texture, scent, sound, enclosure. Importantly, it also enhances the attractiveness for accompanying adults, carers and siblings and provides shade and shelter. Plant material is also a key component of enabling access to and experiencing nature.

Planting proposals, and its management to maturity, should ultimately create definition and loose, filtered views into and over play spaces, but not screened and hidden places.

Hazardous Plants

A vast range of plants can be potentially harmful to people in a variety of ways:

- Skin irritation through handling
- From discomfort to severe poisoning through ingestion
- Physical injury from sharp-edged leaves, spikes and thorns

As a general rule hazardous plants should not be used as part of the playscape: where they are likely to be picked or eaten by a child in sufficient quantities to be harmful, or where the planting would eventually create a hazard within a fall or activity zone (by catching on clothing or skin).⁷

Add; sectional illustration

Management Note:

- Consider carefully maintenance and management of the proposed planting to ensure its success as intended
- Avoid vigorous species that require more than one pruning operation per year
- Ensure planting is robust enough to withstand some trampling
- If invasive species are used, such as bamboo or willow, use root barriers to prevent spread



⁷ See references for further reading

Furniture

Where the proposed facility will be adopted by NFDC, site furniture should be consistent with the Councils standard approach and constructed in accordance with the details contained in the 'Guide to Performance Specifications.

For facilities that will be managed through an alternative route, the general principles below apply.

Waste Bins

Combined waste bins should be located appropriately, normally outside of the defined play space, but near to access points.

Dog waste bins are not required.

Seating

Comfortable seating is required for all types of play spaces. Places should be provided for parents and carers as well as children and young people to sit and talk. Careful thought will be required to accommodate social distancing, without diminishing the social

interaction opportunities afforded by public seating.

For play spaces, seating will be required at an approximate rate of:

- **Doorstep Playable Space**
1 seat or bench
- **Play Area**
Seating for at least 8 adults, a combination of seats and benches and provision, through imaginative design, for 'hanging out'. Sufficient space will be needed for buggies and wheelchairs alongside seats
- **Major Play Area**
Seating for at least 12 adults, a combination of seats and benches, and provision for 'hanging out' (including shade/shelter)
Seating must be located to enable social interaction and provide oversight, whilst not interfering with the play activities



Provision for 'hanging out'

The success of a ready-made teen shelter relies entirely on location, therefore the Council prefers to use features that offer potential for use as a space to meet with friends, to watch others from or sit in peace, without becoming a nuisance.

In addition to seats and benches, boulders, hammocks, and logs are useful, or items that are also used for play, such as climbing structures.

Cycle Parking

Play spaces should be provided with that be cycle racks or hoops.

Signage

There are three purposes to play space signage:

- To comply with statutory requirements consisting of basic information such as the provider's details and contact information.
- . pen Space Signage should also interpret and communicate the intended uses of

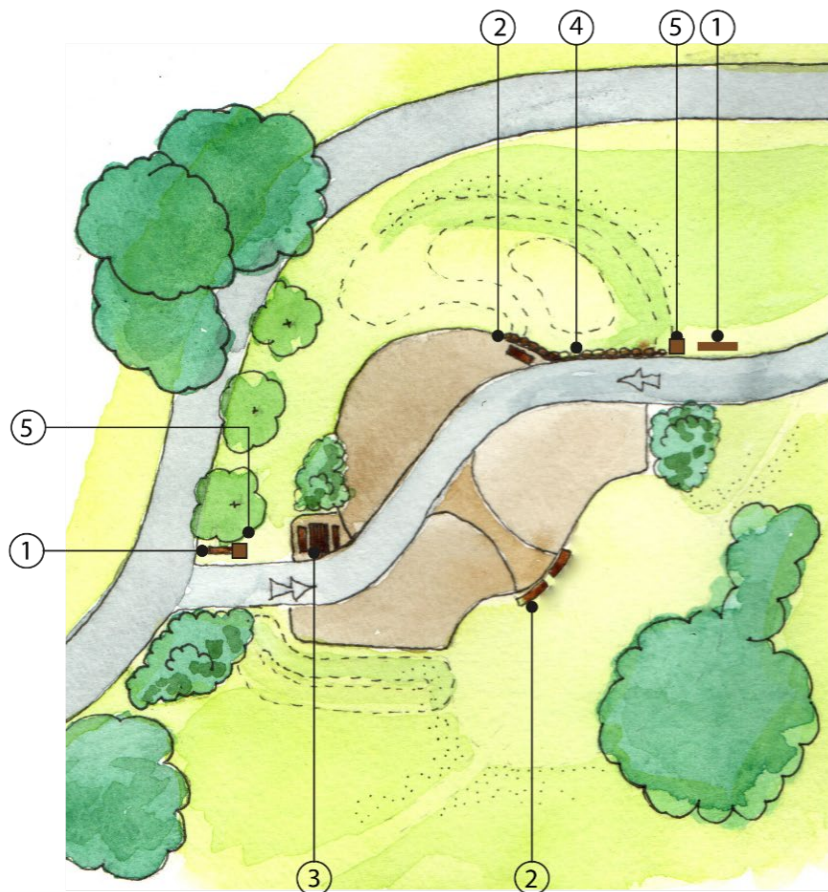
the space and expected behaviours and should convey positive messages- 'please use the waste bin', rather than 'don't drop litter'. Remember: a play space should appear welcoming!

Details of the Council's signage requirements for green space and play areas provided as part of the planning process are set out in separate signage guidance.



For play spaces adopted by NFDC, the Council uses a corporate standard for statutory signage and artwork is available on request.

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- Site Furniture**
- ① Interpretation and statutory signage
 - ② Seating - oversight of play activities and 'defending' access points
 - ③ Picnic table and bench - also provides hang out space for older youths
 - ④ Retaining/boundary feature also becomes useful seating
 - ⑤ Waste bin - outside of defined space

Summary:

In this chapter we have explained:

- What materials and construction methods are most suitable for equipped play spaces in this district
- How to use various features to create loose boundaries
- How natural features should be provided to facilitate ongoing management and maintenance
- How site furniture should be provided and used.

7 Risk Management

Previous national play policy, and Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child provides a framework which enables designers of play spaces to make judgements about reasonableness in risk management. It does this by recognising that some element of risk is an inherent and necessary part of play. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) recognises that play is about being physically active and it is inevitable that accidents will happen, it makes it clear that its aim is to reduce the severity of injuries, not remove all possibility of harm.

Those who provide play spaces have legal responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 and 1984. These regulations impose a legal duty on providers to carry out a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks associated with a site and act accordingly.⁸

As well as complying with law, designers and play space managers must balance safety with an understanding of children's play needs, including suitable challenge and therefore, inherent risk in play provision. Designers should use guidance and standards available in the industry, bearing in mind the advice of the Health and Safety Executive to 'focus on the risks that really matter' (HSE 2006 Five Steps to Risk Assessment)

At NFDC it is recognised that risk management:

*'is an important tool for ensuring that we make the most of opportunities as well as managing potential threats. Clear understanding of the risks around opportunities enables us to take innovative decisions with assurance. The key is for the council to be risk aware and not risk averse.'*⁹



⁸ more information can be found in *Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide*. Play England 2012

⁹ NFDC Risk Management and Insurance

Benefits vs Risk

In some instances, especially in spaces that combine bespoke equipment and natural play features, it may be difficult to achieve a hazard free play environment using a standard risk assessment approach. However, the alternative risk/benefit assessment approach provides an opportunity to ask: *'How well does the site maximise the play opportunities on offer, while managing the risk'*.

There are many examples of risk/benefit assessments: and each individual situation should be approached through discussion to enable the right assessment methodology is used. Risk/benefit assessments can be used for individual features, such as a tree used for climbing¹⁰, or a site-wide assessment.

Proposals for play spaces will need to demonstrate where common hazards have been designed out (show fall and activity zones, impact attenuating surfacing, for example), and where hazards are not

¹⁰ Play Safety Forum Risk Benefit Assessment – worked example: <http://www.playengland.org.uk/>

completely designed out, how risks will be minimised through design and/or management.

Maintenance of Play Spaces

The Council takes the safety of our communities seriously.

The Council, as Local Planning Authority will require the developer to address long-term site management, maintenance and safety issues as part of an agreed Site Management Plan which will be committed to by legal agreement as a part of the planning permission for a development.

As well as ensuring that play spaces and equipment are safe from hazards, arrangement must be put in place, to the satisfaction of the Council, for basic maintenance operations such as emptying bins, sweeping up litter, cleaning equipment when required, and horticultural operations as part of the agreed ongoing management and maintenance of the play space.

[content/uploads/2015/10/psf-risk-benefit-assessment-form-worked-example.pdf](http://www.playengland.org.uk/content/uploads/2015/10/psf-risk-benefit-assessment-form-worked-example.pdf)



8 Information Requirements as part of the planning process

The location and broad concepts for play space provision (as with all public open space and green infrastructure) needs to be given detailed consideration from an early stage in drawing up proposals for a new residential development. Intended locations and types of play provision will need to be understood at outline planning stage (or earlier) and shown initially as part of the required 'Landscape Framework'¹¹

It will need to be remembered that changes to numbers and sizes of dwellings in any scheme will have an impact on all forms of open space requirements. Increased housing densities will result in increased play and other open space requirements that need to be planned as part of the development.

Assessment of Proposals

Play proposals will be assessed at two levels:

- The wider play strategy, ensuring that the principles set out in chapter 2 have been applied appropriately, the spatial

requirements are met and that the proposed form of provision is embedded in the wider landscape strategy.

- Defined play spaces, ensuring that the proposals meet the requirements for the typology, offer a broad range of play opportunities through the provision of fixed equipment and connection with nature, offer suitable challenge and are robust and manageable.

An assessment tool is available at appendix E, and will be used internally throughout the planning process.

¹¹ See Appendix D

To satisfy the Council that the proposals are appropriate, safe and can be maintained and managed into the future, as designed, the following information will be required

Pre construction:

- Plans, sections and/or elevations, details of materials, features, equipment and landforms, and their construction
- An (on-plan) pre-construction review to identify any hazards that cannot be designed out
- Agreed risk/benefit assessment for any aspect of the play space that is uncertified.
- Management plan detailing maintenance operations to achieve the design intentions, (forming part of the overall Site Management Plan for the public spaces of the development)

Implementation

- Post installation ROSPA standard inspection report, by an independent play inspector

The receiving adoption party will also require

- Safety certificates, guarantees and warranties of any fixed equipment and surfacing.
- Kit of spare parts and tools

Summary

- Discuss the details of play at an early opportunity
- Agree risk management approach with NFDC, where necessary
- Developers are responsible for inspecting and maintaining play spaces until they are formally adopted by the ongoing management arrangement, including suitable Public Liability Insurance

References and Further Reading

- National Design Guide – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019
- New Forest @Play – NFDC existing play strategy
- Design for Play: a guide to creating successful play spaces – *Play England 2008*
- Planning for Play, Guidance on the development and implementation of a local play strategy – *Children's Play Council 2006*
- Playing on the Wildside – *Playwork Partnership 2009*
- Developing Accessible Play Space – *a good practice guide ODPM 2003*
- More than Swings and Roundabouts, Planning for outdoor play – *Childrens Play Council 2002*
- No Fear, Growing up in a risk adverse society- *Tim Gill 2007*
- Social Housing and Play using evidence informed practice to provide and manage outdoor play spaces – *pilot handbook – research in practice 2011*
- An Essential Guide to BS1176 and BS EN1177 Childrens Playground Equipment and Surfacing Updated for 2008– *The Play Inspection Company/Wickseed playscapes*
- Risk and Safety in Play – the law and practice for adventure playgrounds – *Playlink 1997*
- Managing risk in play provision – Implementation Guide - *Play Safety Forum updated 2012*
- Nature Play: Maintenance Guide – *Play England 2009*
- Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play -beyond the six acre standard - *Field in Trust 2015*
- Childrens Play and Leisure – promoting a balanced approach – *HSE 2012*
- The Good Play Space Guide 'I can Play too' –Sport and Recreation Victoria, Austrailia 2007
- Kidsafe Playground News (Article Rocks and Boulders – Love them! – Kidsafe, New South Wales, Au, issue 34, July 2010
- Step Stone Route Guide – *Lappset*

Appendix A

Play England Charter for Children Play

Children have the right to play

All children and young people have the right to play and need to play: free to choose what they do:— lively or relaxed, noisy or quiet – with the chance to stretch and challenge themselves, take risks and enjoy freedom. The right to play is enshrined in Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Every child needs time and space to play

All children and young people – disabled and non-disabled – whatever their age, culture, ethnicity or social and economic background, need time and space to play freely and confidently with their peers, free of charge, indoors and outdoors, somewhere they feel safe. Play provision should actively include the widest range of children and seek to engage with those from minority groups.

Adults should let children play

Parents, carers and other adults can support children and young people's play by respecting the value and importance of all types of play, playing with their children and by creating opportunities and allowing time for children to play independently with their friends, inside and outside the home

Children should be able to play freely in their local areas

Children have the same right to use and enjoy public space as others. Local streets, estates, green spaces, parks and town centres should be accessible for children and young people to move around in safety and offer places where they can play freely, experience nature, explore their environment and be with their friends.

Children value and benefit from staffed play provision

Children should have access to a choice of staffed facilities where children's play rights and needs are the first priority, such as adventure playgrounds, play centres, holiday play schemes, after- school play clubs, breakfast play clubs, toy libraries, play buses and play ranger services.

Children's play is enriched by skilled playworkers

Qualified, skilled playworkers are trained to put children's play needs at the centre of their work in a variety of settings, enhancing the range and quality of play experiences for all children. They are the best people to run staffed play provision for school-aged children. The role of the playworker is as important as that of any skilled professional

working with children and should be respected and rewarded accordingly.

Children need time and space to play at school

The school day should allow time for children to relax and play freely with their friends. Young children learn best through play and, as they get older, play supports and enriches their learning. Children learn best if teaching is creative and enjoyable. In school, time and space for play and outdoor learning is as important as formal teaching. School grounds should be good places to play.

Children sometimes need extra support to enjoy their right to play

Children and young people living away from home or visiting unfamiliar or controlled environments such as hospital, prison, immigration centres, and residential homes and schools, sometimes experience fear, anxiety and discomfort. For these children it is especially important to ensure they have good play opportunities facilitated by trained staff and volunteers.

Appendix B

Fields in Trust, Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard

Benchmark standards for play facilities

Typology	Description	Size	Walking distance	Buffer zone
Local Area for Play (LAP)	'Doorstep' spaces aimed at very young children within view of known adults	10x10m Minimum activity zone of 100sqm	100m	5m separation between activity zone and boundary of dwelling
Locally Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	A larger space which can be reached safely by children beginning to travel independently and with friends, without accompanying adults and for adults with young children to walk to with ease	20x20m Minimum activity zone of 400sqm	400m (5 minutes)	20m separation between activity zone and habitable room façade of dwellings
Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP):	A larger space or facility for informal recreation which children and young people, used to travelling longer distances independently, can reach safely and spend time in play and informal recreation with their peers and have a wider range of play experiences	31.6x31.6m minimum activity zone of 1000sqm, comprising of play equipment, structures and hard surfaced area of 465sqm	1000m (10-15 minutes)	30m separation between activity zone and boundary of dwelling
Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)	A surfaced, fenced area suitable for a variety of informal ball games		700m (10 minutes)	30m separation between activity zone and boundary of dwelling

Appendix C

Play Types

These were developed by Bob Hughes for the purposes of adults who study and facilitate play. It is examined in far more detail in his 1996 book *A Playworker's Taxonomy of Play Types*, London: PLAYLINK, UK.

Children's play is rich, varied, organic and constantly evolving. It can explore different types at the same time, flow from one to another and back again. As such, these definitions are by adults, for adults. They're useful in helping us be more specific when we're talking about play and play provision but will only ever capture a narrow aspect of the wealth of children's play. This list is also evolving and should not be assumed to ever be complete.

Symbolic Play – play which allows control, gradual exploration and increased understanding without the risk of being out of one's depth.

Rough and Tumble Play – close encounter play which is less to do with fighting and more to do with touching, tickling, gauging relative strength. Discovering physical flexibility and the exhilaration of display.

Socio-dramatic Play – the enactment of real and potential experiences of an intense personal, social, domestic or interpersonal nature.

Social Play – play during which the rules and criteria for social engagement and interaction can be revealed, explored and amended.

Creative Play – play which allows a new response, the transformation of information, awareness of new connections, with an element of surprise.

Communication Play – play using words, nuances or gestures for example, mime, jokes, play acting, mickey taking, singing, debate, poetry.

Dramatic Play – play which dramatizes events in which the child is not a direct participator.

Deep Play – play which allows the child to encounter risky or even potentially life-threatening experiences, to develop survival skills and conquer fear.

Exploratory Play – play to access factual information consisting of manipulative behaviors such as handling, throwing, banging or mouthing objects.

Fantasy Play – play which rearranges the world in the child's way, a way which is unlikely to occur.

Imaginative Play – play where the conventional rules, which govern the physical world, do not apply.

Locomotor Play – movement in any or every direction for its own sake.

Mastery Play – control of the physical and affective ingredients of the environments.

Object Play – play which uses infinite and interesting sequences of hand-eye manipulations and movements.

Role Play – play exploring ways of being, although not normally of an intense personal, social, domestic or interpersonal nature.

Recapitulative Play – play that allows the child to explore ancestry, history, rituals, stories, rhymes, fire and darkness. Enables children to access play of earlier human evolutionary stages.

Appendix D

The extract overleaf explains the content and form of a Landscape Framework, which includes allocating designated play spaces as part of a combined approach to the provision of open green space. The full document can be found at:

[Mitigation-for-Recreational-Impacts-On-New-Forest-European-Sites-Draft-SPD](#)

2.0 A combined approach

- 2.1 A *Design and Access Statement (D&AS)* should be prepared as part of the submitted planning application. It should include annotated layouts, sketches, elevations and illustrations.
- 2.2 The D&AS should include a **landscape framework**, demonstrating how recreational mitigation in the form of ANRG would be achieved in accordance with policy.
- 2.3 The **landscape framework** will be a high level landscape strategy that combines the proposals for green spaces; footpath routes; habitat and biodiversity improvements integrally with existing features, landscape settings and the development layout so that the complementary advantages of each would optimise the recreational uses which would otherwise impact upon the New Forest.
- 2.4 The **landscape framework** should describe how sustainable drainage, public open space, green infrastructure, play and visual amenity will be addressed.
- 2.5 The **landscape framework** should indicate landscape and amenity benefits (some of which may not yet be quantifiable). It should address key matters, and explain how they will be addressed in a co-ordinated and effective way. The landscape framework

should include a 1:500 plan clarifying the extent of land intended to be public and the extent of publicly accessible land which is to be calculated as qualifying ANRG. It should be annotated to cover the following issues:

- The existing landform and landscape features of the site – these will influence the design.
 - The location and dimensions of proposed green spaces.
 - The broad concept for drainage for the major green areas (and any provision for taking surface water from within the development areas).
 - The broad treatment types applicable to each area of land and thus the management aspirations for each (for example: woodland; meadow; amenity grass; natural play etc.)
 - The network of links and connections (including to the surrounding area) and circular walks and their hierarchy.
- 2.6 Each of the following matters should be dealt with (details of which may come forward at detailed application stage):
- Good pedestrian connections with existing residential areas.
 - Linkages with other existing open spaces, streets, walking routes (and how these will be achieved).
 - Provision of attractive walking routes with appropriately surfaced paths.
 - Access for dog walking with off-lead areas and facilities to attract dog walkers.

- Boundaries to be secure or defined where needed.
 - Optimising opportunities for biodiversity
 - Ongoing land management.
- 2.7 The approximate locations for the following should also be illustrated on the proposed landscape framework in a way that facilitates a legible and attractive landscape.
- Play areas and any formal open spaces, such as playing pitches.
 - Qualifying ANRG land
 - A three-tiered strategy for planting trees (Forest scale species, medium or small/light canopied garden trees),
 - SUDS elements (providing an understanding of scale, based on calculation of appropriate volumes and levels);
 - Furniture and features - Seating, litter and dog waste bins.
 - Signage and interpretation.
 - Any underground encumbrance.
- 2.8 The landscape framework should demonstrate how the proposed development has reached its full potential in achieving an appropriate character of place and therefore quality of life through good design.

Appendix E

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Play Space Design Proposals – Assessment Tool		Scoring				
		0	1	2	3	4
Scale and Location <i>Policy and masterplanning</i> 25%	Is the minimum policy spatial requirement met?					
	Is the play space in the right place?					
	Is there natural surveillance?					
	Are inherent risks mitigated?					
Visual Appeal <i>Placemaking and design</i> 25%	Does the play space fit with the wider context- an interesting and varied landscape of both natural and manmade materials?					
	Is the play space also a pleasant place for the wider community?					
	Will the play space engage people from different generations?					
	Is the play space design story legible?					
Play opportunities <i>Play types</i> 25%	Is the play space attractive to children?					
	Does the play space provide contact with nature?					
	Does the play space form extend play opportunities into the wider landscape?					
	Does the play space offer a range of linked play activities?					
	locomotive activities provided by fixed equipment					
	graduated challenge					
	sensory and elemental experiences					
	opportunities for social and creative play					
Form and materials <i>Robust and flexible</i> 25%	Does the landform and built features of the play space provide added value?					
	Is the play space accessible and inclusive?					
	Is there sufficient flexible space?					
	Are the materials and construction methods proven?					

<p>Notes on Scoring Each category carries the same weight: Scale and Location: Highest score = 16, lowest=0, minimum satisfactory score =8 Visual Appeal: Highest score = 16, lowest=0, minimum satisfactory score =8 Play Opportunities: Highest score = 28, lowest=0, minimum satisfactory score =14 Form and Materials: Highest score = 16, lowest=0, minimum satisfactory score =8 Total points available = 76, minimum total satisfactory score = 38</p>	<p>non-existent or very poor quality opportunities</p>	<p>few or low quality opportunities</p>	<p>some or satisfactory opportunities</p>	<p>a variety or good quality opportunities</p>	<p>a wide variety or high quality opportunities</p>
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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

ITEM	OBJECTIVE	METHOD	LEAD OFFICER
9 SEPTEMBER 2021			
Review of Car Parking Strategy	To consider the outcome of the review of the District Council car parking strategy and to consider the way forward	Report to Panel	Claire Upton-Brown
Section 106 Monitoring Contributions		Report to Panel	Claire-Upton Brown
Waste Strategy update	To receive an update on the work of the working group	Report to Panel	Chris Noble
13 JANUARY 2022			
Waste Strategy update	To receive an update on the work of the working group	Report to Panel	Chris Noble
10 MARCH 2022			
Waste Strategy update	To receive an update on the work of the working group	Report to Panel	Chris Noble
FOR LATER CONSIDERATION			
Environmental Strategy	To consider the draft environmental strategy that will develop an overarching framework for the Council's environmental activities	Officer report	

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