

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