

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: LEISURE, ARTS AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE -
7 DECEMBER 2009
REPORT ON: DUNDEE OUTDOOR PLAY AND YOUTH AREA STRATEGY 2009 -
2014
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
REPORT NO: 573 - 2009

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Council approval, for the Dundee Partnership Outdoor Play and Youth Area Strategy 2009 - 2014.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the adoption of the Strategy to provide a framework for the management of Dundee's outdoor play and youth area provision over the period 2009 -2014.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 No additional capital or revenue budgets have been allocated to the Outdoor Play and Youth Area Strategy, its implementation requires to be managed within existing resources.
- 3.2 Management of play and youth areas will continue to be managed under existing budgets by the departments and landowners responsible for the ground the play and youth areas are on.
- 3.3 The adopted strategy will provide the framework for prioritising expenditure and for making bids to external sources

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 This Dundee Outdoor Play and Youth Area Strategy 2009-2014 is an appendix of the Public Open Space Strategy.
- 4.2 A summary of the Strategy is attached as Appendix 1 for information. The Strategy contains 6 key objectives to form the basis for its ongoing monitoring and evaluation. The strategic objectives are as follows:
- Promote Dundee as a child friendly and family friendly environment in which to live.
 - Ensure there is access to the widest possible range of stimulating, safe and quality play experiences and play environments for all children, young people and families in Dundee.
 - Ensure that all play provision will enable children to encounter and learn to manage an acceptable level of risk, which will encourage children and young people to explore limits, venture into new experiences, develop their capabilities and resilience.

- Involve and consult children, young people and families in the future development of play provision.
 - Promote, safeguard and enhance public open space as an environment for play to establish a healthy active lifestyle from childhood.
 - Sustain play provision over the long-term and ensure effective use of funding.
- 4.3 The Strategy aims to provide a management strategy for the City's outdoor play provision that delivers quality and is cost effective, efficient and provides best value for citizens of Dundee.
- 4.4 Under the Dundee partnership a Play Partnership group will be established with responsibility for co-ordination and implementation of the strategy, and to ensure liaison between the various Departments and stakeholder groups involved. Overall progress will be monitored against the strategic objectives of the strategy and their links to Dundee Partnership's Strategic Outcomes and reported on via the Dundee City Council's Strategic Monitoring Database. Progress will also be reported to the Dundee Partnership on a regular basis.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In accordance with Section 7(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, Dundee City Council has pre-screened the Dundee Outdoor Play and Youth Area Strategy and is of the opinion that it is exempt from strategic environmental assessment due to the degree to which it is influenced by other plans in a hierarchy (Schedule 2, criteria 1(b) of the Act). The Strategy is considered as an appendix of the Public Open Space Strategy which has already undergone the strategic environmental assessment process. Notification of this opinion will be submitted to the Consultation Authorities as required in Sections 7(3) and (4) of the Act.
- 5.2 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Director of Finance and Director of Dundee Contract Service have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.
- 6.2 The Strategy has been developed through extensive consultation with Dundee Partnership Strategic Theme Groups, Play Scotland, the various stakeholders and voluntary sector organisations. The Draft Strategy has also incorporated the views of children and young people. The Strategy was endorsed by the Dundee Partnership Management Group at its meeting in November 2009.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 There are no background papers

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES

10 NOVEMBER 2009

DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP

OUTDOOR PLAY AND YOUTH AREA STRATEGY

Introduction

The Communities Facilities Audit Action Plan required a review to be carried out of the adequacy of public play facilities in Dundee and the production of a new long term city-wide action plan within the context of the Public Open Space Strategy, through partnership and consultation, to improve children's outdoor play provision across Dundee.



The Dundee Partnership believes that the city's outdoor play and youth area provision offers important benefits to children, young people and families and makes a valuable contribution to quality of life in the city. The Dundee Partnership wants to improve and sustain Dundee's outdoor play and youth area provision, so that it can be enjoyed by present and future generations.



Play is internationally acknowledged in law.

Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child says:

- Every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreation activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
- Member governments shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

What the strategy covers

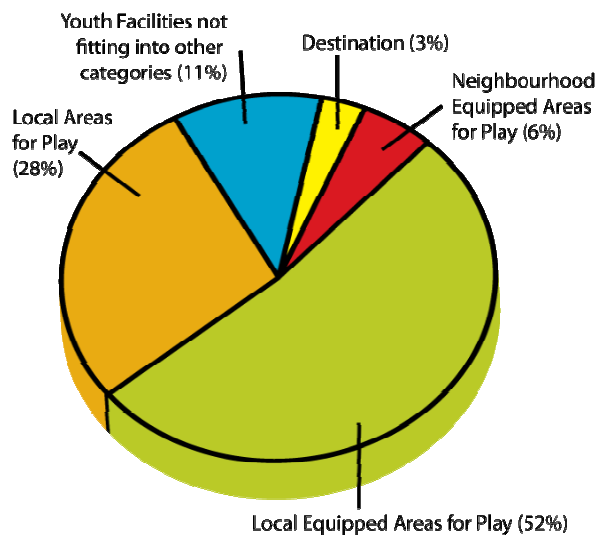
The scope of the Strategy is limited to public outdoor play and youth area facilities: equipped play spaces, youth shelters, BMX and wheeled-sport facilities, multi-use games areas (MUGAs) and fenced kick-about areas. For reasons of practicality and resources there was not the scope to audit play services across Dundee in depth and it is a target of the Strategy that this should be addressed separately.



Where we are now

Public play and youth areas in Dundee have been mapped. All Park play areas belonging to the Leisure and Communities Department were audited in detail and feedback from the local community including children and young people was collated. Key aspects taken from the analysis of this information are summarised here:

Dundee Play and Youth Area Provision



- There were 90 public equipped play and youth areas in Dundee in 2009 equating to an average of about 302 children and young people per facility in Dundee.
- Play areas in parks should be designed to incorporate provision for a wider age range of children and young people
- There should be more local areas for play designed to allow young children to identify the space as theirs and to indicate that play is positively encouraged

Our vision - where we want to be

The Strategy provides a framework for the management and improvement of Dundee's outdoor play and youth area provision over the period 2009-2014.

In addition to the ongoing work of the Council and its partners to improve and maintain outdoor play and youth area provision in Dundee, the strategy sets out standards, policy objectives and strategic targets to be achieved in relation to play and youth provision. The key points are described below.



Standard and hierarchy of play and youth area provision

There is a need for different types of outdoor play and youth areas for children and young people from birth to 18 years, ranging from a daily visit to a safe place to play for toddlers and parents on their doorstep, to the family day trip visiting a large destination facility that caters for all ages of children and young people. These needs can best be met by aiming to provide a hierarchy of play and youth areas, with each category of facility providing for the different needs of children and young people as they develop from their earliest years to early adulthood. Improvements in provision will be tailored, through consultation at a local level, to best match community aspirations and those most in need.

The local standard and hierarchy for play and youth areas in Dundee will be the standards and recommendations detailed in the handbook 'Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play' published by Fields in Trust, setting guidelines on the category of provision required, its design, size and the maximum distance from the homes of children and young people. In this way Dundee can work towards providing a fair distribution of play and youth areas across the City, that will meet the needs of local communities and visitors.

The play and youth area hierarchy will be made up of the following categories:

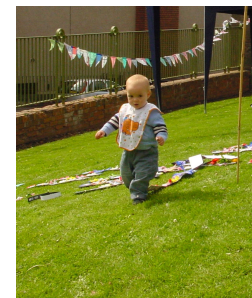
- Destination Play and Youth Areas, for all ages of children and young people, a family day trip
- Neighbourhood Play and Youth Areas, for children and young people, up to 600metres from home
- Local Equipped Play Areas, for young children learning independence, up to 240metres from home
- Local 'Doorstep' Areas for Play, for toddlers with parents, up to 60metres from home



Policy objectives and key strategic targets

Key targets have been informed by feedback through consultation with children, young people and through local community planning exercises.

- Promote Dundee as a child friendly and family friendly environment. Key Target - Help schools open up their outdoor spaces for casual as well as organised play and recreation after hours and during school holidays
- Provide access to the widest possible range of stimulating, safe and quality play experiences and play environments for all children, young people and families in Dundee.



Key Target - Creating more play opportunities that are not just fixed equipment but could be equipment that can be taken around the city to local areas for children and young people to use

- Ensure that all play provision will enable children to encounter and learn to manage an acceptable level of risk, which will encourage children and young people to explore limits, venture into new experiences, develop their capabilities and resilience. Key Targets - Creating more interesting, fun, challenging, exciting and usable play and youth spaces for all ages and abilities. Providing more opportunities to experience challenge and acceptable risk-taking to explore capabilities and learn to manage risks better
- Involve and consult children, young people and families in the future development of play provision. Key Target - Involving children and young people earlier and more often in the decision making about play and youth area provision
- Promote, safeguard and enhance public open space as an environment for play to establish a healthy active lifestyle from childhood. Key Target - Making sure play and youth provision is important to the Council and its partners by setting targets that can be monitored
- Sustain play provision over the long-term and ensure effective use of funding. Key Target - Making sure play and youth areas are in good shape and better used by focussing on improving existing facilities and developing new provision where it is needed



How we will deliver and monitor the Strategy

Under the Dundee Partnership, a Play Partnership group will be established with responsibility for co-ordination and implementation of the strategy through the work of the various Departments and stakeholder groups. Overall progress will be monitored against the strategic objectives of the strategy, Dundee Partnership Strategic Outcomes linked to targets in the Strategy, and through Dundee City Council's Strategic Monitoring Database. It will also be reported to the Dundee Partnership on a regular basis.

Partners

The Strategy has been developed by the Council's Leisure and Communities Department through extensive consultation with Dundee Partnership Strategic Theme Groups, Play Scotland, the various stakeholders and voluntary sector organisations. The Strategy has also incorporated the views of children and young people.

The Dundee Partnership Management Group endorsed the Strategy at its meeting in November 2009.

