

Agenda Item

REPORT OF Head of Communities & Place
To: Internal Overview and Scrutiny
Subject: Call in – Play Strategy
Date: 16th March 2021

Reference:

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To scrutinise the decision of Community and Resources Committee to adopt the Play Strategy but not provide a ringfenced budget for play area maintenance.

1. INTRODUCTION

For some time the Council has been working to prepare a Play Strategy document for adoption at Community and Resources Committee. Overview and Scrutiny External Committee performed a steering function in the preparation of the strategy and formulated the recommendations that were presented with the draft strategy to Community and Resources Committee in February 2021.

2. REPORT

At Community and Resources Committee on the 1st February 2021, the Head of Communities & Place presented the appended report, the purpose of which was to present to Members the draft Torridge District Council Play Area Strategy for adoption, and to consider the recommendation from External Overview & Scrutiny Committee in relation to finances associated with its delivery.

During the debate, the primary concerns raised included:

- Responsibility and the maintaining of play areas
- To consider working jointly with Parish and Town Councils and/or communities re maintenance of play areas
- Cost and contents of the Play Strategy document

Councillor Christie raised an enquiry regarding monies given to Torridge when he had been Mayor of Bideford and match funded by Bideford Bridge Trust for the maintenance of play equipment. The majority of this money remains unspent. The Head of Communities & Place advised that for a long period of time the Council had not had a Community Engagement Officer. That situation had now changed, and the now appointed Officer will work more actively in partnership with the communities.

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

As set out in C&R report.



Financial Implications

As set out in the C&R report

Human Resources Implications

As set out in C&R report

Sustainability Implications

As set out in C&R report

Equality/Diversity

As set out in C&R report

Risk Management

As set out in C&R Report

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

As set out in the C&R report

Ward Member and Leader Member Views

As set out in the C&R report

3. CONCLUSIONS

The Chair of Community and Resources Committee proposed that a separate vote be taken on each of the recommendations within the report.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Lock -

Resolved:

- That there be no allocation of a maintenance budget for play areas.

A recorded vote was taken.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Brenton, D			
Bright, C			
Bushby, D		X	
Craigie, R		X	
Christie, P		X	
Dart, A			X
Hicks, R	X		
Hutchings, J			
James, K	X		
Laws, N	X		
Lock, R	X		
McGeough, D		X	
Wiseman, R	X		



(Vote: For 5, Against 4, Abstentions 1)

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Lock -

Resolved:

That the Play Area Strategy be adopted.

A recorded vote was taken.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Brenton, D			
Bright, C			
Bushby, D		X	
Craigie, R		X	
Christie, P			X
Dart, A			X
Hicks, R	X		
Hutchings, J			
James, K	X		
Laws, N	X		
Lock, R	X		
McGeough, D			X
Wiseman, R	X		

These resolutions were subsequently the subject of an approved call in request from the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny External.

Cllr Pennington's comment:

The Play Strat. should go before Int. O & S as it is a finance matter.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members scrutinise the resolutions, as set out above, of Community and Resources Committee on the 1st February.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations: Chief Executive, Senior Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, Interim S151 Officer
Contact Sean Kearney
Officer:
Background
Papers:

