

**Name of meeting: Economy & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel**

**Date: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Title of report: Playable Spaces Strategy Update**

**Purpose of report: To update on progress.**

<b>Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	<b>Yes</b>  Value over £250k
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u></b>	<b>Key Decision – No</b>  <b>Private Report/Private Appendix – No</b>
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>  <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>  <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	<b>Colin Parr, 28/03/2022</b>
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	<b>Councillor Naheed Mather</b>

**Electoral wards affected: All**

**Ward councillors consulted: No**

**Public or private: Public**

**Has GDPR been considered? Yes**

## 1. Purpose

To provide an update on the progress made in delivering the Council's Playable Spaces Strategy, which was adopted by Cabinet in October 2019 and focused on setting out the Council's commitment for significant investment in the play experience of our Children, parents, and carers in Kirklees. A separate presentation has been prepared to take Members of the panel through this.

The strategy sets out our vision for a district where all are able and encouraged to access a range of opportunities to play outdoors, benefitting their physical and mental health and well-being as well as encouraging intergenerational interaction and community cohesion.

To achieve this vision the Playable Spaces Strategy aimed to:

- Provide a diverse range of high-quality play spaces for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to access challenging opportunities for play, physical activity, contact with nature and social development close to home.
- Encourage active play to help build physical strength, increase fitness and teach children vital life skills such as planning, negotiating, being creative and managing risk.
- Improve the overall quality of the play offer throughout Kirklees, and the financial sustainability of the network.
- Provide a more effective approach to ongoing maintenance and management both within the Council and by fostering greater citizen involvement.

The achievement of this was underpinned by three key principles:

- Working with people not doing to them: Citizens and communities will be engaged as part of the delivery of the programme to ensure that all play areas meet the needs of the community, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility over their play spaces. Ongoing play engagement programmes will help us to understand local inequalities in play, local barriers to accessing playable spaces, and to address these issues in conjunction with communities.
- Working with partners: The Playable Spaces Strategy has been produced as a partnership between Parks and Greenspace and Public Health. Delivery of the Strategy will build on this partnership and link with other Council services such as Communities. Relationships with external voluntary and community sector partnerships will be built up through site-based engagement as well as through the delivery of an ongoing play engagement programme.
- Place-based working: Sites will be refurbished on a case-by-case basis, in conjunction with the local community, rather than applying a “one size fits all” solution, taking into consideration areas of deprivation, housing density, health inequalities and other local factors, such as local fundraising initiatives. The Strategy is not just about providing physical places to play but also about gaining a better understanding of what physical and social factors influence the ability to access play, and how the Council can enable equitable access to play throughout Kirklees.

## 2. Recommendations

Members of the panel are asked to discuss the report and presentation, feeding back views and comments.

Report Sponsor: Will Acornley	Contact Officers: Catherine Little Extension: N/A
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