

Overview & Scrutiny

Date: 10th September 2024

Bromsgrove District Play Audit and Investment Strategy – Progress Update

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor B. McEldowney
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Report Author	Job Title: Ishrat Karimi Fini Contact email: ishrat.karimifini@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881204
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	Communities which are safe, well maintained and green Living Independent, Active and Healthy Lives The Green Thread
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision.	Non-Key Decision
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to RESOLVE to note the update on the progress of the Bromsgrove District Council Play Audit and Investment Strategy.

2. BACKGROUND

Leisure Strategy

- 2.1 Responding to the recommendations in the Leisure and Culture Strategy for Bromsgrove District that was endorsed by members in October 2022, a detailed Play Audit and Investment Strategy is being prepared and is scheduled to be presented to Cabinet in November 2024.
- 2.2 There was a presentation of the emerging document at a meeting of the Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) on 18 July 2024.

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Meeting Council Objectives

- 2.3 The preparation of the Play Audit and Investment Strategy contributes to achieving council and wider objectives.
- 2.4 Play has many benefits for children and young people which include physical development, cognitive development, health and wellbeing, environmental awareness and providing an opportunity for children and young people to mix, gather and relax.
- 2.5 In terms of a policy context the Play Audit and Investment Strategy if implemented in due course will contribute to Health and Wellbeing which is a key consideration and included as part of the Bromsgrove Council Plan, the Local Plan and the Leisure and Cultural Strategy. All the above recognise the value of health and wellbeing for Bromsgrove District and its residents. Furthermore, it is noted that the Bromsgrove Community survey highlighted the importance of being able to access parks and open spaces close to where people live and that these facilities were both inclusive and affordable.

The Scope of the Audit

- 2.6 The audit has been commissioned in order to ascertain the current provision of play equipment within the District. Data has been gathered in respect of travel distance and condition of provision including areas in need of investment such as infrastructure improvements or resurfacing. The audit includes spaces provided by the Council, Parish Councils and third-party providers and only publicly accessible play spaces have been included.
- 2.7 There are currently eighty-five play spaces publicly available within the District. Forty areas managed by Bromsgrove District Council, thirty by Parish Councils and fifteen by third party providers e.g. Community Associations.
- 2.8 The assessment identifies a hierarchy of play provision based on an accessibility model that is comparable to national guidelines. These are:
- Local Play Spaces – within four hundred metres with a five-to-ten-minute walking distance
 - Neighbourhood Play Spaces – within eight hundred metres with a ten-to-fifteen-minute walking distance.

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3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 Depending on the decisions taken by the Cabinet later this year, further investment in play areas may be required in future, including through potential budget bids.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This is an update report for Overview and Scrutiny on the progress of the Bromsgrove District Council Play Audit and Investment Strategy and as such there are no financial implications.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Not applicable at this stage.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Council Priorities

- 6.1 Equipped children's play spaces enable children to play, be active and spend time outdoors. This contributes to living active and healthy lives.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.2 The play audit and Investment strategy seeks to address deficiencies in play provision across the district allowing all households, where reasonably practicable, to have access to good quality play spaces within walking times of up to 10 to 15 minutes. If implemented in due course, this supports the development of neighbourhoods where local facilities can be accessed on foot or through active travel.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.3 In due course, the Play Audit and Investment Strategy propose addressing deficiencies in the accessibility of play provision across the district, providing more children and young people, and their families, with access to play provision within walking distance of home.
- 6.4 Investment and upgrading of play spaces, in due course, will allow inclusive design principles to be followed and there would be

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consultation locally around the opportunities to improve the play provision at each site.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Ongoing investment is required to keep play spaces in a condition that meets national standards and reduces the frequency and scale of insurance claims.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor B. McEldowney	22.08.24
Lead Director / Head of Service	Ruth Bamford	29.08.24
Financial Services	Peter Carpenter	29.08.24
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings Claire Felton	29.08.24