

SUBJECT: ALL WALES PLAY OPPORTUNITIES GRANT

MEETING: Single Member Decision

DATE: 14 February 2018

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: County Wide

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To seek approval for the proposed spending plan for the recent allocation of All Wales Play Opportunity Grant for 2017/18 to implement actions in the play action plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To approve the appended spending plan for All Wales Play Opportunity Grant for 2017/18 to implement actions in the play action plan.
- 2.2 To apply any additional allocation for 2017/18 against actions in the play action plan in agreement with the Cabinet Member.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Welsh Government have confirmed an offer of £16.7K play opportunities grant for spend by 31 March 2018. To be eligible the spend needs to be on implementing the play action plan and needs to be capable of being completed by end of March.

- 3.2 The proposed spend is to support:

- Summer Open Access Play Provision by meeting set up costs to 31 March 2018;
- Bulwark & Thornwell Play Assessment Project with Thornwell, Pembroke and Chepstow Schools
- A play value and accessibility assessment of fixed play equipment

The proposed spending plan is appended.

- 3.3 All proposed actions directly relate to implementing the Play Action Plan approved by Cabinet in 2016, namely matters (A) better understanding local play demand; (B) providing for diverse needs; (C) reviewing fixed play facilities; and (D) open access play provision.

- 3.4 There are indications that further grant for 2017/18 may be made available. If this arises it is proposed it be applied to any feasible actions in the play action plan in agreement with the Cabinet Member.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 4.1 Given the limited period to spend the grant and the requirement to spend on actions identified in the play action plan the proposed actions are considered the only viable options.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 An evaluation assessment has been included at Appendix A for future evaluation of whether the decision has been successfully implemented.

6. REASONS:

- 6.1 The proposed actions implement the priorities agreed in the Play Action Plan approved by Cabinet in 2016, namely matters (A) better understanding local play demand; (B) providing for diverse needs; (C) reviewing fixed play facilities; and (D) open access play provision.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 The allocated grant of £16,721 is 100% funding and will cover the proposed actions.

8. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

- 8.1 The significant equality impacts identified in the assessment (Appendix 2) are summarised below for members' consideration:
- The positive impact that securing sufficient and accessible play opportunities can have on children, families and communities.
 - The positive impact in providing for diverse needs.
 - The challenges of better understand demand, existing provision and opportunities including for disabled children
 - Developing mechanisms to engage with children and young people.
- 8.2 The actual impacts from this report's recommendations will be reviewed as part of the Play Action Plan Review.

9. CONSULTEES:

SLT, Cabinet

Report amended in light of indication from Welsh Government that further grant may be made available before the end of the financial year.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1: Proposed Spending Plan

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Evaluation Criteria – Cabinet, Individual Cabinet Member Decisions & Council

Title of Report:	All Wales Play Opportunities Grant
Date decision was made:	14 February 2018
Report Author:	Matthew Lewis

What will happen as a result of this decision being approved by Cabinet or Council?

What is the desired outcome of the decision?	Delivery of Play Action Plan
What effect will the decision have on the public/officers?	Improvements to play opportunities

12 month appraisal

Was the desired outcome achieved? What has changed as a result of the decision? Have things improved overall as a result of the decision being taken?

What benchmarks and/or criteria will you use to determine whether the decision has been successfully implemented?

Think about what you will use to assess whether the decision has had a positive or negative effect:

- Numbers of children engaged in Summer Open Access Play Scheme
- Numbers of children engaged in Bulwark & Thornwell Play Assessment Project
- Completion of play value and accessibility assessment of fixed play equipment

12 month appraisal

Paint a picture of what has happened since the decision was implemented. Give an overview of how you fared against the criteria. What worked well, what didn't work well. The reasons why you might not have achieved the desired level of outcome. Detail the positive outcomes as a direct result of the decision. If something didn't work, why didn't it work and how has that effected implementation.

What is the estimate cost of implementing this decision or, if the decision is designed to save money, what is the proposed saving that the decision will achieve?

Give an overview of the planned costs associated with the project, which should already be included in the report, so that once the evaluation is completed there is a quick overview of whether it was delivered on budget or if the desired level of savings was achieved. £16,721

12 month appraisal

Give an overview of whether the decision was implemented within the budget set out in the report or whether the desired amount of savings was realised. If not, give a brief overview of the reasons why and what the actual costs/savings were.

Any other comments

Appendix 1:

All Wales Play Opportunities Grant to Local Authorities 2017 – 2018

Proposal for the use of funding

Name of Local Authority: Monmouthshire County Council

Objective/Target	Cost £	Proposed Outcome(s)
<p>Open Access Play Provisions</p> <p>Open access play sessions in six community venues across Monmouthshire providing 5,140 supervised play opportunities benefitting approx. 451 families. Work to be commissioned through Torfaen Play Service (TPS) via a Service Level Agreement. Payment relates to contract costs incurred in 2017/18</p>	<p>9,000</p>	<p>Children will have access to free, open access play opportunities in their local community during the school summer holiday period.</p> <p>(Link to our Play Action Plan: Matter D: Supervised provision – open access play)</p>
<p>Bulwark & Thornwell (Chepstow) Play Assessment Project</p> <p>To support work with Thornwell and Pembroke Primary Schools and Chepstow Comprehensive to undertake a pupil led play assessment project - to get children involved in mapping where they play in Bulwark & Thornwell and identifying how that could be improved – costs of meeting set up, staff cover and transport</p>	<p>500</p>	<p>Involving young people in decision making regarding the play opportunities they would like/need in their communities. Research and dissemination of information on areas with high and low satisfaction with play to improve play opportunities for all children. (Link to our Play Action Plan: Matter (A) better understanding local play demand)</p>

<p>Fixed Play Provision</p> <p>To undertake “play value” and accessibility/inclusivity evaluation of fixed play equipment in Monmouth and Chepstow, utilising the Play Wales/Fields in Trust assessment guidance – designed to help inform the Monmouth pilot on reviewing and consolidating fixed play provision and in Chepstow to support the proposed play sufficiency project with the Chepstow school cluster.</p>	<p>7,221</p>	<p>Research and dissemination of information on areas with high and low satisfaction with play to improve play opportunities for all children; helping us review and improve the quality of fixed play provision. (Link to our Play Action Plan: Matter (A) better understanding local play demand; Matter (C) reviewing fixed play facilities; Matter (B) providing for diverse needs)</p>
	<p>16,721</p>	