

DRAFT
**Play Strategy for the
City of Lincoln**

Update 2011



2011-2016

Supplementary Document

Introduction

This document deliberately focuses on fixed play areas and aims to supplement, update and thereby replace the original outputs for Play Strategy for Lincoln 2007 – 2012. Many of the elements of the original strategy, particularly the consultative work and the identification of playgroups and opportunities are still relevant and should be referred to where required. It is not the intention to repeat all the work from the original strategy in this document, only to add to it, therefore the reader is invited to refer to the original document as appropriate.

This document also aims to identify contextual changes and provide a framework for priority and investment to develop play awareness and play opportunities for children and young people in Lincoln.

The overriding ambition is to provide the best possible play opportunities within the resources available and ensure the long-term sustainability of the portfolio of play areas in the city for the children and young people of Lincoln.

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1.0 Context

Play is often defined as:

“Play means what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way and for their own reasons.”

As such, play is difficult to evaluate, quantify and therefore comprehensively plan for. It is also a changing and evolving agenda, affected by trends, fashions, perceptions, policies and funding opportunities.

The benefits of play are numerous. These benefits include:

- Active lifestyle being developed from the earliest stages of life
- Healthy cognitive growth supporting later education
- Physical development
- Coordination, balance and control development
- Social and emotional learning
- Psychological development
- Understanding and avoiding risks
- Community cohesion and a sense of pride

In recognition of the crucial learning that occurs whilst playing, Albert Einstein once said: “Play is the highest form of research”.

1.1 National Context

Play has been high on respective government’s agendas, and featured prominently in the following documents:

- The Children’s Plan
- Every Child Matters
- The Play Strategy (National Play Strategy - DCMS/DCSF 2008)
- Start Active, Stay Active (Department of Health – July 2011)

Over the past 4 years funding for play has been channelled through the Big Lottery Fund’s Children’s Play programme in 2007 at a district level, and more recently DCSF channelled funding through the Play Pathfinder and Playbuilder schemes 2008 – 11 via top tier authorities.

All NHS Trusts have been required to have an <11’s Obesity Plan in place. Although a change in government policy will now mean that coordination and planning of such initiatives will be via a different route, it is still expected that support for physical activity and play initiatives will feature within whatever childhood obesity programmes emerge.

In July 2011 the Department of Health published Child Health and Physical Activity Recommendations stated in the 'Start Active, Stay Active' document. This document recommends the following levels of physical activity for children:

EARLY YEARS (under 5s)

1. Physical activity should be encouraged from birth, particularly through floor-based play and water-based activities in safe environments.
2. Children of pre-school age who are capable of walking unaided should be physically active daily for at least 180 minutes (3 hours), spread throughout the day.
3. All under 5s should minimise the amount of time spent being sedentary (being restrained or sitting) for extended periods (except time spent sleeping).

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (5–18 years)

1. All children and young people should engage in moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity for at least 60 minutes and up to several hours every day.
2. Vigorous intensity activities, including those that strengthen muscle and bone, should be incorporated at least three days a week.
3. All children and young people should minimise the amount of time spent being sedentary

Information gathered in the 2009/10 National Child Measurement Programme determined that in England:

- In Reception year, nearly a quarter (23.1 per cent) of the children measured were either overweight or obese. In Year 6, this rate was one in three (33.4 per cent).
- The percentage of obese children in Year 6 (18.7 per cent) was nearly double that of Reception (9.8 per cent), whilst the percentage of overweight children was higher in Year 6 (14.6 per cent) than in Reception (13.3 per cent).

Evidence supporting the National Play Strategy shows that poor quality play areas have little or no effect on children using them. Furthermore, parents are unlikely to allow their children to use small, poor quality sites.

Conversely, well equipped larger sites are more likely to be used and parents are more likely not just to allow their children to use the play area, but are also more likely to accompany them and bring other family members. Larger parks often have a range of opportunities to enable a family with a wide age-range of children to participate and play together.

Research undertaken for the former DCSF on the Playbuilder Programme <http://education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR089.pdf> indicates that:

- parents and children are very pleased to see investment in play areas;
- that exciting equipment is the main attraction for children;
- that play areas need to offer facilities for a wide age range of children and young people to play in order to attract whole families;
- 'Natural' play is particularly valuable for child health;
- effective consultation is crucial when developing a play facility;
- families see play areas as either 'community play areas' or 'destination parks', with 'destination parks' preferably having toilet and catering infrastructure to allow for extended visits by families;
- Play areas and parks must be viewed as safe. The best reassurance was an adult presence, ideally a Play Ranger;
- Play Areas should consider gender bias;
- Transport routes should be considered
- Site conditions needed to be conducive to year round use

1.2 Regional Context

Lincolnshire County Council has recently refreshed the Lincolnshire Play Strategy. Within this they are looking to link play at a strategic level; encourage schools to allow use of school play areas where they would benefit the community in partnership with district councils; work with NHS Lincolnshire to promote the value and benefits of play and help develop play opportunities.

1.3 Lincoln Context

1.3.1 Play Areas

As a principle urban centre in Lincolnshire, Lincoln faces a different context to all other Lincolnshire districts. In most villages and parishes, play areas are the responsibility of the parish council. In addition, one play area often is perceived as 'the' play area for the village even though the village may be large geographically and have a significant population.

Whilst relatively densely populated compared to other Lincolnshire districts, Lincoln has some exceptional 'accessible natural greenspace', including its key parks. Children play naturally in open spaces and parks, and there are recognised benefits to children from playing in the 'natural environment'.

Lincoln has many fixed play areas of varying size and quality. Traditionally these play areas have been assessed and developed using the former '6 Acre Standard' from the National Playing Fields Association (now Fields in Trust). This fixed national standard takes no account of local need and thus it is suggested that, in order to make best use of the resources available, a more modern and local approach to play area provision is required. (See new development- section 4)

1.3.2 Child Health

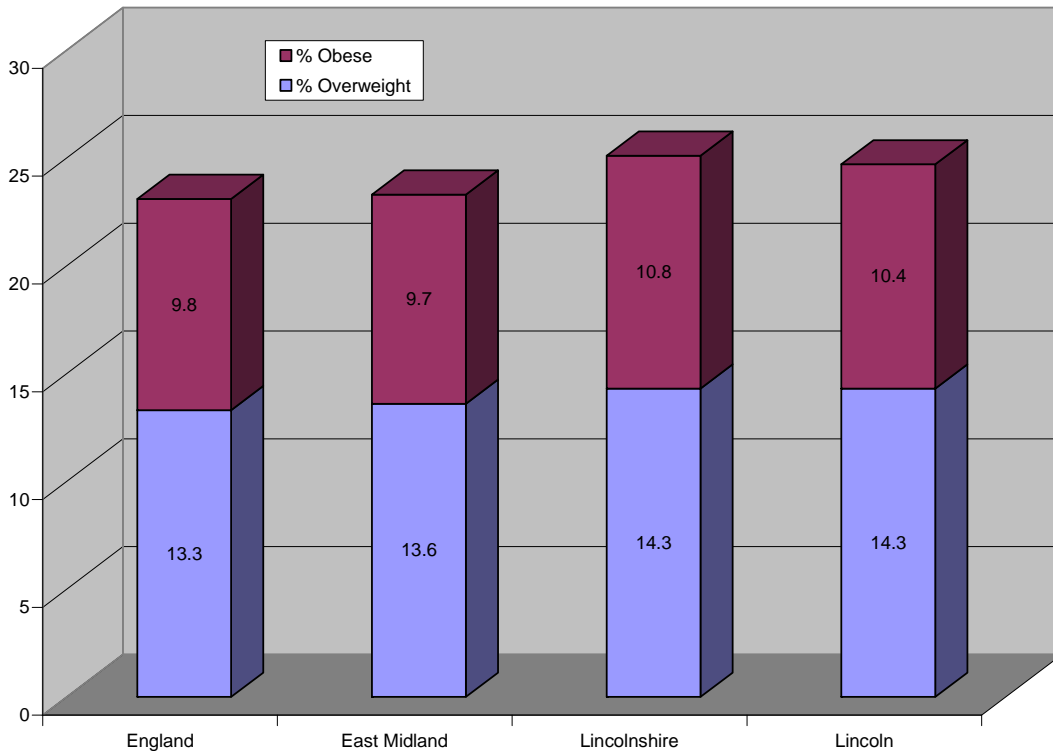
Whilst children in the East midlands have a lower obesity and overweight rates than the national average, currently children in Lincolnshire and, in particular, Lincoln are above the national average for being clinically overweight or obese.

The table and graphs below shows overweight and clinical obesity levels. Information in this survey shows that whilst Reception children in Lincoln are 1% higher than the national average for being overweight and 0.6% higher for being clinically obese, Year 6 children in Lincoln are 2.5% higher than the national average for being overweight and 1.6% higher for clinical obesity levels.

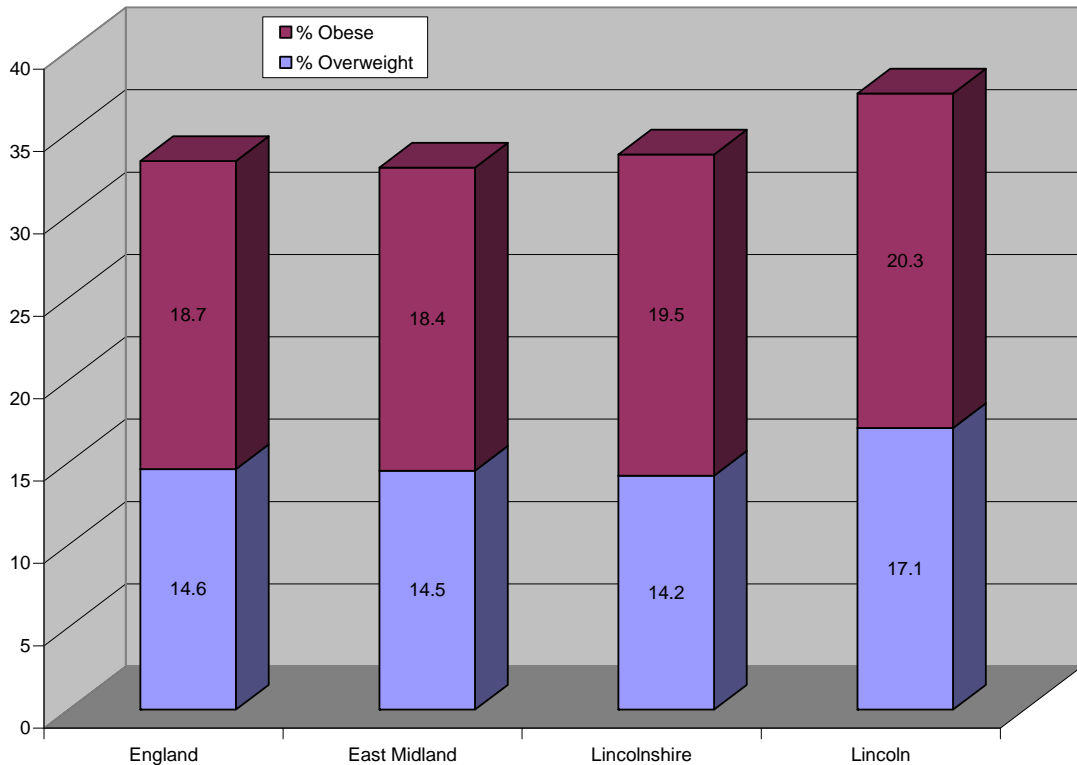
Area	Reception		Year 6	
	% Overweight	% Obese	% Overweight	% Obese
England	13.3	9.8	14.6	18.7
East Midland	13.6	9.7	14.5	18.4
Lincolnshire	14.3	10.8	14.2	19.5
Lincoln	14.3	10.4	17.1	20.3

Source: [2009/10 National Child Measurement Programme](#)

2009/10 Reception Overweight and Obese Children



2009/10 Year 6 Overweight & Obese Children



2.0 PLAY OPPORTUNITIES

2.1 Current Provision and recent Improvement Schemes

Historically revenue funding for play areas has been insufficient to maintain the council stock of equipped play areas, leading to a situation where many play areas have a fraction of their original equipment, if indeed they have equipment at all. A revenue budget of approximately £26k per annum is the current allocation towards supporting equipment replacement at the Councils play sites. S106 funds have also been used where appropriate. However, these are usually related to new housing developments and subsequent expansion of the population base of the city.

It is against this background that over the last 5 years the City Council has invested over £1m to improve play areas.

The funding has been a combination of external grants, targeted government investment and S106 developer contributions. This investment includes:

The 3 Play areas that have been funded through the BLF Children's Play programme (The Lawn, Sudbrooke Drive and King George's Field) have been well received and continue to be appropriately used for play. All 3 sites have a range of equipment for a wide age range of children and young people. Vandalism at the 3 sites has been minimal; with minor revenue costs incurred

mainly through normal wear. This is very encouraging and would support future prioritisation of larger, better play areas.

The Playbuilder Programme then allowed for 3 play areas to be developed/renewed in Lincoln. Initially Year 1 funding was rejected by the council due to a risk associated with spending the money within a tight time frame. The majority of the funding for year 1 of the programme was then made available in year 2, together with the year 2 allocation. This funding (£105k) was used together with some S106 funds (£35k) to develop Nene Road and Newark Road play areas. These play areas were completed in September 2009. They have a range of exciting equipment for a wide range of ages and include natural elements within the design. These play areas are well used by children and are in good repair. For year 3 of the Playbuilder programme Victoria Street play area has been renewed. A partnership approach was undertaken working with a supportive group of residents, LCC Youth Services, Lincolnshire Police, CofLC Housing and Neighbourhood MGT to develop this site through an engagement process. The site opened in July 2010 and was immediately embraced by the local community. Unfortunately a funding bid for a sportswall in the park was unsuccessful in 2010. However, this element has now been funded by alternative means, and will complete the play area and provide a range of activities for all children and young people.

The Playranger scheme was funded by BLF's Children's Play programme for 3 years. This scheme began operation in April 2008. The ethos of the scheme has been to concentrate on areas of the city which have poor play provision. Consequently the scheme has shifted focus as physical play sites have been developed. Lincolnshire County Council has further supported the scheme to allow for some work to be focused in the Moorland and St Giles areas. The scheme has been highly successful and it achieved all the necessary targets and milestones within the first 18 months of the 3-year scheme. Unfortunately further funding cannot be obtained to support this scheme. It will therefore cease at the end of March 2011.

The Council has more recently committed further funds through S106, and related interest gained on S106 funds held in accounts, to improve some sites across Lincoln. These are:

- Hartsholme Country Park play area - £100k (October 2010);
- Queen's Park - £20k (August 2010)
- Monks Abbey play area - £10k (August 2010)
- Boultham Park play area - £80k (April 2011)

Appendix A shows the original play strategy priorities for investment, and the progress made in delivering against those priorities.

2.2 Mapping of Play Opportunities

The aspirations of the original play strategy are mapped in **Appendix A**. These have largely been achieved, with some cascading into the revised suggested development plan.

In order to assess equity of provision for play it is helpful to see these mapped across the city. Recognising that children play in open spaces as well as formal play areas, mapping has been undertaken in **Appendix B** that shows play opportunities both in terms of Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANG) and fixed play sites.

In **Appendix C**, The fixed play sites in have 'spheres of influence' which demonstrates their suggested catchment based on the former 6-Acre standard. In simple terms the catchment area shows the area from which children are likely to travel to make use of the site. The basic criteria for the Six Acre Standard is set out in section 4 below.

It is recognised that the 'spheres of influence' for play areas do, at times, have some physical barriers (e.g. main roads or rivers) that make the catchment area disputable. Every effort has been made within the proposed development plan to consider and mitigate such limitations i.e. 2.3.1 below.

2.3 Priorities for Development

The approach under this heading is twofold:

- a) to carefully target funding to the sites/ play areas that are of highest strategic value and in the greatest need of refurbishment .
- b) to ensure maximum value for the money spent of developing/refurbishing play areas.

2.3.1 Targeting the funding

In order to determine the sites of greatest need, as a starting point spatial mapping of the sites has been used. The 'spheres of influence' shown on **Appendix C** show clearly where play sites are and provides an indication of the areas that they serve. The green spaces available are also mapped to provide context. Using this approach gaps in provision are made more obvious. Whilst the preference is to move towards larger sites that provide both a better experience, serve a wider community and wider age range of children and young people, it is recognised that smaller sites are sometimes the only option available. In cases such as this, it is accepted that whilst they are not an ideal solution, some play facility is clearly better than none.

Having reference to spatial mapping, and the sites that have been refurbished under the previous strategic plan, it is suggested that the following constitutes the basis of a reasonable forward plan, achievable over the next 5 years (subject to funding). This is shown in map form in **Appendix D**.

Site/Area	Required	Est. Cost
Birchwood Leisure Centre	0 – 8 equipment	£20k
Bunkers Hill	Integrate 'mirror image' play areas to form one NEAP.	£40k
Christ's Hospital School Area	Community Play Area	£100k
Greenbank	Full refurbishment	£75k
Jasmin Road	New play area, possibly with ball court.	£130k
Kesteven Street	Replace Archer Street PA as part of East/West link development on former coal yard.	As part of East/West Link - £120k
Larne Road	Adoption and improvement	£30k
Redcar Close	0 – 8 equipment	£45k
St Andrews Close	New play area in partnership with Bishop King School within their grounds, to replace defunct play area.	£75k
North/Central Lincoln	Develop Skate Park	£200k

2.3.2 Maximising Value for money

In order to assist with the sustainability of play areas within the financial resources available, 3 pragmatic steps are required:

1. Future and re-developed play areas should be designed and constructed in such a way that mitigates damage and makes repairs cost effective.
For example:
 - a. Equipment must continue to be assessed to ensure that it is suitable for its location and is robust.
 - b. Use the most cost effective safety surfaces (move away from popular 'wet-pour' rubberised surfacing, which is easily vandalised and is very expensive to install and repair, and make use of artificial grass matting)
 - c. Natural features should be integrated (so as to maximise play value from the site itself)
 - d. Engage with children and young people on the design of their local play facility so as to give 'ownership' by the community.

2. Ensure that features offer scope to a wide age-range of children and young people. This will limit frustrations for youth and provide some mitigation for vandalism.
3. Focus on and prioritise 'Community Play Areas', which offer a range of equipment for all ages. By necessity, within budget constraints, this may mean less support for smaller, lower value sites in favour of larger sites.

2.4 Community Aspiration

In some cases there are community aspirations to develop play facilities that may or may not be aligned with spatial priority, strategic development or, crucially, revenue support. Decisions will need to be made on a case-by-case basis whether an aspiration can or should be supported and if so, in what way.

Acknowledging that local residents' views are of crucial importance, and that the service must fit the community, guidance from local communities is warmly welcomed. Well organised groups can be a helpful addition to the armoury available to foster and improve play provision. If appropriately structured and self sustaining a well run residents' group may not only be able to guide on provision, but may also be able to lever in funding which the Council cannot access. They may also be prepared to support the proposed site operationally.

The following are just some of the issues that need to be considered for any community aspirations relating to play:

- Fit with core strategy
- Feasibility of aspiration
- Officer support required/available
- Procurement and project support/management
- Whole life costs
- Property
- Planning
- Equality and diversity impact
- Revenue implications –
 - Inspection
 - Maintenance
 - Insurance
 - Equipment replacement

2.5 Known Community Aspirations

There are currently 4 known community aspirations to develop play facilities in Lincoln. These sites are:

- Wickham Gardens
- Tower Play Area
- Swift Gardens
- Fontwell Crescent

Wickham Gardens: A residents group (SWINGS) wish to replace play equipment in Wickham Gardens. The Council has considered this request and granted permission for the group to investigate options to fulfil this aspiration.

Tower Play Area: The Tower Action Group (TAG) has engaged with Neighbourhood Management and Recreation Services with an aspiration to improve the Tower play area. The group feel that improvements to the play area will help to reduce social issues and provide a better quality play experience for local residents. They already assist operationally with the site and are prepared, as a constituted group, to submit funding applications to achieve their aims.

Swift Gardens: The St Giles Volunteer Forum, an umbrella forum of a number of community groups, has engaged with Neighbourhood Management with an aspiration to develop a new play area on Swift Gardens. The proposed location would see a facility grouped with other existing facilities and would benefit from natural surveillance. The group wishes to develop play in the locality and recognise that the former play area at Coleridge Gardens is a poor location. Initial officer views are that whilst there is a current gap in provision that would ideally be met by providing a play site centred in the Christ's Hospital area, this site would serve some of the demand and is a feasible aspiration.

Fontwell Crescent: This is a small play area situated on a building plot between houses. The Play Area is fenced and local residents assist in the operation by key-holding for the site and opening and closing facility. The site has limited play value due to it's size and will not offer a full range of play opportunities even if extensively invested in. Local residents are keen to retain the play area and wish a full range of equipment to be available at the site.

2.6 Emerging Opportunities

The Former E2V Site Development (Carholme Road) is scheduled to provide a significant sum for play investment (£152,413) when the s106 agreement for the site matures. Whilst the time of this funding cannot be specified, estimates at this time indicate that the funding should be available circa 2016. The funding is ring-fenced to the West End of Lincoln and crucially needs to benefit the incumbent residents of the developers site. Given the likely time frame for the funding to become available, it seems too early to begin consultation in earnest as this may lead to unmet aspiration for some time. However, tentative engagement and speculation regarding suitable location and facilities may be beneficial, provided consultees are fully aware of the delivery time for any play provision.

2.7 Consultation

The existing Play Strategy for the Council included consultation with professional bodies who have key involvement in play, such as the Council planning department, The County Council, NHS Lincolnshire and Children's Links, as well as through the wider media to invite comment. Experience from previous efforts to engage with residents on issues relating to the wider strategy for play has proven limited. Despite using online consultation, media coverage and the Council's quarterly publication, Your Lincoln, very few responses have been received. It is felt that in common with many other subjects, people really only want to spend time on an issue if/when they understand that they could be affected directly. This is seen in examples when consultation on wider strategy

delivers little, but consultation on a specific proposal for a specific site can then generate considerable engagement. Nowhere is this more true than in relation to issues concerning play.

The paradox is frequently that most people will whole heartedly agree that all children and young people should have suitable facilities to play and exercise in the outdoor environment, but many do not wish any such facilities to be located close to their properties.

Experience from the recent capital investment has demonstrated the benefits of investing officer time on local community engagement from the outset of any significant proposed project or change.

It is acknowledged that this update of the play strategy, which covers a considerable period would benefit from wider consultation, and therefore the following consultation strategy is proposed.

Phase 1

Consultee	Method	Comments
Policy Scrutiny committee	Report to committee	Opportunity to consider and influence the overall approach and the consultation strategy

Phase 2

Establishing the overall approach.

Consultee	Method	Comments
Lincolnshire County Council	Invitation to presentation and workshop	Consulting on the overall approach of establishing a Council's level of provision based on spatial assessment (specifically not aimed at discussing specific sites, other than for example as potential outcomes of the approach).
NHS Lincolnshire		
City Council- Planning		
Lincolnshire Playing Fields Association		
Lincolnshire Sports Partnership		
City Council- Facilities management		

Phase 3

What the agreed approach may mean 'on the ground'

Consultee	Method	Comments
Ward members	Invitation to a presentation and workshop	Workshop events to be aimed and scheduled with a target of being based on smaller groups

City Council- Neighbourhood management	Invitation to each manager a presentation and workshop	of around 20 people to facilitate the best options on open discussion. Focus to be the potential impact of the implementation of the overall approach, including reference to specific sites.
Other recognised neighbourhood groups	Letter to Chair of groups with invitation to a presentation and workshop- at discretion of Portfolio Holder	
Public	Invitation to comment in writing via the Council's publicity (web , Council paper) , also wider media.	Letters to be received and fed into the final report.

Phase 4

Consultee	Method	Comments
Policy Scrutiny committee	Report to committee	Opportunity to consider and findings from the consultation, and to offer final comment before referral to the Executive

Phase 5

Consultee	Method	Comments
Executive	Report to committee	Final report including feedback from consultations and view from Scrutiny Committee.

3.0 PROMOTION OF PLAY

3.1 Play4Life Brand



The Play4Life brand is one of a number of subset brands of the national Change4life programme. Change4Life is a society-wide movement that aims to prevent people from becoming overweight by encouraging them to eat healthily and be more active.

3.2 Local Play Information

Accessible information regarding play opportunities is currently limited. Web based information regarding larger sites is available on the Council website.

Many key sites, such as the Backies Skate Park are relatively unknown and require better promotion.

Actions to improve this situation over the next 12 months:

- Produce simple format leaflet detailing –
 - Benefits of play
 - Information regarding key sites
 - Mapping and location details

This leaflet could be circulated via a number of outlets and made available in PDF format on the Council's website.

- Provide better web-based information –
 - Mapping of play sites
 - Details of play sites including images, features and age range
 - Postcode search for play sites
 - Travel plans for destination parks in Lincoln

3.3 Natural Play

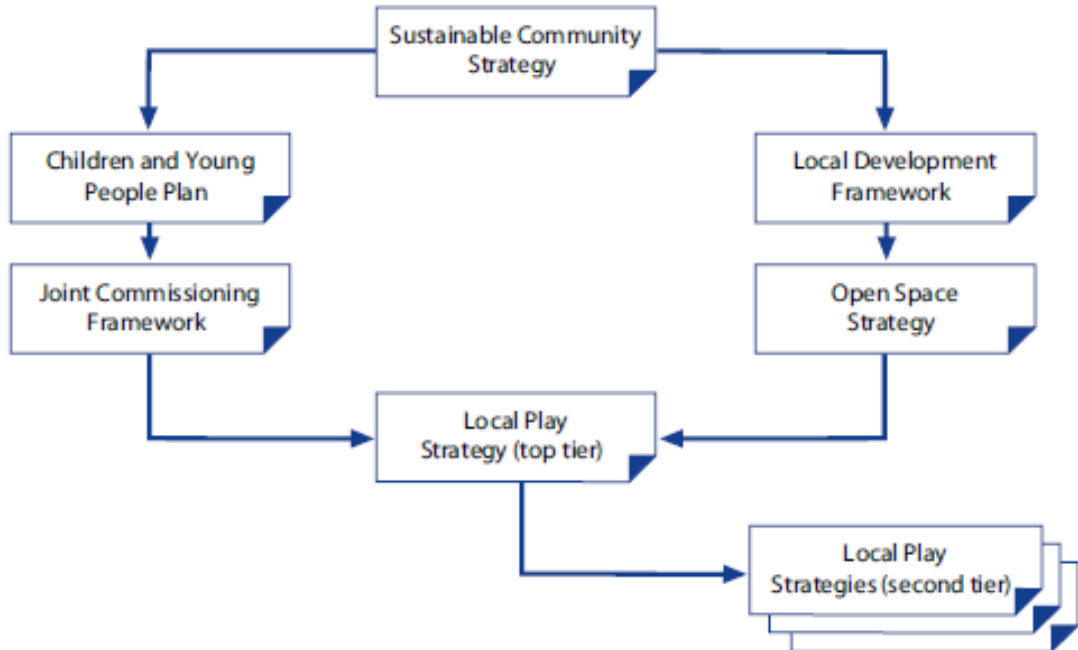
Lincoln has some exceptional green spaces for children to enjoy and explore. In the truest sense of play, these resources are invaluable. From formal parks to informal 'accessible natural greenspace' many sites around the city offer children a fantastic opportunity for their emotional and psychological development.

4 NEW DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 Play Standards

The National Play Strategy recommends the following model in relation to Play Planning:

Figure 1. Play within the local strategic planning framework



At this point we do not have an Open Space Strategy (PPG17) for Lincoln. In addition the Lincolnshire Play Strategy is still being reviewed.

The Fields in Trust (formerly National Playing Fields Association) 6-Acre standard is generally used by planning sections nationally in the absence of a local PPG17 Open Spaces Strategy.

The 6-acre standard approach has been to categorise play areas into 3 levels of play provision: 'Local', 'Local Equipped' and 'Neighbourhood' areas of play. Often the smaller two standards are the sites that anecdotally attract anti-social behaviour and have been more problematic to maintain.

In the National Play Strategy, it has been suggested that Local Areas of Play (LAP) could be termed as 'doorstep' play areas and would not necessarily have any equipment, rather a space for children to play.

The 6-acre standard states:

- 1.6ha (4 acres) per 1,000 population of outdoor sport; and
- 0.8ha (2 acres) per 1,000 population for children's play comprising designated areas for children and young people containing a range of facilities and an environment that has been designed to provide focused

opportunities for children’s play and casual or informal playing space within housing areas.

The 6-acre standards for play areas are set out in the table below:

Facility	Time	Walking Distance	Radial Distance	Minimum size	Nearest Dwelling	Features
Local Area of Play (LAP)	1min	100m	60m	100sq.m	5m from activity zone	Small, low-key games area
Local Equipped Area of Play (LEAP)	5min	400m	240m	400sq.m	10m from activity zone	5 types of equipment, small games area
Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP)	15min	1,000m	600m	1,000sq.m	30m from activity zone	8 types of equipment, opportunities for ball games or wheeled activities

If maintained as the City Council’s standard for play provision then this translates into a desire to provide as set out in appendix E

4.2 Proposed Standard for Lincoln

It is clear that the standards above are not feasible for existing residential areas in Lincoln. In terms of new developments, anecdotal resident feedback and operational experience would suggest that play resources are best consolidated, with larger high quality play facilities, provided less frequently and placed well away from residential properties.

This approach is further supported by reviews undertaken by the former DCSF on the Playbuilder programme. In the research undertaken there was clear evidence that parents were far more likely to allow children to attend larger, better play sites and conversely were reluctant to allow children to attend smaller, lower quality sites.

The proposed standard for new developments would therefore focus on providing suitable space for informal play, but consolidating equipped sites at Six Acre NEAP standard, spaced so as to serve 600m radial spread.

Furthermore it is recommended that, as a policy, developer applications are subject to S106 or CIL agreements based on the above, to fund capital and commuted sum revenue support to the Council in order to deliver appropriate fixed play areas before the completion of the respective development. This would allow the Council direct control of the play provision to ensure that the play provision is harmonious and sustainable in the long-term.

4.3 Youth Facilities

Recently a cutting edge young persons facility opened in Lincoln called The Showroom. Funded by the My Space programme and led by Lincolnshire YMCA,

this former car salesroom on Tritton Road has undergone a transformation to become a state of the art youth facility. The facilities include sports space, recording studios, climbing wall, bowling, catering and an auditorium.

5.0 SUMMARY

As previously stated, the overriding aim is to provide the best possible play opportunities within the resources available and ensure the long-term sustainability of the portfolio of play areas for the city.

The Council has an existing stock of some 28 play areas. Within existing budgets this level of holding will be difficult or impossible to maintain at a satisfactory standard, witnessed by the fact that several play sites on the Council's existing inventory of play locations currently have no equipment. The strategy therefore, by necessity, prioritises larger play sites. This would give both best value to the tax-payer and the best play value to the service users.

The sites in the table below have been recognised as having strategic importance, and therefore should form the basis of the Council's investment plan over the next five years (subject to funding being available). These proposals are mapped in **Appendix D**.

Site/Area	Required	Est. Cost
Birchwood Leisure Centre	0 – 8 equipment	£20k
Bunkers Hill	Integrate 'mirror image' play areas to form one NEAP.	£40k
Christ's Hospital School Area	Community Play Area	£100k
Greenbank	Full refurbishment	£75k
Jasmin Road	New play area, possibly with ball court.	£130k
Kesteven Street	Replace Archer Street PA as part of East/West link development on former coal yard.	As part of East/West Link - £120k
Larne Road	Adoption and improvement	£30k
Redcar Close	0 – 8 equipment	£45k
St Andrews Close	New play area in partnership with Bishop King School within their grounds, to replace defunct play area.	£75k
North/Central Lincoln	Develop Skate Park	£200k

In addition to the above, it is recognised that local community initiatives have, or are establishing, demand for investment in locations that are outside of the scope

of the proposed strategy. The suggestion is therefore that the following are supported as locations for community development of play, with third parties working with the Council to seek funding for the development of the site, and for the Council to assess on a case by case basis if adoption is appropriate, or if the third party would retain responsibility for maintenance.

There are currently three known community aspirations to develop play facilities in Lincoln. These sites are:

- Wickham Gardens
- Tower Play Area
- Swift Gardens

This strategy is identified as covering the period 2011 to 2016. Whilst review is intended after 5 years, should progress on the plan occur more quickly than is envisaged (as has been the case with the existing plan) then the plan will be subject to early review.

END