



AGENDA

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 10 January 2023

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT*

Membership:

Councillors Cameron Beart, Lloyd Bowen, Steve Davey, Mike Dendor, Oliver Eakin, Tim Gibson, Alastair Gould, James Hall, Nicholas Hampshire, Elliott Jayes (Vice-Chair), Peter Macdonald, Lee McCall, Richard Palmer (Chair), Hannah Perkin, Ken Rowles and Julian Saunders.

Quorum = 5

Pages

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The Chair will ask Members if they have any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) or disclosable non-pecuniary interests (DNPIs) to declare in respect of items on the agenda. Members with a DPI in an item must leave the room for that item and may not participate in the debate or vote.

Aside from disclosable interests, where a fair-minded and informed observer would think there was a real possibility that a Member might be biased or predetermined on an item, the Member should declare this and leave the room while that item is considered.

Members who are in any doubt about interests, bias or predetermination should contact the monitoring officer for advice prior to the meeting.

4. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on 1 November 2022 (Minute Nos. 408 - 414) as a correct record.

Part B reports for the Community Committee to decide

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 5. Community Safety Strategic Assessment | 5 - 20 |
| 6. Open Spaces and Play Area Strategy | 21 - 64 |
| 7. Forward Decisions Plan | 65 - 66 |

Issued on Friday, 23 December 2022

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**Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT**

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Communities Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	10 th January 2023
Report Title	Swale Community Safety Strategic Assessment
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbours
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Housing and Communities
Lead Officer	Stephanie Curtis, Community Safety Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. That the Communities Committee provides feedback to the Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to inform its strategic assessment and priority setting process for 2023/24.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the Swale community safety strategic assessment process and asks the Committee to provide feedback on the current CSP performance as well as any emerging issues it feels the CSP may need to focus on.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP), of which Swale Borough Council is a statutory partner, is required to complete a strategic assessment annually. Also, section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee with power to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the CSP in their area.
- 2.2 The purpose of this strategic assessment is to provide an understanding of community safety problems within the borough, in order to inform and help determine partnership problems for the following year. It includes a performance assessment against the current priorities; discussion around emerging issues; and consideration of wider threats and opportunities that may impact upon the work of the CSP.
- 2.3 The strategic assessment, along with information from partners will be considered by the Swale CSP Executive Group at their meeting late January 2023 once the assessment is completed. This group will agree the Community Safety Priorities for 2023/24 and the Community Safety Plan will be revised based upon this. The overall priorities have not changed for a number of years, but the specific focus within these has been amended.

- 2.4 Part of the process of compiling the strategic assessment is to review previous performance of the CSP. Part of this is a data exercise, with data being supplied to the CSP for this purpose throughout December. Additionally partner agencies are asked to submit their own views on the current performance of the partnership and any emerging community-based issues they feel the CSP should now prioritise.
- 2.5 Due to the Scrutiny function of this Committee, the CSP would welcome views on the Committee feel the Partnership is currently performing against its current priorities and any emerging issues Committee members feel they should be tackling.
- 2.6 The current Swale Community Safety Partnership Priorities for 2022/23 are shown in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 provides an overview of work of the CSP during 2022/23 and some key statistics as of September 22, which was presented to the Swale Community Safety Partnership Executive Group at their meeting in November 22.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 That the Communities Committee provides feedback to the Swale Community Safety Partnership to inform its strategic assessment and priority setting process based upon the following questions:
 - 1. From reviewing the current performance of the CSP against its identified priorities, do you feel the Partnership is serving its communities effectively?
 - 2. Are there any other community-based issues you feel the CSP should consider in its priority setting process for 2023/24?

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 To not provide any feedback to the Swale Community Safety Partnership: This isn't recommended as members of the Committee have a good understanding of issues facing the local community which may not fully be known by other agencies and are required to undertake a Scrutiny function through the Police and Justice Act.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 Consultation on the Community Safety priorities for Swale will take place with the CSP in January and will form the basis for the annual refresh of the Swale Community Safety Plan.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The community safety strategic assessment supports the Corporate Plan priority 'tackling deprivation and creating equal opportunities for everyone' and the objective of 'ensuring that the council plays a proactive role in reducing crime and ASB, including through the modernisation of CCTV provision'.
Financial, Resource and Property	There are no additional finance, resource or property implications in completing the community safety strategic assessment. Resource is in place within the Community Safety Unit to create the document and assist the Community Safety Partnership in its priority setting process and refresh of the Community Safety Plan.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	<p>The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave agencies a duty to work together to tackle crime and disorder. Responsible authorities, which include district/borough councils, must work together to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area.</p> <p>The Police and Justice Act 2006 updated the Crime and Disorder Act 98, expanding the number of responsible authorities and placing a duty on them to share evidence based data and carry out frequent strategic assessments.</p> <p>Section 19 of this Act also requires local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee with power to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the CSP in their area.</p>
Crime and Disorder	The contribution to the Swale community safety strategic assessment by the Communities Committee will assist in ensuring that the priorities considered by the CSP are as reflective as possible of those crime and disorder issues faced by our communities.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	Environmental ASB/crime is recognised within the current ASB priority for the CSP and partnership working to tackle this has remained an area of focus for the last number of years.
Health and Wellbeing	The existing community safety priorities contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community by ensuring there is a partnership response in place to many issues that may affect this agenda specifically around domestic abuse and supporting vulnerable people.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	The existing Swale community safety priorities are closely linked to the safeguarding agenda. Swale BCs safeguarding policy and soon to be adopted domestic abuse policy sit alongside the community safety plan and associated action.

Risk Management and Health and Safety	No specific implications on risk management or health/safety have been identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	No specific implications on groups with protected characteristics have been identified.
Privacy and Data Protection	The Swale community safety strategic assessment is a partnership document, but its completion is led by Swale BC on behalf of the CSP. Data is shared with the CSU staff completing this through the Information Sharing Agreement from partner agencies. Some data shared has restrictions placed upon it (particularly from the Police) and this limits how widely the final assessment can be shared.

7 Appendices

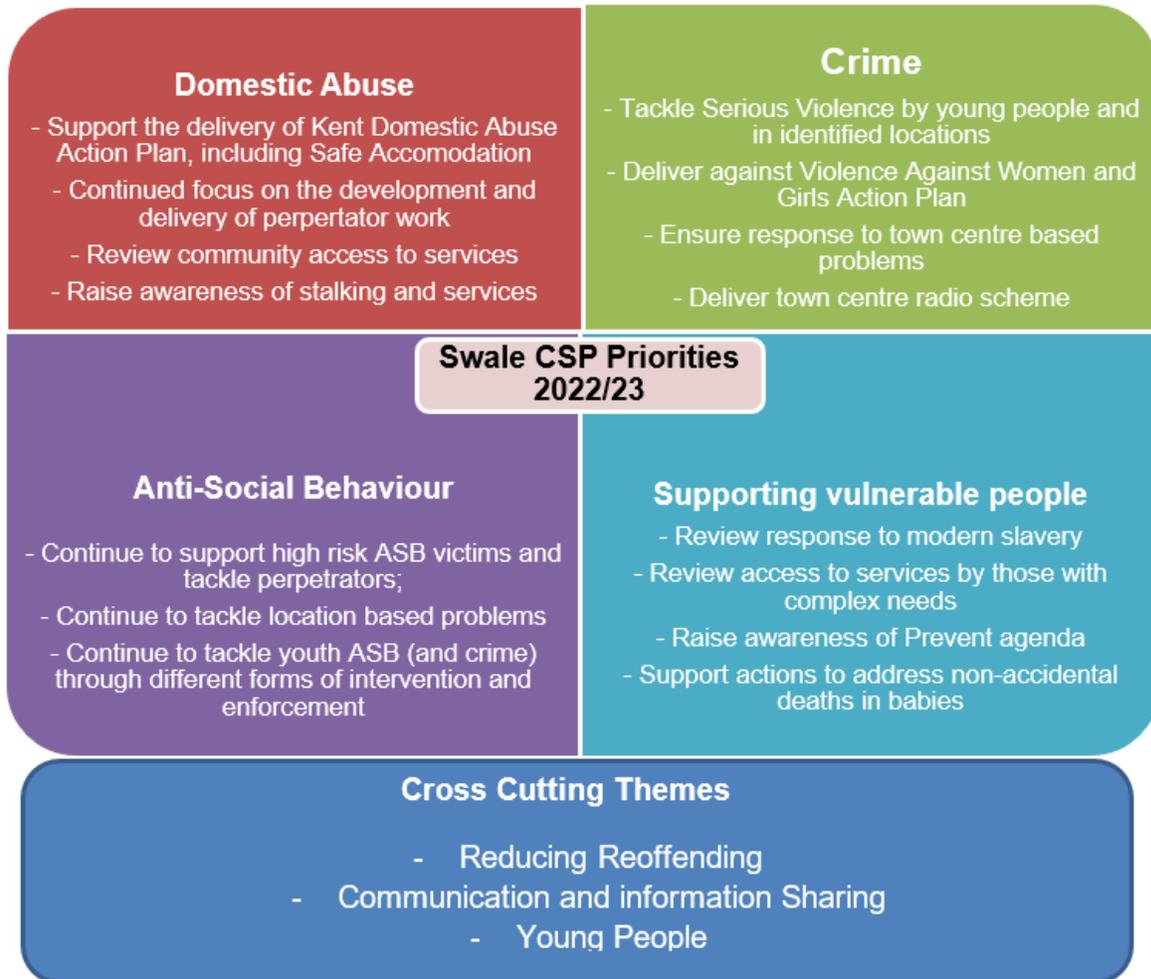
7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix 1: Swale Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2022/23
- Appendix 2: Swale Community Safety Partnership Executive Performance Exceptions Report November 22

8 Background Papers

Swale Community Safety Plan 2022/23 - [https://swale.gov.uk/news-and-your-council/strategies-and-policies/community-safety-plan#:~:text=Swale%20Community%20Safety%20Partnership%20\(CSP,social%20behaviour%20and%20reducing%20reoffending.](https://swale.gov.uk/news-and-your-council/strategies-and-policies/community-safety-plan#:~:text=Swale%20Community%20Safety%20Partnership%20(CSP,social%20behaviour%20and%20reducing%20reoffending.)

Appendix 1: Swale Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2022/23



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TO: Community Safety Partnership Executive
DATE: Wednesday 2nd November 2022
SUBJECT: Swale Community Safety Plan Exception Report
BY: Brooke Buttfield

1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of the key action updates for discussion in the 2022/23 Swale Community Safety Plan.

Priority: Domestic Abuse			
	Previous Rolling Year (Sep 20 – end Aug 21)	Current Rolling Year (Sep 21 – end Aug 22)	Change
No. of Domestic Abuse incidents (Kent Police)	5294	5465	3.2% or 171 increase
	Complete	In Progress	Not yet started/Off track
CSP Plan Actions	0	3	1

Comment

Volume of Domestic Abuse incidents reported to Kent Police continues to remain at a high level, with a small increase comparing the current year to the previous.

As discussed in the previous performance report, the action in relation to wider community access for domestic abuse victims remains on hold whilst a decision is made by KCC as to whether there is grant funding available for this. The One Stop Shop has now moved to Sheppey Gateway. Further promotion of this will continue to increase awareness and attendance.

Stalking refresher training is being organised and will be promoted to wider partnership staff, with an agenda item to be scheduled for the January CSP Executive on what further work within Swale could take place.

There is a concern of duplication of service regarding CDAP and the newly recommissioned Interventions Alliance perpetrator service, funded by the PCC Office. Meetings at local and county level are taking place regarding these services moving forward.

Priority: Crime			
	Previous Rolling Year (Sep 20 – end Aug 21)	Current Rolling Year (Sep 21 – end Aug 22)	Change
Violence Against the Person (VATP)	6986	7329	4.9% or 343 incident increase
Burglary (Business and	134	183	36.5% or 49 incident

Community)			increase
Criminal Damage	1688	1872	10.9% or 184 incident increase
Shoplifting	963	1048	8.8% or 85 incident increase
	Complete	In Progress	Not yet started/Off track
CSP Plan Actions	0	4	0

Comments

All actions in relation to the CSP Plan are in progress. Key highlights include that the Swale Link Radio scheme is now live and has been fully operational since the beginning of August. Work continues to promote the scheme to partners to increase the membership numbers.

Funding was also secured by the Violence Reduction Unit to deliver youth outreach work around Sittingbourne town centre which has been a hotspot. This is now completed and full evaluation being compiled for the VRU.

The Violence Against Women and Girls Action Plan has recently been refreshed to factor in the PCCs review into this issue. Although Swale was identified as an area of increasing concern in his Review, there are no singular locations identified for focus. There has been increased work to engage the community and identify if there are locations of concern – this work is ongoing.

Priority: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

	Previous Rolling Year (Sep 20 – end Aug 21)	Current Rolling Year (Sep 21 – end Aug 22)	Change
ASB Incidents reported to Kent Police	3811	2580	-32.3% or 1231 incidents
	Complete	In Progress	Not yet started/Off track
CSP Plan Actions	0	2	0

Comments

There has been a large decrease in ASB reported to Kent Police – following a reduction trend over the last year.

The CSU continue to tackle high risk ASB and problem solve in key locations highlighted of concern. However, with a reduction in overall PCSO numbers (both ward based and specialist roles within the CSU) due to resignations and the ongoing Neighbourhood Policing Review, this has impacted the CSUs ability to respond to all forms of ASB. This will be kept under constant review with Kent Police linking in closely with all partners.

Priority: Supporting Vulnerable People

	Previous Rolling Year (Sep 20 – end Aug 21)	Current Rolling Year (Sep 21 – end Aug 22)	Change
Vulnerable/repeatedly targeted callers (Kent Police)	620	561	-9.5% or 59 callers

	Complete	In Progress	Not yet started/Off track
CSP Plan Actions	0	4	0

Comments

All actions within the CSP Plan are in progress/on track. The Complex Needs project has now started with a worker in post. This role will be working with individuals that have substance misuse issues and are difficult to engage with services. They will be trialling new ways of engaging this cohort during this 6 month pilot.

A successful first meeting of a CSP sub-group to look at non-accidental deaths in babies took place in May, with a second meeting in early September. Following the loss of funding for the Caring Dads programme and limited to no external funding identified for specific services. A number of actions have been identified to seek to understand agencies responses to fathers and what wider work to champion this agenda can take place.

Safeguarding Adults Week is taking place towards the end of November. The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board has published details of the theme of the week and expectations from partners to participate.

Cross Cutting Theme: Reducing Reoffending

	Complete	In Progress	Not yet started/Off track
CSP Plan Actions	0	1	0

Comments

There is only 1 reducing reoffending specific action within the CSP plan – attendance at the integrated offender management programmes, which is in progress.

Cross Cutting Theme: Communication and Information Sharing

	Complete	In Progress	Not yet started/Off track
CSP Plan Actions	0	2	1

Comments

CSP Communication based activity is focusing on domestic abuse. We are working closely with the County Domestic Abuse Partnership's Communication sub-group ahead of the 16 Days of Action in November/December as well as looking at World Cup specific activity around this same time frame. Funding is also being sourced to support SATEDA with a young person specific campaign.

There has been a delay in delivery of a CSP newsletter due to resourcing within the CSU, however this is now almost complete.

Cross Cutting Theme: Young People

	Complete	In Progress	Not yet started/Off track
CSP Plan Actions	0	3	0

Comments

All CSP Plan actions relating to young people are in progress, focusing on work linked to the district adolescent contextual safeguarding meeting which has undergone a recent review.

Funding has been supplied to Brogdale CIC to undertake Youth Outreach work in Sittingbourne town centre during the summer months and into September/October, funded by the VRU. A full evaluation of this will also be compiled now the work has been completed.

Safety in Action for Year 6 students has also now taken place with a full evaluation completed. Work for the 2023 event has begun.

Swale Community Safety Plan Full Update September 22

No.	Action	Desired outcome	Key milestones	Timescales	Lead Agency	Updates
Priority 1: Domestic Abuse						
1.1	Delivery of Domestic Abuse Community Access project	Increased access to domestic abuse services by victims, including harder to reach target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of community access action plan • Delivery of action plan 	April 2022 By March 2023	Domestic Abuse Group – Community Access Task and Finish Group	On hold - Still waiting update from KCC as to whether the grant for this project is still going ahead. However, the One Stop Shop has now moved to the Sheppey Gateway.
1.2	Development and delivery of perpetrator programmes for Swale residents	Increased provision of support to domestic abuse perpetrators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing perpetrator provision available within borough • Linkage with KCC regarding commissioning of any services • Commissioning of any additional Swale based services • Promotion of perpetrator services 	01/04/2022 Ongoing May-22	Domestic Abuse Group	In progress - Funding in place for CDAP and promotion to partners continues. Funding is also in place for wider County scheme by Interventions Alliance. Meeting taking place 09/09 regarding this service. County meeting also reviewing whether any duplication of service now occurring.
1.3	Review local provision and awareness on stalking	Increased awareness of stalking and local service provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Discussion by CSP Exec regarding stalking – current issues and service provision • Delivery of agreed actions. • Delivery of training to partners 	By September 22 By March 23 October 22	Executive group/Domestic Abuse Group	In progress - Stalking conversation by CSP Exec to be arranged for December. Training for partnership staff to take place October/November with dates being finalised.

1.4	Support delivery of County Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan	Increased understanding of domestic abuse and focused action on key priority areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in county meeting groups and delivery of agreed actions from Delivery Plan including: • Provision of data for needs assessment • Support rollout of Domestic Abuse Champions Programme • Support development of 'Sanctuary' provision 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Sept 22</p> <p>By Sept 22</p> <p>By March 23</p>	Domestic Abuse Group	In progress - CSU and other partners represented at County Domestic Abuse meetings. Details have now been circulated of county Champions programme and this is being reviewed as to how Swale partners engage. KCC are continuing to look at a Sanctuary pilot with a questionnaire for current service provision out at the moment.
Priority 2: Crime						
2.1	Ensure appropriate Serious Violence response is in place	Reduction in serious violence across borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure multi-agency response to place and/or people based issues when an increase in serious violence is identified • Focus on deterrence activities for Young Street Groups • Improved intelligence sharing by partners and communities on knife crime (promotion of Community Voice) 	As required	CSU; District Adolescent Contextual Safeguarding group (DACSM)	In progress – Funding was agreed for youth outreach work in Sittingbourne Town Centre. This has run throughout the summer holidays and will continue into October.
2.2	Establish a new town centre 'shop safe' radio scheme	Reduction in crime and ASB across all town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business case for new SBC led scheme developed • Rollout of new scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of April • May onwards 	CSU/Town Centre Meeting	In progress – scheme is now live and operational in all towns. Membership is growing and work will continue to increase membership with support from partners.



2.3	Delivery of Violence Against Women and Girls Action Plan	Increased feelings of safety by women and girls; reduced violence against women/girls in public spaces	Delivery of VAWG action plan to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comms and engagement at key periods (Jubilee and Christmas) • White Ribbon Campaign • Rollout of Safe Havens • Addressing identified location based concerns • Rollout of Best Bar None Schools based young person actions 	Ongoing	CSU / Town Centre Meeting	In progress - VAWG action plan developed and being monitored with Kent Police. A review of the action plan took place in July 22, with an increased focused on engagement with the public. This review has also considered the recently published PCC Review of VAWG. Safe Havens and Best Bar None are projects that will continue to be developed.
2.4	Review of Town Centre Safety activity, including within the Night Time Economy	Increased safety in town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Town Centre Safety Meeting Terms of Reference Ongoing monitoring of town centre based concerns and actions to address 	May 22 Ongoing	CSU Town Centre Safety Meeting	In progress - town centre safety meeting now meeting regularly to review any town centre based problems.
Priority 3: ASB						
3.1	Delivery of response to ASB hotspots.	Reduction of ASB in identified hotspots.	Delivery of "Focus Area" approach to identified ASB hotspots.	As required	CSU	In progress - Focus area work in Sheerness continuing, although with a reduction in incidents is due to be closed. Murston focus area was closed in early May 22. Work has taken place in Queenborough following an increase in different types of ASB.
3.2	Delivery of enforcement and diversionary response to youth related ASB.	Reduction in youth related ASB	Ongoing enforcement response to young perpetrators. Targeted diversionary activities.	Ongoing	CSU	In progress - Response to ASB continues by CSU, linking in with DACSM (action 7.2)
Priority 4: Supporting Vulnerable People						



4.1	Review Partnership approach to modern slavery	Increased understanding by public and partners of signs of modern slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic planning discussion around modern slavery by CSP Executive • Delivery of agreed actions • Delivery of Partnership training 	June 2022 By March 2023 December 2022	CSP Executive / CSU	In progress - Modern slavery discussion took place at June Executive meeting, however further conversations need to take place. Kent Police coordinator role identified and meeting being arranged.
4.2	Review of access to services by those with complex needs, including those with mental health and substance misuse needs.	Increased access to key services by those with complex needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic planning discussion around complex needs (mental health and substance misuse) • Delivery of agreed actions • Pilot of alcohol outreach worker for vulnerability panel clients 	June 2022 By March 23 By March 23	CSP Executive	In progress – Worker now in post (started September 22) and starting to build case load. Evaluation tool also been drafted.
4.3	Ongoing Partnership response to Preventing Extremism	Increased awareness of Prevent agenda by partners and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Prevent Training to partners • Delivery of InCel training to partners • Work with Kent Prevent team on community inputs regarding Prevent • Support development of annual Counter Terrorism Local Profile and any local actions required 	Sept 22 Sept 22 Ongoing Ongoing	CSU	In progress - Prevent and Incel training to be arranged for September onwards. Regular updates on prevent provided to CSU Executive.
4.4	Support local approach to tackle non-accidental deaths in babies	Reduction in deaths of babies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions with key children partners to determine wider partnership support for this issues • Delivery of any agreed actions 	April 22 Ongoing	CSP Executive	In progress – Second sub-group meeting taking place in early September. Focus likely to change to a champions type programme for within agencies rather than directly funded programmes.

Cross Cutting Theme 1: Reducing Reoffending						
5.1	Ongoing engagement with the Integrated Offender Management programme	Reduced offending by prolific offenders	Attendance by partners at IOM Promotion of IOM to partners as required	Ongoing	CSU/Probation	In progress - Swale CSU continues to be represented at IOM.
Cross Cutting Theme 2: Communication and Information Sharing.						
6.1	Support delivery of Kent-wide Domestic Abuse Communications Plan	Increased awareness of services and key messages linked to domestic abuse	To share messaging developed by County DA Media and Comms group for the county Know, See, Speak Out campaign and actively participate in specific campaigns	By March 23	DA Group	In progress - Swale CSP now represented on county DA comms group and able to link in with messaging. SBC Comms encouraged to share this messaging. Key focus campaigns around world cup/16 days of actions will be focus for Swale CSP in December 22. Will also focus on world cup related messaging over this time period.
6.2	Development of local young people/perpetrator messaging around domestic abuse/violence against women and girls	Increased understanding of service provision and what to do by community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with county campaigns as appropriate • Develop young person VAWG based campaign • Deliver key messages around perpetrators/changing behaviour 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Sept 22</p> <p>By Sept 22</p>	DA Group	In progress - Swale CSP now represented on county DA comms group and able to link in with messaging. In early 23, there will be a county focus on perpetrator messaging. Conversations with SATEDA around a young person comms campaign are being explored.
6.3	Delivery of Partnership Newsletter	Increased awareness by partners of work of CSP	Quarterly newsletter circulated	Quarterly (April, July, October and January)	CSU	Off track - Newsletter to be developed for October 22 - limited capacity within CSU team to progress this to date.
Cross Cutting Theme 3: Young People						



7.1	Review domestic abuse provision for children and young people	Increased awareness of services available for children and young people in the borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of existing children and young people domestic abuse services and identification of gaps. • Linkage with KCC Commissioning team to determine any increase in CYP services in this area. • Participation in County DA Delivery Plan actions linked to children and young people • Action plan developed for resolving gaps in service. 	<p>By June 22</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>By March 23</p>	DA Group	In progress – KCC are reviewing their commissioned services for young people, with many agencies invited to part of the service development. A workshop is taking place shortly to update on this work. Local Swale mapping of services for children and young people affected by domestic abuse is currently taking place.
7.2	Delivery of diversionary/engagement based activities in ASB or crime hotspots	Reduction in youth related crime/ASB or Young Street Groups	Location based engagement/diversionary activities delivered	Ongoing	CSU/DACSM	In progress - Hotspots discussed regularly at DACSM and response identified. Current locations include Sittingbourne town centre and Faversham Rec. Outreach work has been funded by the VRU and is being delivered by Brogdale CIC in Sittingbourne. This has taken place during the summer holidays and will continue into October. A full evaluation will be undertaken once completed.
7.3	Deliver Safety in Action to year 6 primary school students	Reduction in likelihood in them going onto become victims of crime/ASB.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning of event and engagement with schools • Delivery of event 	<p>By April 22</p> <p>By June 22</p>	CSU	In progress - Safety in Action was delivered at the end of May 22. A full evaluation is being drawn together ahead of preparing to run the event again in 2023.

Community Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	10 January 2023
Report Title	Open Spaces and Play Strategy – A Review
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell, Head of Environment & Leisure
Lead Officer	Graeme Tuff, Greenspaces Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. To consider the initial views and contributions of Members in the development of the new Open Spaces and Play Area Strategy.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the basis for starting the process and consideration of a reviewed and updated Open Spaces and Play Area Strategy for Swale. It seeks Member thoughts, ideas and ultimate agreement to a process that will provide the necessary strategy for the period 2023-2028. As play areas come under the oversight of the Community Committee it is expected that this discussion will focus on play areas, with the open space element considered by Environment Committee.
- 1.2 The Open Spaces and Play Area Strategy is a key document used not only for the strategic direction of the service but also an evidence base for the Local Plan. The current version was developed in 2017 and now requires updating with an initial technical assessment which will provide detailed evidence of quantity, quality, accessibility and need. The report identifies the specific Local Plan requirements and relevant corporate policies.

2 Background

- 2.1 The current Open Spaces and Play Strategy 2018-2022 was developed in 2017 and sought to define, the Council's plans to protect, manage, and enhance its open spaces and play areas over the period of the plan. A copy is enclosed as Appendix I.
- 2.2 The strategy's purpose is to provide a sound body of evidence for supporting open space policies within the local plan, identify key opportunities and strategic imperatives, plan for delivery improvements to new and existing spaces and set standards for provision, quality and accessibility.
- 2.3 The current document provides background to the strategy such as a vision and context, summarises the technical assessment, identifies the challenges,

provides recommendations and action plan and also identifies the need and source for funding.

- 2.4 Open Space is defined as those spaces that generally provide unlimited free public access to usable open space, with access over the majority of the open space for people.

Open space is a generic term and encompasses a range of types:

- Parks & Gardens
- Natural/Semi/Natural Greenspace
- Green Corridors
- Outdoor Sports, Gyms and Playing Pitches
- General Amenity Greenspace
- Play Areas
- Cemeteries, Closed Churchyards and other burial grounds

National Planning Policy

- 2.5 The National Planning Policy Framework recognises the importance of having access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity to the health and well-being of our communities. As such, planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Information from these assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate, linking this provision with nature-based strategies such as green and blue infrastructure.

- 2.6 Officers currently use Policy DM 17 of the adopted Local Plan to consider the needs arising from new development and how best to meet them, which itself was guided by the Council's Open Spaces and Play Area Strategy (2018-2022). The Local Plan Review will need to revise this policy using an updated evidence base led by the Planning Practice Guidance. A new Open Spaces and Play Area Strategy along with any others deemed necessary, will be used to inform a robust policy for future needs and where they should be located, in the Local Plan Review.

Corporate Plan

- 2.7 The Corporate Plan is the overarching statement of the Council's strategic priorities and is arranged into 4 broad priorities:
- Priority 1 - Building the right homes in the right places and supporting quality jobs
 - Priority 2 - Investing in our environment and responding positively to global challenges
 - Priority 3 - Tackling deprivation and creating equal opportunities for everyone
 - Priority 4 - Renewing local democracy and making the Council fit for the future

While open space has a role to play in several of the Corporate Plan priorities given its link to homes through new development and equal opportunities through community engagement, its key strand is Priority 2 and the value placed on the environment and its ability to respond to climate change and increase biodiversity through various initiatives.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed to review and develop a new strategy over the coming months. This involves several stages and key pieces of work including production of an up to date and robust technical assessment that will identify and guide the specific recommendations for the new strategy. This will then be fully considered by Members along with external consultation on the draft strategy.

Key Principals

- 3.3 Key principals in the current strategy include the following:
- Protect the Council's existing open space network
 - Provide spaces to encourage a healthy community
 - Focus on enhancing/improving the quality of key open spaces
 - Promote the benefits open space has for people living and visiting Swale and enriching the biodiversity for wildlife
 - Support the development of facilities in open space to recognise the needs of users with disabilities and benefits of emotional and holistic approaches that open spaces can bring.
 - Maximise the benefits of the open space and play facilities that comes with increased housing development required under the local plan
- 3.4 The play area section of the strategy focuses on the following principals:
- Provision of a flagship play area in each of the major conurbations, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and Faversham.
 - Provision of other play areas to a LEAP standard assessed on quality, play value and accessibility.
 - Provision of youth sport & play sites – intention to keep good quality multi-use games areas, basketball hoops, goal ends and outdoor gyms.
 - Address the need to improve the overall quality of play areas managed, by exploring the removal of redundant or low quality, low value sites.
 - New development required play areas (along with the open space) to be managed and maintained by management company or other organisation rather than the Council.
 - To invest in a rolling programme of Council play area refurbishments. The current programme is attached at Appendix II.
- 3.5 Members are asked to consider the current strategy at Appendix I and principals above to suggest any changes or increased emphasis for the new strategy. Questions such as;
- Should the Council continue to consider removal of redundant, poor quality play areas.

- What/where should be the focus of the Council’s future play area refurbishment programme – currently use a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rating that takes account of criteria such as age, condition, play value, risk, maintenance cost etc. along with opportunities for external funding such as Section 106 developer contributions.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 Keep the existing strategy as it is or not have a strategy at all. The strategy is a key component as evidence base for the Local Plan and to guide the principals of the Council’s management of current and future open space.
- 4.2 If the evidence base and strategy were not to be reviewed and updated, there is significant risk that the Local Plan would not be found as sound and that the service would not have the appropriate strategic guidance required to fulfil its potential in relation to the Corporate Plan.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 This is the first stage of developing the new strategy and we are seeking both Community and Environment Committee Members initial thoughts and guidance on the principals for a new strategy.
- 5.2 The new draft strategy will go through a process of Member consideration and external consultation before final agreement.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The reviewed Open Space and Play Area Strategy would align specifically and directly to Priority 2 of the Corporate Plan - Investing in our environment and responding positively to global challenges. In addition, it links to Priority 1 through its association with the Local Plan by providing the evidence base and showing need for appropriate development.
Financial, Resource and Property	None identified at this stage. However, the technical assessment will require funding which will be determined following the meeting and whilst we research the scope of the work. Major changes in policy may result in increased costs and would therefore need to be assessed against the budget framework. The current Playground Improvement Programme is funded from Special Projects Fund. As this is now all allocated to specific playground projects, future improvements will need to rely on section 106 funding from developers or alternative capital funding being allocated.

Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	The new strategy has a significant part to play in the future strategic direction for the service, the requirements placed upon new development via the Local Plan and how the Council responds effectively to the climate and ecological emergency.
Health and Wellbeing	Open spaces and play areas can contribute significantly to health and well-being as evidenced by the usage and value placed upon them by the community during the Covid crises. The strategy will link with the Health and Care Partnership and can positively contribute to obesity work through the Population Health Management Group. The strategy will provide the basis and evidence for need and accessibility in both existing and new communities.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	There are no differential equality issues raised by the proposals in this report at this time, although one of the key strands of the strategy review is to identify appropriate accessibility standards to open space and play areas for the whole community.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Open Spaces and Play Area Strategy 2018-2022
- Appendix II: Play Area Refurbishment-Improvement Plan 2021-25

8 Background Papers

- None

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Open Spaces and Play Area Strategy

2018-2022



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Forword

I am pleased to present the revised Open Spaces and Play Strategy for the Borough of Swale.

The Strategy shows how the Council, with the support of partners and residents, will protect, enhance and maintain our fantastic open space assets over the next four years.

The Strategy is the culmination of a range of inspections and assessments undertaken over the last year. It provides an important evidence base and sets out how we will make decisions on our open spaces sites. It supports the Swale Local Plan: Bearing Fruits 2031 and helps to ensure we have enough spaces and that the quality is maintained.

Formal parks and gardens, informal residential open spaces, playgrounds, allotments, coast line and other natural habitats play an important role in a community and can greatly benefit the health and well-being of the population. They provide opportunities for formal sport, play or simply a place to meet with friends and neighbours.

I would like to send special thanks to the many people who volunteer in our open spaces to provide activities or to help keep them looking good.

Councillor David Simmons.

Cabinet Portfolio Holder Environmental and Rural Affairs

Section 1: Introduction and Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

The strategy is for the borough of Swale. It was prepared in 2017 and sets out how the Council plans to protect, manage and enhance its open spaces over a four year period.

The strategy will be reviewed annually and updated every four years to harmonise with Local Plan revisions and expected changes to the Swale housing allocations. The strategy has been prepared by Swale Borough Council with technical assistance from Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd in preparing the space audit and assessment.

1.2 Definition of Open Space

The principle of public access lies at the heart of this open space strategy. Therefore, for the purpose of this strategy, open space is defined as:

Public open space which provides:

- generally unlimited free public access;
- genuinely useable open space for people; and
- Accessibility over the great majority of the open space.

This strategy does not include open space which is provided as private or paid for provision, e.g. playing fields within school grounds, golf courses and private estate gardens. It also does not include incidental areas, such as verges or streets (unless defined as part of a civic open space or other typologies below) or areas of land with the sole purpose of protection of wildlife without public access.

1.3 Typologies of Open Space

The use of the term 'open space' is generic; in reality it covers a range of types. For the purpose of this strategy and for the completed audit of the existing Council owned open space, the following typologies have been defined by the primary use:

Typology	Description	Example
Parks and Gardens	Large areas of open space, the majority of which will be publically accessible, close to public transport links and provide a range of facilities and features offering recreational, ecological, landscape, cultural or green infrastructure benefits. These open spaces may also include areas for water recreation	King Georges Playing Field, Sittingbourne
Natural / Semi-natural Greenspace	Informal and natural green space provides the opportunity to promote meaningful and safe recreation. This open space typology covers a wide range of uses, including woodland areas, wetland areas, heath-land Meadow and water recreation spaces	Milton Creek Country Park
Green Corridors	Relatively continuous areas of 'The Green Open Spaces' leading through the Swale area which may include spaces of water recreation.	Mid Kent Downs
Outdoor Sports, Outdoor Gyms & Playing pitches	Outdoor sports space includes all formally laid out sport and playing pitches for a number of different sporting activities (including rugby, football, netball, hockey, tennis and basketball). This does not include indoor sports provision or facilities.	King Georges Playing Field, Faversham
General Amenity greenspace	Most commonly (but not exclusively) in residential areas including informal recreation spaces, green space in and around housing, village greens. This may also include areas for water recreation.	Village Green, Bapchild

Play areas	This covers provision for children and teenagers, and includes play areas, skateboard parks, MUGA's, and other more informal areas (for example teenage shelters, kick walls). This typology typically sits within other open space typologies such as General Amenity or Strategic Parks.	Thistle Hill Play Area
Cemeteries, closed church yards and other burial grounds	Publically accessible cemeteries, churchyards and closed churchyards /cemeteries.	Faversham Cemetery

These categories are not always mutually exclusive. For example, a Green Corridor can contain informal kick about and play space and most typologies can contain significant provision for wildlife.

1.4 Executive Summary

Open Spaces enrich the quality of our lives and contribute towards healthy living. They help define and add to the character of a place as well as provide vital green infrastructure for wildlife, biodiversity, water, tranquillity, recreation, play, food production and off road pedestrian and cycling routes.

Swale's stunning and distinctive environment is one of the Borough's greatest assets. It includes an outstanding range of internationally and nationally important landscapes, focusing on the extensive grazing marshes, mudflats and saltmarshes of the Swale estuary, but also including wetlands, chalk downland and ancient woodland.

Swale currently enjoys a wide range of Open Spaces across its urban, rural and coastal environment. It has the benefit of existing wildlife sites, protected landscapes and a network of accessible countryside. It also has the benefit of having many organisations and groups of people active in the community who take great interest in their current and future local environment.

This Strategy attempts to focus on what's important for Swale's Open Space provision for the next 4 years in consideration of previous studies and strategies, recent audits, consultation and the adopted Swale Borough Local Plan (2017) and current work to develop revisions to the Local Plan.

The draft strategy and technical assessment were posted on the Council's web site for an eight week public consultation period in Spring 2018 with an on line survey and comments section. This was publicised in the Council's 'Inside Swale' publication which is distributed to households in the Borough. An invitation was also issued to local stakeholder organisations such as local environmental agencies, Town and Parish Councils to submit their comments on the draft strategy.

The adopted strategy reflects the views and comments resulting from the consultation responses which led to changes in the Open Spaces management policies and additions to the action plan.

The key conclusions and proposals are:

- There is sufficient provision of Council owned and managed open spaces across the seven open space typologies for the current population, with the exception of cemetery capacity.
- The focus for the next four years is on enhancing the quality of existing open spaces that were assessed as low quality, with particular attention to play areas where 1 in 3 of all Council current play areas are of low quality.
- A £500,000 rolling programme to refurbish a number of play areas during the life of the strategy.
- To invest at least £100,000 per year for 5 years on existing open spaces through section 106 developer contributions held in reserves supplemented where possible by securing grant funding.
- A small number of sites that were subject to external assessment and as being low quality and low value should be considered as redundant and disposed of or repurposed, using the standard assessment, nationally recognised criteria and consultation with local ward councillors
- The provision of new spaces associated with development/housing sites as set out in the Local Plan will address the expected demand for the next four years.
- Additional public space provision associated with new developments across the Borough will not be adopted by the Council for ongoing maintenance and management, unless there is an overwhelming case to provide a strategic new open space or the protection of important natural habitat and biodiversity.
- Developers will be responsible for funding the required open space provision related to future new development and put in place arrangements for funding the ongoing maintenance of the open space and an approved model of a community based Management Company to provide a quality space.

1.5 Purpose

The strategy has been prepared to:

- Provide a sound body of evidence for supporting open space policies within the Local Plan;
- Identify key opportunities and strategic imperatives, plan for the delivery of improvements to existing open spaces and new open spaces triggered by development unless there is a strategic value in doing so; and
- Provide a working document that sets standards for open space provision in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility, and a process for regular and future review.

1.6 Vision

The strategy is seen as a continuation of the good work prepared and being implemented by many organisations and individuals across the Borough. It is aimed to give a strategic and policy direction in relation to Public Open Space provision against predicted population growth.

The overarching vision of the strategy and its recommendations follow 5 guiding principles:

1. Protect the Council's existing open space network
2. Provide spaces to encourage a healthy community
3. Focus on enhancing/improving the quality of key open spaces
4. Promote the benefits open space has for people living and visiting Swale and enriching the biodiversity for wildlife.
5. Support the development of facilities in open spaces to recognise the needs of users with disabilities and the benefits of emotional and holistic approaches that open spaces can bring.
6. Maximise the benefits of the open space and play facilities that comes with the increased housing development required under the Local Plan.

1.7 National Planning Policy for open spaces.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012

The NPPF set out the Government's planning policies for England, and how these are expected to be applied. In relation to the provision of public open space the NPPF states:

"...The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities..."¹ and that "Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities."²

Planning policies and decisions should promote:

"Safe and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas."³

And the NPPF requires that:

"Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision are required."

Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss."⁴

¹ National Planning Policy Framework – Promoting healthy communities, 69

² National Planning Policy Framework – Promoting healthy communities, 73

³ National Planning Policy Framework – Promoting healthy communities, 69

⁴ National Planning Policy Framework – Promoting healthy communities, 73-74

The NPPF also make specific reference to biodiversity and geodiversity:

“To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should:

- plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries;
- identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation;
- promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan;
- aim to prevent harm to geological conservation interests; and
- where Nature Improvement Areas are identified in Local Plans, consider specifying the types of development that may be appropriate in these Areas.”⁵

The NPPF also details “three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental”⁶. These dimensions have provided a framework and shaped the approach to assessing public open space.

PPG17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation

This document, which was current at the time of the preparation of the Swale Borough Council Local Plan 2000, has now been replaced by the NPPF. However, the specific requirement of PPG17 for an open space audit is considered good practice by the borough Council. A new open space audit has therefore been undertaken to accompany this strategy and to inform the planning of the Council’s priorities for management of its existing open spaces. The approach of the audit has considered guidelines and recommendations within PPG17.

⁵ National Planning Policy Framework – Promoting healthy communities, 117

⁶ National Planning Policy Framework – Promoting healthy communities, 7

Accessible Natural Green Space Guidance NE265, Natural England 2011

NE265 is the latest review of work begun by Natural England in the early 1990s to establish standards for accessible natural green space. The Guidance retains Natural England's existing Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt). The standards are non-statutory but are very widely accepted as representing an ideal quantitative and qualitative standard which should be used to inform the provision of natural open space in new developments and the management of existing open space.

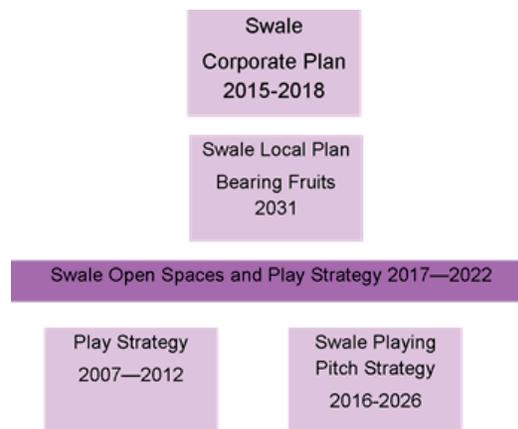
The Strategy will have due regard for the guidance and will achieve access to natural green space in new residential areas through the provision of an extended green corridor network which will provide small natural areas close to homes and off-road connections to larger natural green spaces

1.8 Swale Strategic Context

This Strategy supports the aims of the Swale Corporate Plan 2015-2018 with links to each of the three priorities – A Borough to Be Proud of, A community to be Proud of and a Council to be Proud of.

The Strategy (and supporting technical assessment) will provide an evidence base for open space policy within the Swale Borough Local Plan 2031.

The Open Space and Play Strategy is informed by the Playing Pitch Strategy 2016 -2026 and previous Play Strategy of 2007-2012. There are two action plans addressing the local natural environment and biodiversity: Swale Green Grid Framework 2016¹. and the Biodiversity Action Plan 2016.



¹ Green Grid is a strategic, joined up approach to land management. It focuses on the relationship between green spaces and the communities they serve and aims to maximise the potential multi-functional benefits of a well-designed public realm.

1.9 Local Plan

Bearing Fruits 2031: The Swale Borough Local Plan 2017

Bearing Fruits 2031, The Swale Borough Local Plan 2017, is the most important planning document for the borough, setting out the vision and overall development strategy for the area and how it will be achieved for the period from 2014-2031. It identifies where development will take place and how the natural environment and built heritage of the borough will be protected and enhanced.

It allocates major sites and locations for housing and employment to meet the needs of our growing population and in accordance with national planning policy and practice. An early review of the Plan will emerge to take account of revised Government new housing allocations.

There are a number of policies which relate to the protection and future provision of sport and open space. These include Policy CP5: Health and Wellbeing, Policy CP7: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment - providing for green infrastructure, Policy DM17: Open Space, Sports and Recreation provision and Policy DM18: Local Green Spaces as set out below:

Policy CP 7

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment - providing for green infrastructure

The Council will work with partners and developers to ensure the protection, enhancement and delivery, as appropriate, of the Swale natural assets and green infrastructure network and its associated strategy

Development proposals will, as appropriate:

1. Recognise and value ecosystems for the wider services they provide, such as for food, water, flood mitigation, disease control, recreation, health and well-being;
2. Protect the integrity of the existing green infrastructure network as illustrated by the Natural Assets and Green Infrastructure Strategy Map, having regard to the status of those designated for their importance as set out by Policy DM25 and Policy DM29;
3. Where assessment indicates that it is necessary to enhance and extend the network (including when management, mitigation and/or compensatory actions are required to address adverse harm), be guided by the Green Infrastructure Network and Strategy Map, prioritising actions toward identified Biodiversity Opportunity Areas;

4. Ensure that there is no adverse effect on the integrity of a SAC, SPA or Ramsar site, alone or in combination with other plan and projects, as it would not be in accordance with the aims and objectives of this Local Plan;
5. Require the completion of project specific Habitats Regulations Assessment, in accordance with Policy DM28, to ensure there are no likely significant effects upon any European designated site.
For residential sites within 6km of an access point to any of the North Kent Marshes, development must contribute to its Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy;
6. Contribute to the objectives of the Nature Partnerships and Nature Improvement Areas in Kent;
7. Make the enhancement of biodiversity and landscape as their primary purpose;
8. Promote the expansion of Swale's natural assets and green infrastructure, including within new and existing developments, by:
 - a. delivering a high standard of design quality to maximise the social, economic, health and environmental benefits of green infrastructure;
 - b. providing a focus for social inclusion, community development and lifelong learning;
 - c. taking into account the guidelines and recommendations of relevant management plans and guidance, Biodiversity Action Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents;
 - d. contributing to the protection, conservation and management of historic landscapes, archaeological and built heritage assets;
 - e. achieving, where possible, a net gain of biodiversity;
 - f. providing new recreational facilities in accordance with Policy DM17, exploiting opportunities to link urban and countryside areas and to create new footpath and cycle links;
 - g. taking account of and integrating with natural processes, such as flood risk and utilising sustainable urban drainage; and
 - h. including proposals to 'green' existing and proposed developed areas by increasing opportunities for nature in domestic gardens, streets and buildings, including street trees and in and around formal open spaces and sports provision.

Policy DM 18

Local green spaces

Sites are designated as Local Green Spaces, as shown on the Proposals Map.

Within designated Local Green Spaces planning permission will not be granted other than for:

1. The construction of a new building for one of the following purposes: essential facilities for outdoor sport or recreation, cemeteries, allotment use, or other uses of land where preserving the openness of the Local Green Space and not conflicting with its purpose;
2. The re-use or replacement of an existing building, provided the re-use does not include any associated uses of land around the building which might conflict with the openness of the Local Green Space or the purposes of including land within it; and
3. The carrying out of an engineering or other operation or the making of any material change of use of land, provided that it maintains the openness and character of the Local Green Space.

Local Plan Review

An early review for the Local Plan was acknowledged as necessary by the Inspector. This is partly as a result of Kent County Council Highways concerns over the local highway network capacity to accommodate growth to 2031. The timescale the Inspector has recommended for adoption of a review is April 2022. This would require a quick update to this Open Spaces Strategy to ensure any needs arising out of new housing allocations will be highlighted through the Local Plan review process.

BIRDS (Known as Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy)

Local Authorities across North Kent have joined Natural England and other agencies and organisations within the North Kent Environment Planning Group to identify the impacts of recreational disturbance on SPA birds. Designated European Wildlife Sites in North Kent include three Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites: the Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA and Ramsar site, the Medway Estuary and Marshes SPA and Ramsar Site, and the Swale SPA and Ramsar Site.

There has been a decline in the number of birds using these sites in recent years. Studies show that this could be due to people using the estuary and marshes for recreation purposes. The North Kent Bird Disturbance Report concludes that all new housing development within 6km of the North Kent Ramsar Sites or Special Protection Areas (including the Thames Estuary and Marshes) and larger housing development beyond 6km from the sites could have an adverse impact on them. This is because new housing development is likely to lead to further increases in recreational use of the sites which means that further declines in the bird population cannot be ruled out. Possible mitigation measures are set out

in the Thames, Medway and Swale Estuaries Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy. Having considered a number of options, North Kent Planning Authorities have imposed a tariff on new housing development. The money raised will be used to pay for schemes to avoid the adverse impacts of new housing development on the birds.

1.10 Local Green Spaces

The National Planning Policy Framework states that Local Plans should be able to identify Local Green Spaces for special protection. By designating these spaces the Council will be able to protect them from development and ensure their retention for enjoyment by the local community. It explains that spaces to be designated will be of particular importance and demonstrably special to local communities because of, for instance, their recreational value and tranquillity, heritage or biodiversity value.

Local Green Space designations differ from Village Green registration which is handled by Kent County Council under separate legislation that is outside the remit of national planning policy and the Local Plan.

The Council has undertaken an assessment of potential Local Green Spaces against defined criteria and this is published separately in Local Plan Technical Paper No. 2. The 111 designated sites in question have, for the most part, been put forward by local communities themselves and have been the subject of specific consultation with landowners and occupiers. The areas represent a wide diversity of types, ranging from coastal cliff tops, allotments and recreation grounds through to private country parks, urban woodland and informally used urban fringe land.

The sites designated as Local Green Spaces are shown on the Proposal Maps. Policy DM18 can have no direct influence on the management of these sites, although clearly the Borough, Parish and Town Councils wish to see their current usage continue. However, Policy DM18 will be used to preserve these Local Green Spaces and proposals for development which would conflict with the purposes of designating the land will not be permitted, other than in very special circumstances.

The designated sites can all be viewed in chapter 9 of the Local Plan

<http://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/documents/s7987/FULL%20COUNCIL%2026%20JULY%20Local%20Plan%20Item%20Appdx%201%20Bearing%20Fruits%202031%20The%20Swale%20Borough%20Local%20Plan.pdf>

Section 2: The way forward

2.1 Technical Assessment Report summary

The technical assessment report of the Council's Open spaces was completed by the Council assisted by the detailed audit work of the appointed consultants, Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd.

The technical report has addressed what open space provision exists in the Borough, its condition, distribution and overall quality by using standard assessment methodology developed for Planning Policy Guidance 17(PPG17), aligned with the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The audit and assessment of the existing open space in report is broadly focused on three primary considerations:

- Quantity
- Quality
- Value

There is also an audit of accessibility by applying national distance standards based on proximity of open space types to nearby conurbations.

The aggregated audit results summarised the information by typology, identifying deficiencies by quality and value to enable a grading assessment for each open space as high, adequate or low. It also considers previous audits, studies and reviews such as the Open Space Study 2008 and the Play Strategy 2007-2012.

The accumulated information led to the seven recommendations as set out below in section 2.4 'Open Space Assessment recommendations' and will also help the Council prioritise investment and provision over the next four years and the required revisions of the Local Plan.

2.2 Open space challenges

Improving the quality of the open space infrastructure has been, and remains, one of the Council's top priorities. However, stretched financial resources have led to increasing pressure to reduce Council spending generally.

This has brought about a need to re-assess the costs of maintaining these spaces and the way they may be managed in the future. This generates choices in whether the Council continues managing poor quality spaces that currently offer limited value to a local community.

There may well be some tough decisions to be made in order to achieve the high quality, safe, clean and sustainable open spaces that we aspire to. We will keep residents and ward councillors regularly informed so there is a shared understanding of the Council's intentions and objectives.

The evidence prepared for the Strategy helps steer where to apply these themes and how they may be implemented.

Recommendations in 2.4 provide more detail. The recommendations will be refined and rationalised following further consultation and testing against the evidence. There is a great potential to help strengthen Swale's Open Space provision by giving a series of interrelated actions that are all working towards the same goal.

2.3 Play Areas: Future Provision

One of the key open space typologies is play areas.

This section sets out future direction for play development and maintenance of play areas within SBC, taking into consideration national guidance and local provision based on the assessment work undertaken by the Council's consultants in assessing quantity, quality, access and type.

It also acknowledges the largest population increase for Swale when compared with all the Kent Council areas both in real and percentage terms, between 2015 and 2016 with further predicted growth, increasing by an additional 2,600 people (+1.8%), of which 24.6% are expected to be aged 0-15 years.

The previous strategy considered Children and Young People's play provision which focussed on informal and formal opportunities for 0-18 year olds. Since then there has been a wider focus on outdoor exercise provision for adults with the introduction of outdoor gyms in the borough's open spaces to help promote improved health and increasing fitness.

The strategy aimed amongst other things;

- To acknowledge the importance of play for children and young people both for themselves and for communities in general.
- To identify the work of all agencies involved in providing play opportunities children and young people to assist in developing a co-ordinated approach, identifying gaps in provision and reducing duplication.
- To make effective use of funding, including but not limited to that available through the Children's Play Initiative.

- To ensure that sustainability is built into children's play provision in the longer term.
- To improve children's access and accessibility to safe place to play and socialise.
- To provide more and better local and inclusive opportunities where they are most needed, evidenced by the results of audits and community engagement.
- To improve public open spaces as an environment to play.

This report suggests that the future strategy continues the ethos of the previous strategy whilst understanding the constraints of the current financial climate. National funding streams have dwindled and internal maintenance budgets are being stretched alongside contributions from developments.

The assessment audit identified 101 play sites across the Borough, of which the Council manages 79 sites, with the remaining 22 play sites in the borough managed by a range of organisations such as parish councils, housing associations and developer led management organisations. These sites all add to the offer but do not impact financially or on the resources of SBC.

In recognition of the need to improve play areas, the Council has introduced a £500,000 rolling programme to refurbish a number of play areas during the life of the strategy.

In addition the Council also manages a number of skate parks, multi-use games areas, 9 outdoor gyms and also coordinates the design and commissioning of new play areas, predominantly funded through developer contributions. The Council is funding a new £300,000 skate park as part of the Mill project in Sittingbourne.

Zurich Municipal inspects the Council managed play areas annually and give an independent assessment of quality and identify any risks that the Council need to consider. Throughout the remainder of the year the operational staff and the Council's Open Space contractor also carry out regular inspections.

Our intention is to provide quality facilities for play despite increasing financial difficulties. In order to ensure this, it is proposed there are two standards of playground:

Flagship Play Sites (NEAPs¹) – that SBC provides a flagship play site in each of the main conurbations, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and Faversham. These will be top quality 'destination' facilities that people would travel further for and are aimed at providing variety for all age groups 0-18 years. The focus will not be solely be on children's play but look to new and innovative approaches to engaging teenagers/older youths. There will also be a focus on accessible facilities for disabled users and adult fitness equipment.

Local Standard Play Areas (LEAPs¹) – the rest of the existing play areas have been assessed on quality and value, what elements are safe and fit for purpose and the quantity of sites within the standard walking catchments. They will be maintained to a safe standard suitable for the basic use of play e.g. swing, climb, and slide.

Appendix A sets out the criteria for these play area types

¹ LEAP play areas are a medium size facility of approx 500-1000m². The main difference between a LEAP and NEAP playzones is that even though both are designed for children to play on, the NEAP park area also has an area for kickabout soccer which is usually designed to be a MUGA multi use games area.

Youth sport and play sites – where existing facilities remain in good condition; the intention would be to keep multi-use games areas, basketball hoops, football goal ends, outdoor gyms and skate parks in the current locations.

The total budget for playground repairs and the replacement of equipment for the council's 79 play sites, including vandalism costs, is £40k annually.

Major external funding programmes such as the Big Lottery Children's Play Initiative have disappeared and it is increasingly harder to get the amount of capital needed for full playground replacement.

While developer contributions provide for new play areas to be created and then adopted by the Council including a commuted sum for ten years of maintenance, the Council inherits the ongoing maintenance liabilities from year 11.

To address the need to improve the overall quality of play areas managed, the Council will explore:

- Disposal of redundant or low quality and low value sites.

There are a small number of play areas identified in the assessment as low quality and low value which need to be considered for disposal using the criteria set out in the technical assessment data, the catchment area and proximity to other play areas and national standards. Approving the disposal of a specific site will be authorised through a delegated decision to the Cabinet Portfolio Member Environment and Rural Affairs in consultation with local ward Councillors based on the technical report audit criteria and assessment: quality, community value and accessibility to alternative sites and usage

The annual strategy refresh will include analysis of the other identified low quality low value sites to consider a priority order for refurbishment or in a small amount of cases possible closure.

Poor maintenance of equipment or lack of money to replace ageing stock can lead to legal implications and/or insurance claims from members of the public. SBC has a responsibility for play areas in the same way as all public open spaces.

2.4 Open Spaces and Play Strategy Recommendations

The following section provides a summary on the key findings in the application of the quantity, quality and accessibility standards. It incorporates and recommends what the Council should be seeking to achieve in order to address the issues highlighted.

Recommendation a)

- ◆ ***Ensure low quality sites with a high community value are prioritised for future enhancement***

The policy approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality to the applied standards (i.e. high quality). This is especially the case if the site is deemed to be of high value to the local community. Therefore, they should initially be protected, if they are not already so, in order for their quality to be improved.

The open spaces assessment document identifies those sites that should be given consideration for enhancement if possible.

Recommendation b)

- ◆ ***Ensure all sites assessed as high for quality and value are protected***

Sites within this category should be viewed as being key forms of open space provision. The quality and value matrix in the Open Spaces assessment document identifies those sites rating high for quality and value.

Recommendation c)

- ◆ ***Destination (Strategic) Sites should be recognised through protection and enhancement***

There are a number of sites across Swale with strategic multi-functional roles which serve a large part or whole of the Borough. These 'destination' sites provide a wide range of diverse opportunities associated with several different forms of open space which users are willing to travel greater distances in order to access. Sites considered as 'destinations' in Swale include:

- ◆ Bartons Point Coastal Park
- ◆ Leysdown Coastal Park
- ◆ Perry Wood
- ◆ Milton Creek Country
- ◆ Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park

Such sites currently help to meet the identified ‘catchment gaps’ in the provision for other open space typologies. The Council should seek to ensure the role and quality of these sites through continued enhancement so providing a diverse range of features. This is in order to provide a stronger secondary role and will also help to minimise the need for new provision when considering gaps in catchment areas.

Recommendation d)

- ◆ ***Recognise types of open space that are surplus to requirements and/or those of low quality and value and determine their future use using the criteria set out in the technical assessment data and national standards.***

For sites identified as having an oversupply for the current/future population or those being of low value and/or low quality (as shown in the open space assessment document), a decision on their future use needs to be made. If no improvements can be made, no shortfall in other open space typologies is noted, or it is not feasible to change the primary typology of the site, then the site may be redundant/‘surplus to requirements’. Options for disposal or repurposing should be considered and this will involve Ward members in the process.

Recommendation e)

- ◆ ***The need for additional cemetery provision should be led by demand rather than population calculations***

No standards have been set for the provision of cemeteries. Instead provision should be determined by future projected demand for burial space.

The Assessment Report highlights there are currently only 10 years of burial capacity across Swale and given the complexities of securing and preparing suitable land this policy seeks to set a policy of having 20 years burial capacity. The need for additional burial space is therefore a key objective for the Council to identify an appropriate new site.

Recommendation f)

The Council will no longer adopt future open spaces from developers and organisations unless there is an overwhelming case to provide a strategic new open space or the protection of important natural habitat and biodiversity.

The Local Plan identifies additional new open space provision requirements to support new housing developments, traditionally funded by developer contributions.

The Council will encourage developers to fund and create quality open spaces and also provide management arrangements for the ongoing upkeep and provision of the publicly accessible spaces. This can be through either direct developer management or legal transfer to a local community association or Trust supported by a commuted sum, funded by the Developer.

The Council will develop a process which will include:

- considering a range of options for future management of open spaces
- looking at national guidelines
- Explore reinforcing the terms of section 106 agreements with management companies
- consultation with ward members on the proposed process to be adopted.

The Council will also pursue the principle of sustainability in enhancing our existing open spaces by seeking developer contributions towards such existing facilities that are in close proximity to new developments as detailed in section 3.3 of the strategy

Recommendation g)

◆ *Promote alternative future management arrangements for open spaces*

The national review of Parks undertaken by the Government select committee in 2016/17 provided discussion around different types of management models for public open spaces. This recommendation encourages Swale Borough Council to look at sites and models that may work locally. This links strongly to our Community Asset Transfer policy which is outlined later in this document. Focus will be on more efficient ways of managing or attracting new income to reduce down the financial burden on public money.

2.5 Strategy Action Plan

The development of an action plan provides a baseline of proposed outputs and targets that will be reviewed annually.

- a. To invest at least £100,000 capital spending per year for 5 years on existing open spaces through developer contributions, grants, capital works and disposals.
- b. To invest £500,000 in a rolling programme to refurbish a number of play areas during the life of the strategy.
- c. To achieve at least 3 Green Flag parks and open spaces in the next 5 years.

- d. To review our open space portfolio and identify relevant sites for investment, disposal or alternative uses by September 2018, linked to our successful programme of Community Asset Transfer and in consultation with the relevant Ward Members.
- e. To actively promote our open spaces in partnership with other agencies and voluntary groups as places to sustain and improve health and wellbeing.
- f. To increase the amount of open space under a wildlife management regime by 5 hectares and by December 2022.
- g. Seek improvement of horticulture in our open spaces to enrich the biodiversity
- h. To increase community involvement in open space management by providing support to new or existing community groups.
- i. To ensure actions in relation to Local Plan Policy DM 17 are put in place to protect existing open space and private playing fields , to help negotiate new open space in future housing developments and to continue the designation of Local Green Space across the Borough.
- j. Look at new methods of operation and potential commercial ventures to help meet the ongoing cost of maintaining open space facilities
- k. A Borough wide review of public conveniences to also consider an audit of existing Changing Places toilets provision.

3: Funding the improvements

3.1 Council funding

The Council does not have unlimited budgets for open space management and improvement. Careful consideration must be given to ensure that any works carried out to open spaces are affordable and sustainable in the long term.

The strategy acknowledges that even though funding is limited, there are still opportunities for the Council, working with partners and volunteers, to deliver safe, active, and well managed spaces. New methods of operation and potential commercial ventures will also be explored to help meet the ongoing cost of maintaining open space facilities.

As identified in section 2.3 'Play Areas: Future Provision', we have funded a £500,000 rolling programme over four years to upgrade play areas to help address the under investment in play areas and raise the quality and value.

To invest at least £100,000 per year for 5 years on existing open spaces through 'section 106' developer contributions held in reserves and securing external grant funding. A proportion of the funds will be allocated for enhancements to the Destination sites as listed in Recommendation 3.

The allocated sums will greatly assist officers in leveraging additional match funding or contributions from external bodies such as charities, town and parish councils and community groups.

3.2 Community Asset Transfer

Community Asset Transfer (CAT) is a shift in management and/or ownership of land or buildings from public bodies (most commonly local authorities) to communities (community and voluntary sector groups, community enterprises, social enterprises).

The Council recognises the value of enabling local community partners to take more responsibility for local assets, a process which can help to bring in external funding for its sites. With suitable safeguards in place, this can bring real benefits to both residents and the Council. The Council's CAT policy aims are:

- i. Sustain viability and improve service provision;
- ii. Deliver sustainable solutions that are accepted, agreed, 'owned' and driven by the local community;
- iii. Increase the number of local people helping to run or own local services or assets;
- iv. Realise wider community benefits such as increased levels of volunteering, social capital and civic participation; and
- v. Improve the leverage of external funding into the local area through increased funding opportunities, encouraging economic development, and social enterprise activity.
- vi. Transfer options can range from freehold, a long lease, a shorter lease or a licence to occupy. However, for most transfers, where grants or loans are sought for capital development, the length of tenure will need to be long enough to secure external investment. Therefore, community asset transfer is usually taken to mean a long lease of up to 125 years but in certain circumstances the period can be shorter.

The full policy can be viewed on the Council's website.

3.3 Open Spaces Contribution Costs

This strategy determines quantity and quality of provision not only of the existing facilities in each open space typology, but also the requirement for any provision provided as part of new development within the borough.

Commuted Sum for Maintenance

Recommendation F identifies that the Council will only seek to adopt new open space where it is of strategic importance or for the protection of important natural habitat and biodiversity. Where this is applicable, the Council will seek a 10 year commuted sum to manage and maintain the land as accessible public open space.

The commuted sum is calculated based on typical grounds maintenance costs and includes a calculation that takes estimated account of both inflation and bank interest. If a play area is required and included on site an additional supplemental sum will be sought to cover the additional costs incurred.

- The Commuted Sum - £235.00 per dwelling
- Supplemental Play Area Commuted Sum - £57.00 per dwelling

These figures will be reviewed annually in March to ensure they remain in line with industry costs and published on the Council website.

Off-Site Contributions

There are sites where although open space is provided as part of the development, it is not appropriate for facilities such as play or formal sports facilities to be incorporated. This could be due to the scale of the development not generating appropriate areas of land or because there are adjacent facilities that with enhancement and increase in capacity can adequately cater for the increased population generated by new development. The calculation formula will be subject to regular review.

While national information is not easily available to identify costs of all facilities, the contribution sums are calculated based on technical costs identified for example in Sport England's Facility Cost Guidance.

As such the Council will seek to collect appropriate contributions from developers where able, to increase capacity and quality to cater for the new communities.

- Contribution for off-site formal sports - £593.00 per dwelling
- Contribution for off-site play/fitness - £446.00 per dwelling.

These figures will be reviewed annually in March to ensure they remain in line with industry costs and published on the Council website.

Appendix A. SBC PLAY AREA CRITERIA

FLAGSHIP PLAY SITES:

A flagship play area should include the following items:

- Innovative headline piece of equipment i.e. Viking ship, zip wire, L climbing wall etc.
- Play centre for all ages; 3-7, 8-14, 15+, 15-17, + adults e.g. outdoor gym.
- Multi-gym equipment or Multi-use games area
- Roundabout
- Car Parking
- Slide
- Swings
- Basket swing
- Rocker
- Perimeter fencing
- Ample seating area
- Picnic benches
- Bins
- Signage
- Wet pour safety surface throughout (not bark pit or safety matting)
- High population area (high footfall within 20 minutes walking distance) *
- DDA specific play equipment - designed, installed and maintained with specialist equipment to ensure that disabled children and their parents can enjoy playing in a safe and stimulating environment.

* Consider possible changes to existing assessment criteria in line with nationally agreed standard guidelines

LOCAL STANDARD PLAY AREA:

Adequate provision of equipment to provide play provision for lower usage which include:

- Swings (junior and baby)
- Slide
- Multi-frame climbing area
- Rocker
- Basic Seating
- Bins
- Signage
- Perimeter fencing where required (based on risk assessment)
- DDA compliant equipment where possible
- Equipment specific safety surfacing

Copies of this Swale Borough Council strategy are available on the Council website www.swale.gov.uk
If you would like further hard copies or alternative versions (e.g. large print, audio, different language)
we will do our best to accommodate your request. Please contact the Council at:

Swale Borough Council,
Swale House,
East Street,
Sittingbourne
Kent, ME10 3HT

Customer Service Centre 01795 417850

APPENDIX II

Play Area Improvement Plan 2021-2025

This document details the improvements to the SBC play areas in most need that have been made already in 2021-22 and those scheduled for 22-23 onwards. It includes both refurbishment and replacement/additional equipment.

Play Area Refurbishment Plan

During 2021-22 a refurbishment programme was introduced to renovate and update the existing play area equipment in the red and amber rated play areas.

The refurbishment programme work included rubbing down (removing all corrosion and repair any areas of damaged or weak framework) prime and topcoat (using paints specifically designed for use on play equipment), replace any worn/wearing consumable items, replace/repair any worn/wearing fixing points and repair any damage to safer play surface (where applicable). We may undertake this work on sites that are planned for future replacement, but this ensures they are safe for children to use and stops us needing to remove equipment a long time prior to replacement.

The initial funding was to refurbish 12 play areas identified in the RAG assessment as in most need of attention with a budget of £28,000 set aside to complete the activity.

Some additional works were completed alongside the refurbishment (e.g. replacement of swing seats, basketball backboards etc) but these were completed using existing maintenance budgets funds.

Below is a table of the 12 refurbished sites together with completion dates and expenditure.

Play Area	Completion Date	Cost of Refurbishment	Additional Maintenance Costs (from existing maintenance budgets)
King George V Play Area Sittingbourne	07/08/2021	£2,340.00	£0.00
Chilton Avenue Play Area Sittingbourne	09/08/2021	£2,685.00	£0.00

Second Avenue Play Area Queenborough	08/09/2021	£2,762.50	£595.00
Chilham Close Play Area Sheerness	10/09/2021	£2,685.00	£395.00
Vincent Gardens Play Area Sheerness	13/09/2021	£695.00	£345.00
Anne Boleyn Play Area Eastchurch	15/09/2021	£1,725.00	£395.00
Grove Park Play Area Sittingbourne	21/09/2021	£2,790.00	£395.00
Rose Walk Play Area Eden Park	23/09/2021	£2,765.00	£595.00
King George V Play Area Faversham	27/09/2021	£2,268.00	£0.00
Lower Road Play Area Faversham	29/09/2021	£1,995.00	£0.00
Sumpter Way Play Area Faversham	04/10/2021	£2,687.50	£175.00
Colonels Lane Play Area Boughton Under Blean	05/10/2021	£2,376.00	£395.00
Total Cost		£27,774.00	£3,290.00

Following the positive feedback received an additional 2 sites were identified within the RAG assessment and work was completed on both.

The work at New Village Hall Play Area Warden Bay was part funded with the Parish Council agreeing to match fund SBC's contribution.

As well the refurbishment, Johnson Road Play Area also benefitted from the installation of a DDA compliant pathway to give access to all as well as allowing to meet the requirements of both national guidelines and our Insurance Inspectors.

Below is a table of the additional refurbished sites together with completion dates and expenditure.

Play Area	Completion Date	Cost of Refurbishment	Additional Maintenance Costs (from existing maintenance budgets)
New Village Hall Play Area Warden Bay	22/09/2021	£1,920.00	£0.00
Johnson Road Play Area	29/10/2021	£11,939.00	£400.00
Total Cost		£13,859.00	£400.00

Using the revised (for 2022) RAG assessment, the next 11 sites have been identified together with an indicative budget – the sites are and will be completed in 22-23:

Play Area	Estimated Cost of Refurbishment (from SPF)	Estimated Additional Maintenance Costs (from existing maintenance budgets)
Bysingwood Road Play Area Faversham	£2,000.00	£300.00
Nursery Close Play Area Sheerness	£3,000.00	£300.00
Festival Field Play Area Sheerness	£3,000.00	£300.00
Homefield Drive Play Area Rainham	£2,600.00	£300.00
Kemsley Recreation Ground Play Area Sittingbourne	£3,000.00	£300.00
Milton Recreation Ground Play Area Sittingbourne	£3,500.00	£300.00
New Road Play Area Minster	£2,200.00	£300.00
Noreen Avenue Play Area Minster	£2,200.00	£300.00
Rectory Playing Fields Play Area Sittingbourne	£3,500.00	£300.00
West Faversham Community Centre Play Area Faversham	£2,500.00	£300.00
WIndermere Play Area Faversham	£1,500.00	£300.00
Total Cost	£29,000.00	£3,300.00

It is planned to continue the refurbishment programme, using the annually revised RAG assessment, to help maintain the play areas to a high standard, meet nationally accepted guidelines and to minimise long term damage, accident and incident.

Play Area Improvement Plan 2021-2025

Using the information provided from the RAG assessment as well as that provided by independent annual inspections combined with the requirements of the public, it is important to have a flexible play area improvement plan.

The improvement plan identified a number of sites in need of investment which has been prioritised over 4 financial years. We have only included guaranteed section 106 contributions at the moment. A review is currently being conducted and further sites with section 106 funding will be added to the future programme in due course.

2021-22

Site	Detail	Budget	Funding Comments
Millfield, Faversham	Complete playground replacement and provision of new outdoor gym equipment	£155,000	£59,000 COMF £96,000 Section 106 (Completion early 2022/23)
Manor Grove, Sittingbourne	Replacement playground and outdoor gym equipment	£65,000	COMF (Completion early 2022/23)
Festival Fields, Sheerness	New piece of play equipment	£10,000	COMF
Kemsley Rec	Replacement equipment and gates	£19,000	COMF
Diligent Drive	Replacement equipment	£13,500	Section 106
Grove Park	Outdoor gym equipment	£9,500	Section 106
TOTAL		£272,000	Section 106 £119,000 COMF £153,000

2022-2023

Site	Detail	Budget	Funding Comments
Beachfields, Sheerness	Provision of new outdoor gym equipment to support the Levelling Up fund bid	£40,000.00	Special Project Fund - £40,000.00
Faversham Swimming Pools Play Area Faversham	Replace play area equipment destroyed by arson attack	£30,000.00	Special Project Fund - £30,000.00
Festival Fields Sheerness	Provision of new outdoor gym station/equipment.	£18,000.00	Special Project Fund - £18,000.00
Colonels Lane Play Area Boughton Under Blean	Provision of new play area	£30,000.00	Special Project Fund - £30,000.00
Vincent Gardens Play Area Sheerness	Provision of additional new play equipment	£32,000.00	Special Project Fund - £32,000.00

New Road Play Area, Minster	Provision of additional new play equipment	£20,000.00	Sheppey Area Committee - £20,000.00
TOTAL		£170,000.00	Special Project Fund - £150,000.00

2023-2024

Site	Detail	Budget	Comments
Sumpter Way Play Area Faversham	Provision of new play area.	£120,000.00	S106 - £120,000.00
Lower Road Play Area Faversham	Provision of new play area	£120,000.00	S106 - £120,000.00
Barton's Point Play Area Sheerness	Provision of additional new play equipment	£12,000.00	S106 - £12,000.00
TOTAL		£252,000.00	S106 - £252,000.00

2024-2025

Site	Detail	Budget	Comments
King George V Play Area Faversham	Provision of new play area.	£81,000.00	S106 - £56,000.00 Funding required - £25,000.00
Dickson's Field Play Area Eastchurch	Provision of new play area	£60,000.00	Funding Required - £40,000.00
Chilton Avenue Play Area Sittingbourne	Provision of additional new play equipment	£45,000.00	Funding Required - £45,000.00
King George V Play Area Queenborough	Provision of new play area.	£80,000.00	Funding Required - £80,000.00 (expecting section 106)
TOTAL		£266,000.00	S106 - £56,000.00 Funding Required - £210,000.00

*Section 106 review will provide some of the funding required.

Additional sites with funding identified to be programme 2025—2026 onwards include:

Site	Detail	Budget	Comments
King George V Play Area Sittingbourne	New equipment	£30,000.00	Funding required
Anne Boleyn Play Area Eastchurch	Replacement play area	£80,000.00	Funding required
TOTAL		£110,000	

Community Committee Forward Decisions Plan

Report title, background information and recommendation(s)	Date of meeting	Open or exempt?	Lead Officer and report author
Community Safety Strategic Assessment	10.01.23	Open	Lead officer: Emma Wiggins Report author: Steph Curtis
Open Spaces and Play Area Strategy	10.01.23	Open	Lead officer: Emma Wiggins Report author: Graeme Tuff
Built Facility Strategy (BFS)	01.03.23	Open	Lead officer: Emma Wiggins Report author: Jay Jenkins
Tennis Court Improvement Project	01.03.23	Open	Lead officer: Jay Jenkins Report author: Graeme Tuff
Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)	01.03.23	Open	Lead officer: Emma Wiggins Report author: Jay Jenkins
Parking Review	01.03.23	Open	Lead officer: Emma Wiggins Report author: Martyn Cassell

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