

# CABINET

Thursday,  
2 November 2006  
10.00 a.m.

Conference Room 1,  
Council Offices,  
Spennymoor

# AGENDA and REPORTS

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ਜੇ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂ ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਸਮਝਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰੈਟਰ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

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**Democratic Services**



**01388 816166**

## AGENDA

**1. APOLOGIES**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To notify the Chairman of any items that appear in the agenda in which you may have an interest.

**3. MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2006. (Pages 1 - 4)

### KEY DECISIONS

**4. SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH PLAY STRATEGY**

Report of Director of Leisure Services. (Pages 5 - 78)

**5. FEASIBILITY STUDY, DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN SPACE, BURNHILL WAY, NEWTON AYCLIFFE**

Report of Director of Leisure Services. (Pages 79 - 82)

### OTHER DECISIONS

### STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP PORTFOLIO

**6. CONFERENCES**

Report of Chief Executive. (Pages 83 - 84)

### SCRUTINY REVIEW

**7. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 - REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER - INFORM**

Report of Review Group. (Pages 85 - 112)

### MINUTES

**8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1**

Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006. (Pages 113 - 116)

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Lead Members are requested to inform the Chief Executive or the Head of Democratic Services of any items they might wish to raise under this heading by no later than 12 noon on the day preceding the meeting. This will enable the Officers in consultation with the Chairman to determine whether consideration of the matter by the Cabinet is appropriate.

B. Allen  
Chief Executive

Council Offices  
SPENNYMOOR  
25<sup>th</sup> October 2006

Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, Mrs. B. Graham, A. Hodgson, M. Iveson, D.A. Newell,  
K. Noble, R.A. Patchett and W. Waters

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Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection in relation to this Agenda and associated papers should contact Gillian Garrigan, on Spennymoor 816166 Ext 4240

# Item 3

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CABINET

Conference Room 1,  
Council Offices,  
Spennymoor

Thursday,  
19 October 2006

Time: 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and  
Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, Mrs. B. Graham, A. Hodgson,  
M. Iveson, D.A. Newell, R.A. Patchett and W. Waters

**In Attendance:** Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. B.A. Clare, Mrs. J. Croft,  
Mrs. A.M. Fleming, A. Gray, D.M. Hancock, J.G. Huntington, B. Meek,  
J.P. Moran, G. Morgan, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, T. Ward and J. Wayman J.P

**Apologies:** Councillors K. Noble

**CAB.90/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
Members had no interests to declare.

**CAB.91/06 MINUTES**  
The Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**CAB.92/06 DISABLED PERSONS ADAPTATIONS (KEY DECISION)**  
The Lead Member for Housing presented a report seeking approval for an additional £300,000 to be made available from the Housing Revenue Account balances to ensure that all applications for adaptations could be dealt with in the remaining months of the 2006/07 financial year. (For copy see file of Minutes)

**RESOLVED :** *That an additional £300,000 be made available from the Housing Revenue Account balances to ensure that all applications for adaptations can be dealt with for the remaining months of 2006/07.*

**CAB.93/06 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the following:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 - 12<sup>th</sup> September 2006
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2006

(For copies see file of Minutes).

With regard to Minute No.OSC(2)12/06, it was reported that arrangements had been made for the Lead Member for Safer Communities and the Head of Community Services to attend the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2006 to give a presentation on the provision of CCTV equipment across the Borough.

In respect of recommendation 2 of Minute No.OSC(3)9/06, it was proposed that the Council's concerns be forwarded to local MPs whilst discussions were taking place regarding the feasibility of entering into a Strategic Alliance arrangement with Bishop Auckland College to provide a complementary training service.

*RESOLVED : That the reports be received.*

**CAB.94/06 AREA FORUMS**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the following:

- Area 4 Forum - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2006
- Area 5 Forum - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2006

(For copies see file of Minutes).

*RESOLVED : That the reports be received.*

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

*RESOLVED: That in accordance with Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of the Act.*

**CAB.95/06 REVIEW OF CATERING SERVICES - GREEN LANE AND CHILTON DEPOT**

The Lead Member for Leisure and Culture presented a report detailing proposals in respect of the catering operations at the Council Offices at Green Lane, Spennymoor and Chilton Depot. (For copy see file of Minutes)

*RESOLVED : That the recommendations detailed in the report be adopted.*

**Published on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2006.**

**The key decision contained in these Minutes will be implemented on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006, five days after the date of publication unless they are called in by three Members of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with the call in procedure rules.**

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# Item 4

## KEY DECISION

REPORT TO CABINET  
2 NOVEMBER 2006

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LEISURE  
SERVICES

### Portfolio: Leisure and Culture

### Sedgefield Borough Play Strategy

#### 1 SUMMARY

The development of a play strategy for the Borough is an important element of achieving 3 of its 4 key ambitions of a Healthy Borough and an Attractive Borough with Strong Communities.

Play is a cross cutting theme which is a right for children and young people but can be problematic for communities.

The play strategy with its action plan provides direction for direct and indirect delivery of play opportunities and helps focus on priority areas for investment.

#### 2 RECOMMENDATION

That the play strategy 2006–2011 be adopted by Cabinet.

#### 3 DETAIL

The play strategy has been developed alongside a number of key internal and external strategic policies and reflects the importance of play in delivering on a number of the Council's ambitions.

Divided into 4 sections, the document covers legal responsibilities, barriers to play, the need for the strategy, primary and secondary research findings and includes an action plan divided into the 5 areas of the Borough.

The play strategy takes into account recent work being undertaken via the Open Space Needs Assessment and will provide a structured approach to future investment decisions.

Clearly play is a wide issue and opportunities to play cannot be delivered by the Council alone. The partnership requirements are identified within the action plan.

#### 4 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Members will recall their decision to invest £700,000 in fixed play sites between 2005/6 – 2006/7.

The adoption of this play strategy will release £230,000 of Big Lottery funding which will assist the realisation of the action plan.

## **5 CONSULTATION**

Although a huge amount of research has been undertaken in the development of the strategy, listed in the bibliography section, further consultation on the draft document has been completed with young people, town and parish council's, the Primary Care Trust and key Cabinet Members.

## **6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **6.1 Risk Management**

Big Lottery Funding is dependent on the Council having an approved Play Strategy and these increased resources will help in the delivery of the action plan.

Compliance with approved design standards will assist in the risk assessment process when managing and inspecting existing and proposed play facilities.

### **6.2 Sustainability**

The importance of community engagement with particular reference to children and young people in the planning of play facilities will help to sustain the life expectancy of each play site.

### **6.3 Equality and Diversity**

The strategy highlights the need for play design to cater for children and young people in a non-discriminative fashion and will lead to more positive play experiences.

### **6.4 Crime and Disorder**

The correlation between "things to do and places to go" and anti-social behaviour statistics is clear. By providing more opportunities for young people who spend their time engaged in positive play activity may lead to a reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents.

### **6.5 Human Rights and Social Inclusion**

The Play Strategy reflects the right of every child to have to opportunity to play.

### **6.6 Health and Safety**

The delivery of the action plan will take account of all statutory health and safety requirements.

**Contact Officer:** Mr Phil Ball  
**Telephone No:** (01388) 816166 ext : 4386  
**Email Address:** pball@sedgefield.gov.uk

**Ward(s)** More than two wards

### **Background Papers**

### **Examination by Statutory Officers**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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# **SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Play Strategy**

**2006 - 2011**

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## FOREWORD

As Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation, I am pleased to endorse the development of a play strategy for the Borough of Sedgefield.

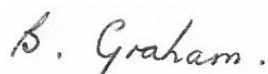
For the benefit of the strategy, the definition of play opportunities is that contained in the Department of Culture Media and Sport's 'Getting Serious about Play' 2004 document.

"A space, some facilities or equipment or a set of activities intended to give children the opportunity to play. At its most successful it offers children and young people as much choice, control and freedom as possible within reasonable boundaries. This is often best achieved with adult support, guidance or supervision. The children and young people may themselves choose play involving certain rules, in some cases, informal sport."

The strategy is written against a backdrop of change in the way in which Children's Services are being shaped and it will be important for all partners to talk up the value of play in the way in which these different groups are coming together to consider future provision.

The Borough is committed to a process of on-going consultation with stakeholders in the way in which resources can be assembled and the action plan is monitored and refreshed.

My personal thanks go to everyone who has made a contribution to the play strategy during its development, and I look forward to working with those people and organisations in its delivery over the next five years.



Cllr B Graham

## **VISION**

By 2011, every child and young person living in the Borough of Sedgefield will have access to age appropriate accredited play opportunities.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The importance of play in the development of young people and the enjoyment from playing together are vital ingredients which help to bring communities together.

Whether provision is available within an extensive fixed play site, the area of grass on the street corner, the countryside and all it has to offer, the youth club or leisure centre, the school playground or the back garden, each setting contributes towards making play possible.

When playing fields are under threat because of the demand for open space to be developed for housing; when adults appear to be less tolerant of young people "playing out;" when the amount of vehicle traffic on the roads continues to increase, the need for a strategy for play is vitally important if play settings are to be protected and quality play spaces and equipment are to be established.

The play strategy for the Borough of Sedgefield is a 5-year plan. It is set out in 4 sections.

Section 1 considers play in context and covers how important play is, what legal responsibilities must be discharged and looks at some of the current barriers to play.

Section 2 examines the need for a play strategy while section 3 covers the detail of the strategy, (structure of the strategy).

Section 4 provides some conclusions from the work.

Thanks must go to the many partner organisations that have helped in the development of this strategy for play.

## **1 PLAY IN CONTEXT**

Many papers have been written and published on the subject of play, and the importance of play in the life and development of young people.

Play provides the mechanism for children to explore their environment and is the means through which life skills are practised and developed.

Play is essential for physical, emotional and spiritual growth. It assists in the intellectual and educational development of young people and it helps in the acquisition of social and behaviour skills.

We all have memories of play and playing, some good, others less good, but in general, play and the opportunity to play was available, and as such was never given a second thought. It was something that we just did when not at school and was part of growing up.



Today's world is somewhat different and there are some significant issues which if not considered in the planning of a play strategy will render future development ineffective these are the barriers to play and are considered later.

## **1.1 Responsibilities in Statute**

Although at first glance spending on children's play may be seen to be a discretionary activity for a Local Authority, however the opportunity to allow children to play is set in law.

There are numerous pieces of legislation and conventions set around children's play, and for the purpose of this study 4 key areas are included, the first is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child.

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 November 1989. The Convention recognized that children are individuals with the right to develop physically, mentally and socially to their fullest potential, and to express opinions freely. In December 1991 the UK Government ratified the Articles of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, which have a strong and direct relevance to the importance of Play Provision.

Article 31; "States parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life."

"Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity."

Articles 12,13,14 and 15 enshrine the rights of the child to freedom of expression and association and for opinions to be heeded.

The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) is the second area impacting on children's play.

Under sections 3 & 4 of this Act a clear responsibility is placed on the Council to ensure the health and safety of users so far as is reasonably practicable. The Health and Safety Executive is keen to see a systematic approach to health and safety within play facilities and supports the adoption of relevant standards and guidance. By adopting management systems for the proper planning, installation and maintenance of play facilities, the Council will be doing all that is reasonably practicable to ensure the health and safety of users.

The Children Act 2004 is the third key area which underpins the Every Child Matters; Change for Children Programme.

Under section 17 of the Children's Act 2004, Local Authorities are required to publish a single children and young people plan for the services which affect children and young people which includes play.

Section 10 of the same Act confirms the duty to co-operate in the development and delivery of all services for children and young people. This in County Durham is

leading to the establishment of a Children's Trust, and will serve as the vehicle for the Children and Young People block of the Local Area Agreement.

The Every Child Matters: Change for Children, approach to the well being of children and young people, established in the wake of the Victoria Climbié tragedy is anchored around five outcomes, being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well being. The Local Authority and the emerging Children's Trust have and will continue to have a central role in helping to deliver on these outcomes.

## **1.2 Barriers to Play**

A lack of understanding by statutory organisations, the voluntary sector and the local neighbourhood of the value of play lies at the very heart of lack of provision of opportunities to play.

Statutory organisations will always have other funding priorities to consider before investing in, as some may say, a "frivolous" activity. Play by definition is not work and therefore has to be constantly justified as an activity on which to spend public money.

However, without play opportunities which will lead to less well developed individuals unable to occupy their spare time constructively, unable to get on with each other and respect one another's views and opinions, society as a whole will be picking up costs of lack of community cohesion at a level far greater than that required in the provision made for play.

Some would say that voluntary/Community organisations that have sovereignty over community buildings but exclude young people are just as guilty of anti-social behaviour as any other section of that community. However, exclusion policies within facilities are understandable if the investment in youth workers and appropriate and relevant spaces have not been provided. If the views of children and young people are not considered in the planning of play opportunities, those opportunities will be spurned at best or destroyed at worst.

Local communities, or neighbourhoods can present barriers to children's play. Cars speeding in built up areas, young people roaming the streets and congregating outside the local shop or on the street corner, vandalism and anti-social behaviour are all ingredients which contribute towards neighbourhoods being intolerant of children playing.

The fear of crime and the safety of children has led to a huge drop in the number of children being allowed to play independently away from their home. For those with cars, parents are much happier driving their children to and from more formal play settings, rather than allowing them to walk, cycle or use public transport.

A Home Office survey in 2005 revealed that 33% of 8-10 year olds never play out unsupervised. Those children walking to school declined from 61% in 1994 to 53% in 2004. In 1990, 80% of 7-8 year olds walked to school, whilst in 2004 this figure dramatically reduced to only 5%.

The growing claim culture in society can lead some public bodies to positively disinvest in play spaces. The threat of increased insurance premiums can scare

owners of play spaces resulting in a reduced number of fixed play sites. However, set against these circumstances lies the ever more demanding “public” of young people who will, given a lack of alternatives, continue to play inappropriate games in inappropriate spaces.

## **2 THE NEED FOR A PLAY STRATEGY**

This strategy is the vehicle to protect the right of every child and young person in Sedgefield to be able to play in age appropriate settings.

The strategy will inform every department of the Council of their responsibilities towards children and young people when planning services which may impact on play opportunities.

It will provide a framework within which future funding decisions are made in relation to play.

It will be a tool to influence the play policies of partner organisations and agencies.

Finally, the strategy will provide the evidence needed that play by children and young people makes a positive contribution towards the Council’s ambition for a Healthy Borough.

For the purpose of this strategy, play is defined as the way that young people in the age range 0-19 years occupy themselves in forms of structured and unstructured activity in both formal and informal settings.

The benefits of structured sport and associated physical activity are covered in detail in other related strategies, although touched on in this document.

Sedgefield Borough is at the centre of change. The need to develop and reshape decision making processes has resulted in a new look Local Strategic Partnership, a revised Community Strategy and an internal Corporate Plan all underpinned by robust public consultation methodology.

The new Local Area Foras with improvement grants being made available to them will allow local consultation to be made on how best to improve a local area.

The delivery of the Housing Policy to achieve decent homes with a remit change for housing officers and neighbourhood wardens, and the County Transport Plan and its impact on how easy it will be for people to take advantage of services not located in their community are both crucial documents which do impact on the planning for play.

Planning guidance to safeguard open space and Section 106 agreements set against an influx of private sector development enquiries are important considerations, as is the Health of the Borough Report written by Sedgefield Primary Care Trust’s Director of Public Health which still paints an alarming picture of ill health amongst our residents while advocating the importance of regular physical activity.

Workstreams for the emerging developments in delivering Children's Services must continue to be reflective of the need for more opportunities for young people to play and in some way the £700,000 of Borough Council capital resources to improve and build new fixed play areas, is a clear statement of the Council's commitment to the play agenda as is the Big Lottery Capital allocation for play of £230,000.

This is the start, and the Play Strategy will be able to influence future investment from the Council's own resources and from third party organisations. Critical to the investment plan is the soon to be published Open Space Needs Assessment which will add significant depth to this document.

All the work of these groups, organisations and their plans and strategies must connect with each other around a common theme. It is essential that this Play Strategy acts as the common theme, the theme is play.

### **3 STRUCTURE OF THE PLAY STRATEGY**

#### **3.1 Scope of the Strategy**

Play, and the provision for play has such a huge impact on the child as the end user and those responsible for creating the opportunities. Not every play issue is covered in this strategy but the following settings and issues are included:

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Equipped Play Sites              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Their location, standard of provision, walk time, ownership, independent assessment of play value</li><li>• Consideration of their impact on antisocial behaviour.</li></ul>   |
| Informal Play Areas              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Existing policies in the way that public open space is being used.</li><li>• Cycle paths and their coverage across the Borough</li><li>• Access to the Countryside and the places young people use</li></ul>   |
| Staffed Services to young people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Considers the role of Education in the Community and its presence in the Borough. Pre-school provision and Children's Centre play policies, leisure centre/programmes for children and young people, after school clubs and the impact of extended school and voluntary sector clubs</li></ul> |
| Funding                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highlights the current revenue and capital expenditure in the Borough with future funding opportunities</li></ul>  |
| Indoor Provision                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Looks at Community Centres, Village Halls and voluntary sector sports clubs and examines their use by young people</li></ul>   |
| Entitlement                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Considers existing policies or those being developed and their impact on play</li></ul>  |

## 3.2 Methodology

The development of this play strategy has relied on the benefit of both primary and secondary research findings. Used together, a picture of the play landscape for Sedgefield Borough has been established (section 3.4) which in turn has helped to shape the gap analysis (section 3.5) and action plan (section 3.6).

### Primary Research

The play strategy benefits from the outcome of a number of specific primary research programmes.

A clear directive from the Council's Cabinet to ensure that when proposals are presented to them for consideration, specific subject related public consultation has been carried out.

In respect of fixed play area provision and investment proposals Cabinet have agreed to score each proposed site and public consultation has a factor of 3 attached to it. The implementation of the action plan at section 3.6 must first be tested and results set against the outcome of public consultation which must include all existing networks.

Play programmes for young people are the result of feedback gathered from a range of methods including written feedback forms, internet based information gathering techniques, school visits and discussions, young people focus groups and personal interview.

To be able to get an accurate picture of the extent of play work in the voluntary sector, clubs were asked to complete a registration form from which information has been gathered to plot the range of play settings in the Borough and individual access policies.

Specific to Village Hall/Community Centre access policies, these settings were individually contacted for their details.

In order to try to reach young women who have a tendency of dropping out of physical activity during their teenage years, two specific groups have been established in Spennymoor and Ferryhill. Responsible for directly reaching over 130 young women via focus group work, their observations and comments have been incorporated in this policy document.

### Secondary (desk research)

This section of the strategy highlights the key issues and themes which already form part of the Borough's policies and plans.

The issues as they relate to play are highlighted which helps in the assessment of current and future opportunities for play in the Borough.

Seven specific play related topic areas have been considered:

## Community Cohesion

If as part of a young person's developmental needs, safe spaces to meet with friends are important, how do local communities cope with the fear that those young people gathered together present? Play and the provision for play can be seen as fuelling that fear of crime.

Sedgefield Borough has to be mindful of the tightrope of public opinion set against the demands by young people for "something to do and places to go."

The fear of crime in the Borough runs far ahead of the actual statistics.

In 2003/04 of all the antisocial behaviour incidents reported to the police, 41% were youths causing annoyance or young people hanging around, rowdy behaviour, drinking in public places and playing football.

In 2005, 73% of anti-social behaviour incidents reported to neighbourhood wardens were attributed to young people.

Section 3.4 of this strategy draws on the existing provision of "play" opportunities and the geographical spread of antisocial behaviour hotspot areas and considers the correlation of data.

## Open Space Needs Assessment

The first draft of the Council's Open Space Needs Assessment (OSNA) was produced in September 2006.

The importance of this document as a reference point for this play strategy cannot be over stated, and should be used together in the future planning of play provision.

The OSNA refers to the development of draft standards for a range of settings being a major outcome of the study and once adopted will help inform future investment.

## Cycleways in the Borough

According to the Chief Medical Officer, physical activity is the single most important contributing factor for living a healthy life. Cycling is one of the best forms of exercise and together with the County Council, the Borough has been working hard to establish a network of cycleways for people to enjoy.

Although coverage across the Borough of safe cycle routes is patchy, (see section 3.4) and there seems to be some connectivity issues particularly around cycle routes to schools, this work should continue to develop into "on and off" road settings catering for the full range of machines and their riders.

Work in this area will reflect the County Council's aim contained in their Local Transport Plan 2, which is 'to develop a countywide cycle network which will link settlements across the county, provide connections to adjoining areas and the National Cycle Network.'

## Green Space Strategy

Sedgefield Borough Council is currently developing a Green Space Strategy to set out the vision and goal for local green space, plus the resources, methods and time required to create welcoming inclusive and sustainable green space. It is essential that such public spaces enable play opportunities to flourish.

Planning Policy Guidance Note PPG17 allows for the protection of existing places for play, and the Council's Local Development Framework should also be a tool to help set standards of provision for open space including play.

PPG17 includes provision of open space for children and young people and can include consideration for equipped play areas, skate parks, multiuse play areas, youth shelters et al.

Interesting to note is that PPG17 allows the Authority to ensure that within new housing developments, provision is made for either new areas/facilities to play or that improvements are made to existing play areas.

Both the Forestry Commission and the Countryside Agency are engaged in play opportunities for children and young people. Today, these agencies have particular initiatives aimed at promoting the use of woodland (Growing Adventure) and making the countryside more accessible to encourage outdoor play and learning (Green Start Programme).

Natural England (which started its work in October 2006) have similar aims of getting people close to their natural environment with grant schemes, new outdoor recreation strategies, a wild adventure space study and a learning strategy.

## Funding

Funding for Children's Play has recently gained momentum from a national and local perspective. The realisation by Government Departments and Agencies that play opportunities make a significant contribution in society has led to some important initiatives.

The Big Lottery have a number of play initiatives which are allocated funding and include the Children's Play Initiative which has £155m available nationally to improve play spaces. Sedgefield Borough has been allocated £230,000. £16m is available nationally via the Playful Ideas initiative to support voluntary and community groups develop play projects.

Big Boost is aimed at young people led projects and will allocate between £250 to £5,000 to successful schemes.

Big Lottery have joined with the Heritage Lottery Fund to promote a Parks and People fund with £70m being available to improve local community spaces.

Awards for All, perhaps the best known funding programme have now an increased upper grant level of £10,000 and includes play projects accessing its eligibility schemes.

Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) have made £2m available for Zone Parks, a scheme created to transform primary school playgrounds located in areas of high deprivation. DfES are working with DCMS to improve playgrounds including Zone Parks and are making £10m available for the scheme. Other National Funders include the Barclay's Spaces for Sport programme, Children's Fund, Carnegie UK Trust, BBC's Children in Need, Tesco Charity Trust, Nestle Trust and Sport Relief.

### Local Funding

On a more local level there are funding schemes aimed at play, some of which include

The County Durham Foundation Local Network Fund with grants of between £250 and £7,000.

Esh (North East) have grants up to £10,000 for children and young people initiatives.

The Youth Opportunity Fund which came out of the Green Paper Youth Matters provides Durham County with £105,000 for young people activity programmes.

Sedgefield Borough has seen a number of play related project applications to the Local Improvement Programme from local communities to improve play activity.

KOOLKA\$H is a Borough initiative aimed at providing projects developed by young people and £150,000 was provided to the fund and 73 projects received £95,000 in grant aid, since 2005.

Section 106 Agreements linked to standards of open space contained within the Borough's Local Development Plan is the opportunity to lever investment from developers into play opportunities.

The Borough is following Government Circular 5/05, practical guidance in its negotiations with developers, however, this play strategy when read in conjunction with the Open Space Needs Assessment and Local Development Framework policies will ensure maximum benefit to the Sedgefield Borough residents.

### Delivering health improvement in Sedgefield, Annual Report of Public Health 2005/06

The third Public Health Annual Report for Sedgefield has recently been published. It identifies health related priorities and which will cover the work of the Local Strategic Partnership and other health partners.

Progress over the last year in the area of physical activity is seen by the Primary Care Trust as helpful in contributing to the health and well being of the residents of the Borough.

Specifically related to children's play, the Local Strategic Partnership priorities for the future include developing a leadership role in relation to physical activity, and supporting health programmes in schools and youth settings.



## Community/Corporate Plans

The Borough Council is reflecting the views and aspirations of residents articulated within the Community Plan, has set out four key ambitions. These are to work towards creating and sustaining a Healthy Borough, an Attractive Borough, a Prosperous Borough with Strong Communities.

The provision of Leisure and Cultural opportunities contributes towards the Health ambition and the implicit inclusion of play is contained within the Leisure Department Policy and Development Service Plan.

Although specific to health, play opportunities contribute greatly to the ambitions of strong and attractive.

Lack of investment in the stock of fixed play areas gives a visual impression of dereliction, while young people with “nothing to do and nowhere to go” contributes to the sense of insecurity within local communities.

Working across internal departments and external agencies to bring the importance home of shared responsibilities and shared solutions will assist in the successful delivery of this policy action plan and will raise the value of children’s play in the contribution that it can make to community cohesion and give a clear message to young people that they are part of their community and have a role to play in shaping the opportunities on offer.

### **3.3 Play Quality**

This play strategy reflects the responsibilities placed on the Council to comply with National Standards for fixed play sites, safe locations, good access to them, appropriate Borough wide coverage of staffed settings and use of informal areas where children choose to play.

#### **3.3.1 Standards for Fixed Play Sites**

Many local authorities are measured anecdotally by local communities on the quality of fixed play sites. On one hand, having well maintained, secure and safe, bright and inviting “playgrounds” is welcomed, on the other, these sites can be seen as a catalyst for anti-social behaviour and a blight on the neighbourhood.

With such conflicting emotions surrounding these facilities, this strategy must be seen as a helpful guide in the identification, management and development of such facilities.

The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) “Six Acre Standard” is referred to in Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG17) and is the benchmark used for calculating open space provision required as part of new housing developments. Although the standard is currently under review, this strategy uses the existing document to assess the Borough’s landscape for play. However once the Open Space Needs Assessment has been adopted by the Council, the action plan will be re-assessed in light of the creation of local standards. The Six Acre Standard uses three levels of play provision, Local Areas for Play (LAPS), Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPS), Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPS).

## LAPS

Catering for children up to the age of 6 years old within 100m of their home or 1 minute walk time, a LAP site is an informal area for play with no requirement for any equipment. The Authority must designate such sites, sign them accordingly, and locate them within well used public areas.

## LEAP

These are equipped play areas located within 400m of houses or 5-minute walk time.

Aimed at children between 4 and 8 years old ideally there should be equipment provided for 5 different types of activity including a small area where ball games can be played.

## NEAPS

Like the LEAP standard, the neighbourhood facility provides for young people from the age of 8 years upwards and should be located within a 15 minute walk time. The equipment will be more challenging and a hard surfaced ball games area and/or wheeled sports area should be included.

Taking such standards at face value and recognising that following a consultation exercise lead by NPFA and the Audit Commission, some alterations may be made in future, but at the time of writing this strategy, the Council recognises the need to work towards achieving the current Six Acre standard and section 4.4 of this document shows what is being delivered, whilst section 4.5 shows the gaps in provision. Appendix 1 shows clearly the standards required for each type of designated play site.

### 3.3.2 Quality Play Equipment

Identified earlier in the document is the need to provide a range of play equipment where appropriate, but compliance with standards in design, manufacture and play value is critical.

The days of hand made, DIY fixed play equipment are over. Although not a legal requirement, the Council has adopted BSEN 1176;1998 Parts 1-7 for play equipment and BSEN 1177;1998 for safety surfacing, as minimum standards required when new equipment is being installed which represents good practice. The Authority must ensure that all documentation confirming compliance is obtained as part of the contractual conditions.

### 3.3.3 General Standards and Guidance

A quality play space will only retain its value to the local community if it is designed in consultation with that community, installed correctly and inspected regularly to minimise disruption caused because equipment is out of order.

The Council should continue to work closely with those organisations that will provide advice and guidance including The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA), National Playing Fields Association (NPFA), The Institute and

Leisure Amenity Management (ILAM), Zurich Municipal insurers and other in house safety specialists.

#### 3.3.4 Inspection Regime

Best practice is where each designated play area is inspected at no longer than 7 day intervals. Data records must be kept electronically for ease of access and a rapid response to serious failure of equipment must be able to be activated every day of the week. At present best practice for inspection is being complied with.

#### 3.3.5 Informal Public Open Space

Young people play where they want to, where they are allowed to (usually by parents) or where they are taken to. The play value of public open space which falls outside the LAP standard cannot be underestimated.

Natural play areas, these being water and ecological areas, provide children with some of the highest quality play opportunities. In particular these types of area provide stimuli for creative play, conservation, play work and environmental opportunities and on larger sites, interpretative features help children achieve a greater understanding and appreciation of their surroundings.

#### 3.3.6 Staffed Settings

The inclusion of a staffed setting within the context of children's play recognises the important role within the Borough of preschool provision, indoor leisure centres, youth clubs, smart bus, holiday play-schemes including sports coaching opportunities, voluntary sector sports clubs and the impact of the extended school provision.

#### 3.3.7 Pre-school

There is a mixed economy within the Borough of provision for pre-school children which includes private nurseries, school based nurseries, voluntary playgroups, SureStart/Children's Centres and sessional/informal crèche provision.

Although it is not intended to spend a lot of time here examining these types of setting, suffice to say that there are clear guidelines, accreditation and inspection protocols which cover preschool activity.

It is important however to make the link between the quality of on-site provision where best practice calls for an area outdoors in which to play, and the opportunities available for such groups to visit play areas because they too are of sufficient play value to preschool children for the "staff" to make arrangements to visit.

A mapping exercise, such as that contained in section 4.4 of this document will be a signpost to appropriate play facilities and venues.

#### 3.3.8 Leisure Centre Based Activity

The simple rationale for including Leisure Centres in this Play Strategy is because

the playing of sport and the engagement of young people in the arts programme attracts the highest number of visits by young people outside of the school curriculum.

Working now with the County Sport Partnership, and the schools sport co-ordinators via Sedgefield's Sporting Hub, quality controls are in place to ensure full and total understanding and training in child protection issues, where thorough coach education programmes are in place. Detailed documents for sessional staff in more informal venues are well developed and risk assessment training and its application is common practice.

However, the demand by young people for a range of activities which tend to reflect fashion and fads can provide managers with the task of balancing competing demands on the programme, maximising revenue, access and restricted access into facilities and the training/skills needed to engage at times with young people who confront staff with challenging behaviour and issues.

Working with colleagues from the Youth Engagement Service and the Primary Care Trust, the training needs of leisure staff and coaches are beginning to be met by specialists in the area of general youth work and sexual health.

Cabinet at its meeting on the 8 December 2005 showed an unparalleled commitment to young people and the need to use the Borough's Leisure Centres for Sports Development and young people by allowing the clearing of Sports Halls during the week between 3.30pm and 7.30pm exclusively for programmes aimed at them. The early results of this policy has already seen an additional 15 hours of sports development programmes in operation, with development set to continue in the future.

The need to co-ordinate programmes, activities and resources to enable young people to start to get involved in sport and physical activity, stay in the sport and maximise their potential has led to the development via the Sporting Hub, of geographically based sports fora.

Already established are the Aycliffe & Spennymoor Sports Fora, and there are plans for similar groups to form in Shildon, Ferryhill and the eastern part of the Borough.

### 3.3.9 Holiday Playschemes and the Smart Bus

Each year during the school summer holidays, an extensive programme of activity is developed in partnership with a wide range of organisations using market research material.

In 2006 there were 2310 visits to the Council operated playschemes at a cost to the Borough of £16,485.

Venues are decided historically but programmes are the result of extensive user research. What young people say is they want the opportunity to get out of the Borough and visit places of interest/attractions that ordinarily they might never see.

Trips are very labour intensive and require thorough planning, and skilled people to

lead them. This issue does raise a wider issue for policy advisors in the area of community development, transport and admission pricing.

The future planning for the holiday programme may need to link more closely with targeted communities whilst sports coaching is being extended across the Borough during all school holidays with help from Neighbourhood Renewal Funding over the period 2006/08. Making a conscious decision not to invest in holiday programmes in a particular area of the Borough will put more emphasis on existing quality play opportunities which may be of a more informal nature and can be left to young people themselves to use without interference.

The SmartBus however makes mobile youth provision across the Borough possible. Administered by the Youth Engagement Service and staffed by qualified youth workers, its role is to visit geographic areas in the Borough where there is little or no youth provision.

It operates throughout the year for 22 hours each week and its route is kept under review. It has in the past been able to support other youth work initiatives where hotspots of anti-social behaviour have been experienced and work with target groups such as travellers and young offenders.

As the SmartBus was originally funded with external grant, its sustainability is in question and decisions on mainstreaming have to be made in 2008.

### 3.3.10 Voluntary Sector Clubs

#### Sports Clubs

From a recent assessment, the number of voluntary sector sports clubs operating in Sedgefield Borough is 83. Although this number is not complete, it does give some indication of the level of commitment of those volunteer coaches and administrators who gladly give up their time to provide opportunities for young people. A MORI poll commissioned by Sport England revealed that 3.7% of adults in Sedgefield Borough spend 1 hour a week working in clubs as volunteers.

In an effort to ensure a quality approach to Sports Clubs, a club accreditation scheme is being developed in the Borough which will ensure all clubs are operating to a set of minimum standards (child protection policy and coaching qualifications). Clubs will then be encouraged to follow the Durham Sports Accreditation Scheme or their sport's governing bodies standards.

Once the Borough Councils Club Accreditation Scheme is operational all clubs or groups working in partnership with the Council or using Council facilities such as leisure centres will be required to achieve this standard.

It is estimated by Sport England, that nationally the value to sport made by the voluntary sector each year is £14 billion and this equates to 1.2 billion volunteering hours each year. If that value is to be protected, clubs need support. Support can be financial either direct or indirect, it can be information or it can be advice. Although some help is on hand, a quality sporting experience in a voluntary club is much more difficult to achieve and then retain without help.

## Village Halls

The voluntary sector also manage significant community assets in their village halls.

There are 21 village hall or equivalent assets in the Borough and recent research has confirmed that 14 hold local toddler group meeting, 11 have a weekly youth club or uniformed group meeting and 4 have no youth provision; indeed they have policies which bar young people totally from their community premises. Whether such policies are discriminatory is not for debate here but when plotting the current landscape for play, what a difference would be made if these village hall communities were to embrace their entire community, and not only a small percentage.

## Youth Clubs

The statutory responsibility for providing youth clubs rests with Durham County Council.

There are 10 youth clubs across the Borough providing opportunities aimed at young people aged between 13 and 23 years. Since April 2006 1,111 young people have accessed this service 407 times in a variety of settings ranging from dedicated youth centres, detached youth work and community/college environments.

Any youth club working under the auspices of Durham County Council has qualified staff working in each setting and there are examples of excellent engagement.

Access to this type of youth provision varies depending on the venue. Dedicated youth centres in Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor are open 6 days a week and therefore provide evening and weekend access. However those clubs operating from Community Colleges, for example in Chilton and Sedgefield, are only open between 2 and 3 nights a week.

The tradition that youth clubs close during the school holidays no longer seem the case in the Borough with clubs in many cases operating an increased service during this period. In most instance, to increase holiday provision beyond the allocated budget, individual clubs are very pro-active and successful in applying for grants, from schemes such as KOOLKA\$H, in order to provide a more comprehensive and influential programme.

A further example of how these services are increased is through the partnership working between the Borough Council and other youth providers such as a Ferryhill E-Café and the Cornforth Partnership at West Cornforth.

## Extended Schools

The Department for Education and Skills explain their vision for extended schools as providing:

- High quality 'wraparound' childcare provided on the school site or through other local providers between 8am and 6pm all year round. This should be provided for every primary-aged child by 2010 and in at least half of all primary schools by 2008.

- A varied choice of activities ranging from homework clubs to sport to music to special interest clubs such as chess and first aid. In particular this will be delivered by secondary schools being open from 8am till 6pm all year round. Again by 2010 this service should be offered by all secondary school and by at least a third of schools by 2008.
- Fifteen hours of free integrated early learning and care for 38 weeks of the year for all 3 to 4 year olds by 2010.
- Parenting support.
- Swift and easy referral to a wide range of specialist support services such as speech therapy, mental health services, family support and behaviour support.
- Providing wider community access to ICT, sports and art facilities and adult learning.

In order to deliver this vision in County Durham and Sedgefield Borough, extended services will be provided through schools working in clusters and through partnership working with other local providers, such as Sure Start Children's Centres, Leisure Centres and Community/Youth Centres.

At present the delivery of extended services across the Borough is varied. For example in the Newton Aycliffe, Sedgefield and Ferryhill clusters extended services and partnership working is already well established. However the service is just being developed in the Spennymoor and Shildon cluster.

### Mapping

Information gathered from a range of sources has enabled a Borough map for each of the area fora communities to be plotted.

Specifically, the following provision is included.

- Fixed Play sites
- Public Open Space
- Cycle Routes
- Community Centres and Village Halls
- Youth Centres/Facilities
- Sports Facilities
- Sure Start
- Library
- Nature Area
- Community Colleges
- Extended Schools Provision

### **3.4 Current Landscape for play in Sedgefield**

The extent of the detail available having conducted a thorough audit of provision is too extensive to include in the main body of the strategy, therefore it is contained in appendix 2 and 3.

Taken from an audit of play provision, the information has been used to plot the current play landscape in the Borough.

The maps relate to each area (1-5) and are attached at appendix 2.

Appendix 3 contains three tables of data.

Table 1 summaries the key facts and figures relating to each area in the Borough, including population, anti-social behaviour incidents, number of fixed play areas and number of other play provision facilities.

Table 2 provides more detail on the fixed play areas provided in the Borough, including location, ownership, type and walking distance.

Table 3 provides more detail on the other play provision facilities provided in the Borough, including the name of the facility, what facilities and activities are provided, age ranges and location.

Set against the above data are agreed standards identified below for play provision which read together provides the basis of the gap analysis.

### Standards

- Fixed play gaps are set against Audit Commission quality guidelines
- Gaps in the coverage of cycle ways are from a visual inspection and are not demand-led
- Standards for public open space have been determined against the Open Space Needs Assessment
- Information gathering of community programmes has identified a lack of youth centred activity
- Durham County Council's extended school strategy provides the basis of assessing future community use of schools
- Gaps in sports facility provision has been identified against the Open Space Needs Assessment and the Borough's Playing Pitch Strategy
- Children's play and Sure Start activity has been solely desk research



### 3.5 Gap Analysis

By analysing the information contained in the section 3.4, a profile of gaps in provision has emerged for each area of the Borough, and are shown below.

#### Area 1

##### Spennymoor

Gap	Detail
Cycle-ways	There are no cycle-ways in or around Kirk Merrington
Open space	There is a sufficient supply of open space, however improvements are required to improve public access to it
Village Hall/Community Centres	Out of the 4 community centres in Spennymoor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Middlestone Moor does not provide activities for children or young people</li> <li>• Tudhoe does not provide activities for young people</li> </ul>
Extended schools provision	Out of the 11 schools in Spennymoor only 4 provide extended schools services
Fixed Play	Fixed play provision in Byers Green is insufficient
	Fixed play provision in Kirk Merrington is insufficient
	Fixed play provision in Tudhoe is insufficient
	There is no fixed play provision in Bessemer Park
Sports Facilities	Several of the outdoor sports pitches require improvements in terms of quality
Sure Start	There is no access to Sure Start provision to the south of Spennymoor, for example Middlestone Moor

#### Area 2

##### Bishop Middleham

Gap	Detail
Cycle-ways	There are no cycle-ways in or around Bishop Middleham
Open space	There is an under supply of accessible public open space
Village Hall/Community Centre	There are no youth activities provided in the village hall
Fixed play	The quality of the fixed play equipment in 'The Park' is inadequate

### Chilton

<b>Gap</b>	<b>Detail</b>
Cycle-ways	There are no cycle-ways in or around Chilton
Open space	There is a sufficient supply of open space, however improvements are required to improve public access to it
Community College/Centre	There is the potential to increase activities provided in this facility on evening and weekends through Education in the Community and extended schools provision
Fixed play	Fixed play equipment at 'The Downs' play area is insufficient

### Ferryhill

<b>Gap</b>	<b>Detail</b>
Cycle-ways	There are no cycle-ways in or around Ferryhill
Open space	Generally there is an under supply of accessible public open space
Youth Centre/facility	There is the potential to increase activities provided for young people, for example at the E-café and Ladder Centre, on evenings and weekends
Sports Facilities	There is an under supply of outdoor sports spaces and some existing spaces are in need of improvement
Fixed play	The fixed play equipment at 'Dean Dank Park' is inadequate

### West Cornforth

<b>Gap</b>	<b>Detail</b>
Cycle-ways	There are no cycle-ways in or around West Cornforth
Open space	Generally there is an under supply of accessible public open space
Village Hall/Community Centre	There is the potential to increase activities provided for young people at the Community Centre on evenings and weekends
Fixed play	The fixed play area at 'Cornforth Community Park' is insufficient for teenagers

### Area 3

#### Fishburn

Gap	Detail
Cycle-ways	There is only one cycle-route on the very outskirts of the village, leading to Sedgefield or the Trimdons
Open space	There is a sufficient supply of open space, however improvements are required to improve public access to it
Village Hall/Community Centre	There is the potential to increase activities provided for young people at the Community Centre on weekends
Sports Facility	There is an under supply in relation to outdoor sports areas and the villages main pitches are in need of improvement
Sure Start	There is no Sure Start provision provided within the village
Fixed play	Fixed play provision in the village is inadequate

#### Sedgefield

Gap	Detail
Cycle-ways	There are no cycle-ways to the North of the village
Village Hall/Community Centre	There is the potential to increase activities provided for children and young people, at the Parish Hall and Ceddesfeld Hall, on evenings and weekends
Sports Facilities	There is a sufficient supply of outdoor sports space, however quality improvements are required at several sites
Fixed play	There is no fixed play provision to the north of the village

#### Trimdon's

Gap	Detail
Cycle-ways	The provision of cycle ways between the three Trimdon's is insufficient
Open space	There is a sufficient supply of open space, however improvements are required to improve public access to it
Village Hall/Community Centres	Out of the 3 community centres in the Trimdons' the following 2 do not provide activities for young people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trimdon Village Hall</li> <li>• Trimdon Colliery Community Centre</li> </ul>
Youth Centre/facility	There are no youth facilities in the Grange or Colliery. Youth provision could be extended in Trimdon Village, through Education in the Community at the community college and providers at Trimdon House, on evenings and weekends
Extended Service	Out of the 4 schools in the Trimdons' 1 does not provide extended schools services

## Area 4

### Shildon

Gap	Detail
Cycle-ways	Although the existing cycle ways are well connected a large proportion of the people living in the area can not access them directly
Open space	There is a sufficient supply of open space, however improvements are required to improve public access to it
Youth Centre/facility	There is no youth facility in Eldon. In Shildon there is the possibility to extend provision for young people, at the Shildon Centre and Jubilee Centre, on evenings and weekends
Extended Service	Out of the 4 schools in the Shildon area none provide extended schools services
Fixed play	There is no play area to the east of Shildon

## Area 5

### Newton Aycliffe

Gap	Detail
Open space	There is a sufficient supply of open space, however improvements are required to improve public access to it
Village Hall/Community Centres	Out of the 6 village halls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Middridge &amp; Neville Parade provide no activities</li><li>• Agnew &amp; School Aycliffe only provide activities for toddlers</li><li>• Woodham Village &amp; Aycliffe Village only provide activities for young people</li></ul>
Youth Centre/facility	There are no youth facility in the villages of Middridge, School Aycliffe or Aycliffe Village
Extended Service	Out of the 13 schools in the Newton Aycliffe area 8 provide extended schools services
Fixed play	The quality of the fixed play equipment in Middridge is inadequate
	The fixed play provision around the Horndale and Byerley Park areas are insufficient
	The quality of the fixed play equipment in West Park is inadequate

## Borough Wide Issues

Gap	Detail
Provision for disabled children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many of the existing fixed play areas have poor disability access</li> <li>• There are no specialised items of play equipment for disabled users in any of the Borough's open access play areas</li> <li>• There is very limited access to activities and services outside specialist provision</li> </ul>
Play support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geographically there are limited community activities developed in and around fixed play areas</li> </ul>
Mobile facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single smart bus facility is unable to meet demand, in particular during school holidays</li> <li>• Availability of Trimdon rural bus</li> <li>• Mobile skate park is only available during school holidays</li> <li>• Mobile Movies is only available in certain geographical areas across the Borough</li> </ul>
Voluntary Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no Borough wide strategy for increasing levels of volunteering, which in turn could lead to an increase in play opportunities</li> </ul>
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no guidelines set regarding youth work qualifications for everyone working in an area where they come into contact with young people</li> </ul>
Play Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The benefit and opportunities to play are not high on the agenda of many cross-cutting issues and policies</li> </ul>

The gap analysis is correct at the time of writing, and clearly will change over time.

New housing developments, improvements to existing facilities and access issues, children's centres and building schools for the future will all impact on priorities for the future.

### 3.6 Action Plan

All the research data, plans, policies and consultation has led to the development of the action plan. When looking at table 1 in Appendix 2, some thought has been given to the correlation of the No. of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour and the no. of young people resident in that area. Generally speaking, the more opportunities to play, the less reports are received which is reflected in the time frame column of the action plan in an effort to increase play opportunities in targeted areas.

#### Area 1

##### Spennymoor

Gap	Action	Lead Organisation	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Cost
Cycle-ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey Kirk Merrington for suitable cycle way development opportunities</li> <li>Arrange for the implementation of the survey findings over the life span of this strategy</li> </ul>	DCC	SBC & SUSTRANS	2007 - 2011	To be established
Open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply fully with the recommendations contained within the OSNA Area Profile assessment for Spennymoor</li> </ul>	SBC	Town Council, DCC & all other appropriate land owners	TBC	To be established
Village Hall/ Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase children and young people access at Middlestone Moor Community Centre ensuring there is at least two dedicated session per week</li> <li>Increase young people access at Tudhoe Community Centre ensuring there is at least one dedicated session per week</li> </ul>	Community Centre Management Boards	SBC, DCC, Town Councils, CAVOS	Earliest start time April 2007	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Extended Schools provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every school in the Spennymoor area will provide extended schools services</li> </ul>	DCC & Individual Schools	SBC & activity providers	2006-2010	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Sure Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Sure Start in the development of a new Children's Centre in Middlestone Moor</li> </ul>	Sure Start	SBC	2006-2008	Indirect support costs



				appropriate land owners		
Village Hall/Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase young people access at Bishop Middleham Village Hall ensuring there is at least one dedicated session per week</li> <li>Support provision currently targeted at pre-school children to ensure it is sustained long term</li> </ul>	Community Centre Management Boards		SBC, DCC, Parish Council, CAVOS	Earliest start time 2007	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Fixed Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in new fixed play equipment at 'The Park' to maintain NEAP standard play area</li> </ul>	Parish Council		SBC	2007-08	£70,000

### Chilton

Gap	Action	Lead Organisation	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Cost
Cycle-ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey Chilton for suitable cycle way development opportunities</li> <li>Arrange for the implementation of the survey findings over the life span of this strategy</li> </ul>	DCC	SBC & SUSTRANS	2007 - 2011	To be established
Open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply fully with the recommendations contained within the OSNA Area Profile assessment for Chilton</li> </ul>	SBC	Town Council, DCC & all other appropriate land owners	TBC	To be established
Community College/Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase activities for young people at the community college/centres through Education in the Community, the sports facilities and extended services provision</li> </ul>	DCC & Community Centre Management Boards	SBC, Town Council, CAVOS	Earliest start time 2007	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Fixed Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest fixed play equipment at 'The Downs' play area increasing provision from a LEAP to a NEAP standard</li> </ul>	Town Council	SBC	2009-2010	£100,000



### Ferryhill

<b>Gap</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Organisation</b>	<b>Partner Organisation</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Cycle-ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey Ferryhill for suitable cycle way development opportunities</li> <li>Arrange for the implementation of the survey findings over the life span of this strategy</li> </ul>	DCC	SBC & SUSTRANS	2007 - 2011	To be established
Open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply fully with the recommendations contained within the OSNA Area Profile assessment for Ferryhill</li> </ul>	SBC	Town Council, DCC & all other appropriate land owners	TBC	To be established
Youth Centre/Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase youth activities on evenings and weekends at Ferryhill E-café and Ladder Centre by at least one extra session a week</li> </ul>	DCC & Town Council	SBC & CAVOS	Earliest start time April 2007	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Fixed Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in new fixed play equipment at 'Dean Bank Park' increasing provision from a LEAP to a NEAP standard</li> </ul>	Town Council	SBC	2007-2008	£70,000

### West Cornforth

<b>Gap</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Organisation</b>	<b>Partner Organisation</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Cycle-ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey West Cornforth for suitable cycle way development opportunities</li> <li>Arrange for the implementation of the survey findings over the life span of this strategy</li> </ul>	DCC	SBC & SUSTRANS	2007 - 2011	To be established
Open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply fully with the recommendations contained within the OSNA Area Profile assessment for West Cornforth</li> </ul>	SBC	Parish Council, DCC & all other appropriate land owners	TBC	To be established

Village Hall/ Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase young people access at West Cornforth Community Centre by ensuring there is at least one extra dedicated session per week</li> </ul>	Community Centre Management Boards	SBC, DCC, Parish Council, CAVOS	Earliest start time April 2007	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Fixed Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in new fixed play equipment to increase provision for teenagers</li> </ul>	Parish Council	SBC	2007-2008	£70,000

### Area 3

#### Fishburn

Gap	Action	Lead Organisation	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Cost
Cycle-ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey Fishburn for suitable cycle way development opportunities improving links to current provision</li> <li>Arrange for the implementation of the survey findings over the life span of this strategy</li> </ul>	DCC	SBC & SUSTRANS	2007 - 2011	To be established
Open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply fully with the recommendations contained within the OSNA Area Profile assessment for Fishburn</li> </ul>	SBC	Parish Council, DCC & all other appropriate land owners	TBC	To be established
Village Hall/ Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase young people access at the Youth and Community Centre by ensuring there is at least one extra dedicated session per week</li> </ul>	Community Centre Management Boards & DCC	SBC, Parish Council, CAVOS	Earliest start time April 2007	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Sure Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Sure Start in the development of a new Children's Centre</li> </ul>	Sure Start	SBC	2006-2008	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Sports Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply with the standards set in the Playing Pitch Strategy to achieve quality outdoor playing pitches in respect of drainage, cleanliness and</li> </ul>	SBC	Parish Council, DCC, Football	By April 2007	To be established

	indoor changing accommodation			Foundation & all other appropriate land owners		
Fixed Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in new fixed play equipment to provide a NEAP standard play area within the village</li> </ul>	Parish Council	SBC	2007-2008	£100,000	

### Sedgefield

<b>Gap</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Organisation</b>	<b>Partner Organisation</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Cycle-ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey the north of Sedgefield for suitable cycle way development opportunities improving links to current provision</li> <li>Arrange for the implementation of the survey findings over the life span of this strategy</li> </ul>	DCC	SBC & SUSTRANS	2007 - 2011	To be established
Village Hall/Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase children and young people access at the Parish Hall and Ceddesfeld Hall by ensuring there is at least one extra dedicated session per week</li> <li>Support provision currently targeted at pre-school children to ensure it is sustained long term</li> </ul>	Community Centre Management Boards & DCC	SBC, Town Council, CAVOS	Earliest start time April 2007	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Sports Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply with the standards set in the Playing Pitch Strategy to achieve quality outdoor playing pitches in respect of drainage, cleanliness and indoor changing accommodation</li> <li>Support Sedgefield Community College, through the Building Schools for the Future programme, in developing facilities for community use</li> </ul>	SBC	Town Council, DCC, Football Foundation & all other appropriate land owners	By April 2007	To be established
Fixed Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement public consultation to assess the need and possibility of developing a new play area to the North of the Village</li> </ul>	SBC	Town Council	By April 2007	£70,000

Trimdons

Gap	Action	Lead Organisation	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Cost
Cycle-ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey the Trimdons for suitable cycle way development opportunities improving links to current provision</li> <li>Arrange for the implementation of the survey findings over the life span of this strategy</li> </ul>	DCC	SBC & SUSTRANS	2007 - 2011	To be established
Open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply fully with the recommendations contained within the OSNA Area Profile assessment for Trimdons</li> </ul>	SBC	Parish Council, DCC & all other appropriate land owners	TBC	To be established
Village Hall/ Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase young people access at Trimdon Village Hall ensuring there is at least one dedicated session per week</li> <li>Increase young people access at Trimdon Colliery Community Centre ensuring there is at least one dedicated session per week</li> <li>Support provision currently targeted at pre-school children to ensure it is sustained long term</li> </ul>	Community Centre Management Boards & DCC	SBC, Parish Council, CAVOS	Earliest start time April 2007	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Youth Centre/facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase youth activities on evenings and weekends at Trimdon Community College by at least one extra session a week</li> <li>Implement consultation to assess the possibility of developing youth facilities in the Grange and Colliery</li> </ul>	DCC & SBC	CAVOS	Earliest start time April 2007	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Extended Schools provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every school in the Trimdons area will provide extended schools services</li> </ul>	DCC & Individual Schools	SBC & activity providers	2006-2010	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time

#### Area 4

##### Shildon

Gap	Action	Lead Organisation	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Cost
Cycle-ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey Shildon for suitable cycle way development opportunities improving links to current provision</li> <li>Arrange for the implementation of the survey findings over the life span of this strategy</li> </ul>	DCC	SBC & SUSTRANS	2007 - 2011	To be established
Open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply fully with the recommendations contained within the OSNA Area Profile assessment for Shildon</li> </ul>	SBC	Town Council, DCC & all other appropriate land owners	TBC	To be established
Youth Centre/facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase youth activities on evenings and weekends at the Shildon Centre and Jubilee Centre by at least one extra session a week</li> <li>Implement consultation to assess the possibility of developing youth facilities in the Eldon</li> </ul>	SBC & DCC	CAVOS	Earliest start time April 2007	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Extended Schools provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every school in the Shildon area will provide extended schools services</li> </ul>	DCC & Individual Schools	SBC & activity providers	2006-2010	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Fixed play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement public consultation to access the need and possibility of developing a new play area to the east of Shildon</li> </ul>	SBC	Town Council	By April 2007	£70,000

## Area 5

### Newton Aycliffe

Gap	Action	Lead Organisation	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Cost
Open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply fully with the recommendations contained within the OSNA Area Profile assessment for Newton Aycliffe</li> </ul>	SBC	Town Council, DCC & all other appropriate land owners	TBC	To be established
Village Hall/Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase children and young people access at Midridge and Neville Parade ensuring there is at least one dedicated session per week</li> <li>Increase young people access at Agnew and School Aycliffe ensuring there is at least one dedicated session per week</li> </ul>	Community Centre Management Boards & DCC	SBC, Town Council, CAVOS	Earliest start time April 2007	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Youth Centre/facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement consultation to assess the possibility of developing youth facilities in Midridge, School Aycliffe or Aycliffe Village</li> </ul>	SBC	DCC	By April 2007	To be established
Extended Schools provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every school in Newton Aycliffe will provide extended schools services</li> </ul>	DCC & Individual Schools	SBC & activity providers	2006-2010	Indirect support costs i.e. Officer time
Fixed Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in new fixed play equipment at Midridge to maintain LEAP standard play area</li> </ul>	Parish Council	SBC	2007-2008	£70,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fixed play areas at Horndale and Byerley Park requires investment to improve from a LEAP to a NEAP standard</li> </ul>	Town Council	SBC	2009-2010	£140,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in new fixed play equipment at West Park to maintain LEAP standard play area</li> </ul>	Town Council	SBC	2008-09	£70,000

## Borough Wide Actions

Gap	Action	Lead Organisation	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Cost
Provision for disabled children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct an access audit of every play facility in the Borough</li> <li>Establish a standard within the Green Spaces Strategy to encourage the development of multi-sensory spaces in public areas</li> </ul>	SBC	Town & Parish Councils	By April 2007	Indirect costs i.e. officer time
Play Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Park Ranger and Activity Zone initiatives across the Borough</li> <li>Increase the number of one-off events happening in community open space across the Borough</li> </ul>	SBC	Town & Parish Councils, community groups	2006-2011	To be established
Mobile facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Youth Engagement Service to sustain Smart Bus presence in the Borough and possibly extend into areas currently not covered</li> <li>Work with Trimdon Rural Project in sustaining and extending availability of the Trimdon Rural Bus</li> </ul>	Youth Engagement Service	SBC	2006-2011	To be established
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a strategy to ensure better value is achieved from the skate park</li> </ul>	Trimdon Rural Project	SBC, DCC and Parish Council	2006-2001	To be established
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase partnerships with Town &amp; Parish Councils and community groups able to host mobile movie events</li> </ul>	SBC	Town & Parish Council and interested community groups	By April 2007	To be established
Voluntary Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a Borough wide volunteering strategy</li> </ul>	SBC	Town & Parish Council and interested community groups	2006-2011	To be established
		SBC & CAVOS		Earliest start time April 2007	Indirect costs i.e. officer time

Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an annual training programme that would enable all appropriate staff working with young people to complete a Level 1 Youth Work qualification. Possible organisation to take part: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police</li> <li>• Neighbourhood wardens</li> <li>• Tenant Participation Officers</li> <li>• Voluntary sector</li> <li>• Bus Drivers</li> <li>• Leisure Centre Staff</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	SBC, DCC & CAVOS	All those interested in taking part	Earliest start time April 2007	To be established
Play profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise the profile of play in the following cross-cutting areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Safety</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Planning</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Local Strategic Partnership	All Member Organisations	Earliest start time April 2007	Indirect costs i.e. officer time



## 4 CONCLUSION

There are many organisations in Sedgefield who have an interest in play opportunities for children and young people, many of whom have contributed to this strategy.

No doubt exists about the value of play and the need for places to go and things to do, but the major anxieties that communities have are about where play is “acted out.”

Safe play areas balanced against the challenges necessary in their design to maximise their play value will require regular consultation with equipment suppliers and owners of open space if spaces are to be used and valued.

This strategy must be used to raise the stakes for play by acceptance of the play vision, adopting standards, setting benchmarks and allowing partners to discuss play in a range of formal and informal settings.

Although the Borough Council has a significant role in children’s play, it is by no means the only agency involved. Probably the largest task contained in the action plan is to get better use of existing facilities and open spaces.

Work must start to engage with community leaders to develop more appropriate access policies for their buildings.

Sure Start/Children’s Centres have at the foundation stage of formal education a great opportunity to deliver the “curriculum” through play whilst the County Youth Service should be at the heart of creative ideas for improvement in the play agenda lead by their highly experienced staff members.

In planning terms, the tools now exist for the Borough to really influence the development of the area and guarantee that residents achieve the resultant added play value.

Whether young people are able bodied or not, every individual has special play needs and these can only be met by getting closer to communities to understand them, and by encouraging them to help shape the play services that are required.

Funding will always be a barrier to doing everything that is required. However, there are a range of funding schemes which the document highlights which are not beyond our reach. Community Development Officers may consider the support given to those small groups of people scattered across the Borough who want to make a difference through play and could assist them to realise their ambitions.

Working already with local communities, the investment made by the Council of £700,000 in the years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 has led to £660,500 being invested in 8 play areas (6 have been completed and two will be completed by March 2007)

With Big Lottery funding of £230,00, the balance of funds from the original £700,000, and a further £80,000 in 2007/2008, a further 5 new play areas could be

completed which are referred to in the action plan.

A play area in a community alone will not provide the solution that some look for to stop anti-social behaviour. Play is one component, an important one but not the only one. Putting play at the centre of the debate around community safety, health, transport, planning and “Every Child Matters” will inevitably lead group members to at least consider preventative measures as part of coherent strategic thinking around these key issues.

Having plotted the current landscape for play, (section 3.4), a gap analysis has been provided, (section 3.5) which has led to a 5 year action plan (section 3.6).

It is recommended that the action plan forms part of the work plan of the Youth/Sport section of the Leisure Services Department, that an annual review of the action plan is carried out and that the entire strategy is monitored as part of the responsibilities of the Strategic Working Group on health.

It should also be noted that given the support role of the Borough in specific areas of the action plan, consideration should be given to ways in which the Local Strategic Partnership may wish to adopt the plan as part of its future work stream.

The Borough makes a significant financial commitment to the provision of play opportunities in informal and formal settings, and will continue to do so in the pursuit of its Healthy Borough ambition. It will seek to influence partners in developing priorities for action and explore every avenue of funding to deliver those actions contained in the plan in section 3.6.

## **5 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Audit Commission Play Area Standards

Awards for All

Big Lottery Funding and Heritage Lottery Fund – Parks and People

Big Lottery Funding Criteria – Big Boost

Big Lottery Funding Criteria – Children’s Play Initiative

Big Lottery Funding Criteria – Playful Ideas Initiative

Children’s Act 2004

Community Strategy 2005-2008

Countryside Agency Green Start Programme

DCMS – Time for Play 2006

Department of Culture Media and Sport – Zone Parks Scheme

DfES – Extended Schools Programme

Durham County Transport Plan

Every Child Matters; Change for Children Programme 2005

Forestry Commission, Growing Adventure

Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)

Home Office Survey on Play 2005

Investing in Children Young Women’s Research Papers

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Criteria

NPFA – Six Acre Standard

Obesity Action Plan

Physical Activity Action Plan

Planning Policy Guidance PPG17

Sedgefield Borough – Cabinet Report December 2005

Sedgefield Borough Corporate Plan 2005-2008

*Continued...*

Sedgefield Borough Council's Play Strategy

Sedgefield Borough Local Development Framework

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Sedgefield Borough Medium Term Financial Plan 2005-2008

Sedgefield Borough Open Space Needs Assessment

Sedgefield Borough's Green Space Strategic Framework Report

Sedgefield Crime and Disorder Partnership – 2005 Crime Statistics

Sedgefield Primary Care Trust Report of Director of Public Health 2005

Sedgefield's Local Strategic Partnership Priorities

Sport England/Mori Poll 2005

Sure Start/Children's Centres Programme

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

Youth Matters Green Paper 2006

## Appendix 1 – Fixed Play Area Standards

LAP	LEAP	NEAP	SPORTS AREA
Each site must be in area a minimum of 100m <sup>2</sup> .	Each site must be in area a minimum of 400m <sup>2</sup> .	Each site must be in area a minimum of 1000m <sup>2</sup> .	Each site must be of an adequate size for the intended sport.
Any equipment and facilities must have been assessed as safe for continued use by a competent playground inspector.	All equipment and facilities must have been assessed as safe for continued use by a competent playground inspector.	All equipment and facilities must have been assessed as safe for continued use by a competent playground inspector.	All equipment and facilities must have been assessed as safe for continued use by a competent playground inspector.
Any equipment with a fall height greater than 600mm must have appropriate impact absorbing surfacing.	All equipment with a fall height greater than 600mm must have appropriate impact absorbing surfacing.	All equipment with a fall height greater than 600mm must have appropriate impact absorbing surfacing.	N/A
Each site must contain features that enable children to identify the space as their own, for example footprint trails or a mushroom style seat.	Each site must have a minimum of five different equipment items. Multi-component equipment may contribute a maximum of 3 items.	Each site must have play area containing a minimum of eight different equipment items.	N/A
N/A	Each site must have a small games area (maybe grassed) within the boundary of the playground.	Each site must have an area which allows for ball games or wheeled sports.	Each site must have an area which allows for ball games or wheeled sports.
Each site should have some form of fencing and where appropriate a self-closing gate.	Each site must be entirely fenced with a self-closing gate.	The play area element must be entirely fenced with a self-closing gate.	N/A
Each site must have signs excluding dogs and indicating this is for the sole use of children.	Each site must have signs excluding dogs, where to report incidents or damage and that the area is for children.	Each site must have signs excluding dogs, where to report incidents or damage and that the area is for children.	Each site must have signs excluding dogs, where to report incidents or damage and that the area is for children.
Each site must be overlooked by housing, pedestrian routes or other well used public facilities.	Each site must be overlooked by housing, pedestrian routes or other well used public facilities.	Each site should be positioned close to a pedestrian route	Each site should be positioned close to a pedestrian route

**Table 1 – Summary Table**

Area Forum		Total Population	Youth Population 0-19 yrs	Population 0-9 yrs	Population 10 -19 yrs	Total anti-social behaviour reported	Youth anti-social behaviour reported	Young People:Reports Ratio
Area 1	Spennymoor	19,149	4,498	2,111	2,387	136	95	47
Area 2	West Cornforth	3,744	859	378	481	46	22	39
	Bishop Middleham							
	Ferryhill	9,602	2,369	1,150	1,219	201	149	16
	Chilton	5,184	1,373	680	693	151	123	11
		<b>18,530</b>	<b>4,601</b>	<b>2208</b>	<b>2393</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>16</b>
Area 3	Fishburn	7,364	1,883	963	920	67	79	24
	Trimdon's							
	Sedgefield	4,943	1,049	500	549	53	32	33
			<b>12,307</b>	<b>2,932</b>	<b>1463</b>	<b>1469</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>111</b>
Area 4	Shildon	10,495	2,572	1,185	1,387	176	109	24
Area 5	Newton Aycliffe	26,725	7,065	3,450	3,615	326	258	27

Area Forum	Fixed Play Areas	LAP	LEAP	NEAP	Sports Area	Village Halls	Sports Facilities	Sure Start	Library	Youth Centre/Facility	Community College	Extended schools	Nature Area	Total Activity Provision
Area 1	19	10	5	2	2	4	5	1	1	5	0	4	0	39
	3	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	7
West Cornforth														
Bishop Middleham	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5
Ferryhill	6	1	2	3	0	2	2	2	1	5	1	3	0	22
Chilton	5	0	4	0	1	0	2	1	1	3	1	0	0	13
	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>47</b>
	2	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	6
Fishburn														
Trimdon's	4	0	2	2	0	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	10
Sedgefield	3	0	2	1	0	3	2	0	1	4	1	2	1	17
	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>
Area 4	4	0	2	2	0	0	2	1	1	3	0	0	0	11
Area 5	16	5	5	5	1	6	6	1	1	7	2	8	0	47

**Table 2 – Fixed Play Provision in Sedgefield Borough****Area 1**

## Spennymoor

Playground Name	Location	Owner	Standard	Distance	Age Range	Facility
North Drive	Spennymoor	SBC	NEAP	15 min	Over 8	Playground & MUGA
Waterboard site	Spennymoor	SBC	Sports Area	N/A	N/A	Football goals & basketball
Timothy Terrace	Spennymoor	SBC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Hillside Court	Spennymoor	SBC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Tudhoe South	Spennymoor	SBC	Sports Area	N/A	N/A	MUGA
Meadow Green	Spennymoor	SBC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Fox Covert	Spennymoor	SBC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Primrose Close	Spennymoor	SBC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Bluebell Drive	Spennymoor	SBC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Wood Street	Spennymoor	STC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground
Clyde Terrace	Spennymoor	STC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Jubilee Park	Spennymoor	STC	NEAP	15 min	Over 8	Playgrounds, artificial pitch
Ox Close	Spennymoor	STC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Oval	Spennymoor	STC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Half Moon	Spennymoor	STC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground
Byers Green 1	Spennymoor	STC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground
Byers Green 2	Spennymoor	STC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Kirk Merrington	Spennymoor	STC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground
St. Pauls	Spennymoor	STC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground

**Area 2**

## Bishop Middleham

Playground Name	Location	Owner	Standards	Distance	Age Range	Facility
The Park	Bishop Middleham	BMPC	NEAP	15 min	Over 8	Playground, basketball, football, fitness trail, skate ramps
Village Hall	Bishop Middleham	BMPC	LEAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground

## Chilton

Playground Name	Location	Owner	Standard	Distance	Age Range	Facility
West Chilton Junior	Chilton	CTC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 6	Playground
West Chilton Toddler	Chilton	CTC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 6	Playground
Chilton South	Chilton	CTC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 6	Playground
The Downs	Chilton	CTC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 6	Playground
Albert Street	Chilton	SBC	Sports area	N/A	N/A	Football goals



Ferryhill

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West Cornforth

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### Area 3

Fishburn

Playground Name	Location	Owner	Standards	Distance	Age Range	Facility
Stobbart	Fishburn	FPC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 6	Playground
Millfield	Fishburn	FPC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 6	Playground & basketball

Segefield

Playground Name	Location	Owner	Standards	Distance	Age Range	Facility
Eden Drive	Sedgefield	SBC	NEAP	15 min	Over 8	Playgrounds & basketball
Station Rd	Sedgefield	SBC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground & football
Winterton	Sedgefield	SBC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground

Trimdons'

Playground Name	Location	Owner	Standard	Distance	Age Range	Facility
Village Hall	Trimdon Village	SBC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground
Redesdale Court	Trimdon Grange	TPC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground
Colliery Community Hall	Trimdon Colliery	TPC	NEAP	15 min	Over 8	Playground & MUGA
Skerne Avenue Play Park	Trimdon Village	TPC	NEAP	15 min	Over 8	Playground & MUGA

### Area 4

Shildon

Playground Name	Location	Owner	Standard	Distance	Age Range	Facility
Eldon Bank	Shildon	SBC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground
Locomotion	Shildon	SBC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground
Jubilee Park	Shildon	STC	NEAP	15 min	Over 8	Playground, skatepark, football

### Area 5

Newton Aycliffe

Playground Name	Location	Owner	Standard	Distance	Age Range	Facility
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Kimblesworth	Newton Aycliffe	SBC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Baliol	Newton Aycliffe	SBC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Eade Close (junior)	Newton Aycliffe	SBC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Eade Close (teenage)	Newton Aycliffe	SBC	Sports Area	N/A	N/A	Sports Wall & Shelter
Hareson Rd	Newton Aycliffe	SBC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Lisle Road x 2	Newton Aycliffe	SBC	LAP	1 min	Under 6	Playground
Scott Place	Newton Aycliffe	GATC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground
Oak Leaf Complex	Newton Aycliffe	GATC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground
Simpasture	Newton Aycliffe	GATC	NEAP	15 min	Over 8	Playground, basketball, tennis
West park	Newton Aycliffe	GATC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground
Horndale	Newton Aycliffe	GATC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground
Byarley Park	Newton Aycliffe	GATC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground
Woodham Village	Newton Aycliffe	GATC	NEAP	15 min	Over 8	Playgrounds, basketball, bmx bike track
St Oswalds	Newton Aycliffe	GATC	NEAP	15 min	Over 8	Playground
Moor Lane	Newton Aycliffe	GATC	NEAP	15 min	Over 8	Playground & 2 hard standing courts
New Town Park (Tesco)	Newton Aycliffe	GATC	NEAP	15 min	Over 8	Playground, MUGA, Skate Park, Shelter, Toilets
Aycliffe Village	Aycliffe	GATC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground
School Aycliffe	Aycliffe	GATC	LEAP	5 mins	4 to 8	Playground
Middridge	Middridge	MPC	LEAP	5 min	4 to 8	Playground

**Table 3 – Play Provision in Sedgelyfield Borough**

**Area 1**

**Spennymoor**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Typology</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Age Range</b>
Middlestone Moor Community Centre	Village Hall/Community Centre		None	
Tudhoe Community Centre	Village Hall/Community Centre		Tudhoe Village Under 5's	0 - 5 yrs
Kirk Merrington Community Centre	Village Hall/Community Centre		Pre school	3 - 4 yrs
			Splash Holiday Programme	8 - 15 yrs
			Youth Club	8 - 11 yrs
			Children Drama Club	5-16 yrs
Byers Green Community Centre	Village Hall/Community Centre		Splash Holiday Programme	8 - 15 yrs
			Kushty Club	8 yrs +
Spennymoor Leisure Centre	Sport Facility	Leisure Pool	Toddler Time	0 - 4 yrs
		Gym	Creche (gym)	0-5yrs
		Gymnastic centre	Football	4-5 yrs
		Sports hall	Taekwondo	5+ yrs
		Boxing area	Casual Swimming	0+ yrs
		Various rooms	Parent & Toddler swim	0 - 4 yrs
		Cyber Café	Junior Life saving	8 yrs +
			Aqua Fit	16 yrs +
			Aqua Deep	16 yrs +
			Swimming	4+ yrs
			Water confidence	4+ yrs
			Gymnastics -Baby Play Gym	0 - 2 yrs
			Gymnastics - Tiny Tumblers	2 - 3 yrs
			Gymnastics - Top Tumblers	3 - 4 yrs
			Gymnastics - Mini Recreational	4 - 8 yrs
			Gymnastics - Junior Recreational	8 yrs +
			Gymnastics - Intermediate Section	8 yrs +
	Gymnastics - Elite	8 yrs +		
	Life Style Fitness Suite	15 yrs +		
	Aerobics	15 yrs +		
	RPM Spinning	15 yrs +		
	Mixer Classes	15 yrs +		
	RPM Spinning	15 yrs +		
	Basketball Coaching	11 yrs +		
Byers Green Sports Pitch	Sport Facility	Grass Football Pitches	Byers Green Youth Football Club	6 yrs +

Spennymoor Martial Arts Academy	Sport Facility	Lil' Dragons	4 - 7 yrs
		XMA	8 - 13 yrs
		XMA Beginners	8 - 13 yrs
		Junior Muay Thai	8 - 13 yrs
Tudhoe Cricket Club	Sport Facility	Junior Cricket Club	10 yrs +
Daisy Fields	Sport Facility	Casual Usage	
Spennymoor Youth Centre	Youth Centre/Facility	Spennymoor Kids Club	3-13yrs
		Parent & Toddler Group	0-3yrs
		Creche	0 - 4 yrs
		Inters Youth Club	11 - 19 yrs
		Inters Youth Club	11 - 12 yrs
		Seniors Youth Club	11 - 19 yrs
		Seniors Youth Club	13-19 yrs
		Girls Group	11-19 yrs
		Girls Group	13-19 yrs
		Seniors Youth Club	11-19 yrs
		Seniors Youth Club	13-19 yrs
		Youth Club Young People With Disabilities	11 - 19 yrs
Byers Green Methodist Church	Youth Centre/Facility	Village Tots	0 - 5 yrs
St Paul's Church	Youth Centre/Facility	Beavers	5 yrs +
		Scouts	11 yrs +
		Rainbows	4 - 7 yrs
		Brownies	7 - 11 yrs
		Guides	11 yrs +
		Youth Network	13 yrs +
		Toddlers Group	0 - 5 yrs
St Davids Church	Youth Centre/Facility	Tudhoe Young Peoples Group	8 - 15 yrs
Trinity Methodist Church	Youth Centre/Facility	Parent and toddler	0 - 5 yrs
Spennymoor Library	Library	Various activity sessions	2 yrs +
Tudhoe Moor Children's Centre	Sure Start	Various activity sessions	Unders 4's
King Street School	Extended Schools	Out of Hours Learning	8 yrs +
North Park Primary	Extended Schools	Out of Hours Learning	5 - 11 yrs
		Breakfast Club	5- 11yrs
Ox Close Primary	Extended Schools	Out of Hours Learning	8 yrs +
		Mother and Toddler	2.5 - 3 yrs
Rosa Street Primary	Extended School	Out of Hours Learning	8 yrs +

**Area 2**  
Bishop Middleham

Facility	Typology	Facilities	Activities	Age Range
Nature Reserve	Nature Area	Pond & boardwalks	Casual	0 yrs +
Bishop Middleham Village Hall	Village Hall/Community Centre		Bp. Middleham Playgroup Tiddlers & Toddlers Parents Network Rainbows Brownies	0 - 5 yrs 2 - 4 yrs 2 yrs + 5 - 7 yrs 7 - 8 yrs
Bishop Middleham Primary School	Extended Schools	Artificial pitch	Out of Hours Learning	8 yrs +
Football Pitch	Sports Facility			

**Area 2**  
Chilton

Facility	Typology	Facilities	Activities	Age Range
Chilton Community College and Primary School	Community College	Youth Club Area	Badminton (casual use)	11+
		Squash Courts	Squash (casual use)	11+
		Grass Football Pitches	Youth Club 13+ (E in C)	13+
		Sports hall	Youth Club 11 - 12 (E in C)	11 - 12 yrs
		Primary School	Youth Club 8 - 11 (E in C)	8 - 11 yrs
			Football Coaching	8 yrs +
Chilton Children's Centre	Sure Start	Indoor facilities	Early Years Group	2 - 4 yrs
		Outdoor play provision	Music Box	0 - 4 yrs
			Martial Arts & Fitness for Men	16 yrs +
			5-a-side Football	16 yrs +
			Supporting young parents	14 yrs +
			Toddler Group	0 - 4 yrs
			Dads and Children	0 yrs +
			Twinkle Time	0 - 1 yrs
			Learning through Play	0 yrs +
Chilton Football Facilities	Sport Facility	Grass Football Pitches	Casual	
		MUGA & shelters		
Chilton Sports Area	Sport Facility	Tennis Courts	Casual	
		Bowling Green		

Methodist Church	Youth Centre/Facility	Army Cadets	11 - 15 yrs
St Aidens Church	Youth Centre/Facility	Dance Classes	3 yrs +
Chilton WMC	Youth Centre/Facility	Modern, tap & ballet classes	3 - 11 yrs
Chilton Library	Library	Chatter Tots	0 - 4 yrs
		Childrens Activities	0 yrs +

**Area 2**  
Ferryhill

Facility	Typology	Facilities	Activities	Age Range
Mainsforth & District Community Association	Village Hall/Community Centre		Mobile Movies	4 yrs +
			Ferryhill Operatic	6 yrs +
			Mainsforth Boxing and sport Club	14 yrs +
Dean Bank Community Centre	Village Hall/Community Centre		Youth Club	13 - 19 Years
Ferryhill Lesiure Centre	Sport Facility	Sports Hall	Pre-school	3 - 4 yrs
		Gym	Toddler Group	3 - 4 yrs
		Indoor Bowling	Ladies Super Sessions	16 yrs +
		Various Rooms	Football Coaching	5 - 7 yrs
		Indoor & outdoor play provision	Football Coaching	8 - 10 yrs
			Football Coaching	11 - 13 yrs
			Football Coaching	5 - 10 yrs
			Football Coaching	8 - 16 yrs
			Taekwondo	5 yrs +
			Taekwondo	5 - 16 yrs
			Netball Coaching	8 - 11 yrs
			Body Tone	16 yrs +
			Dance Classes	5 - 8 yrs
			Dance Classes	8 - 12 yrs
			Dance Classes	12 - 16 yrs
			Supercircuits	16 yrs +
			Indoor Bowls Coaching	8 + yrs
			Lifestyle Fitness Suite	15 yrs +
Mainsforth Cricket Ground	Sport Facility	Cricket	Junior Cricket Club	Under 13,15,17
		Football		
		Bowls		
Dean Bank Children's Centre	Sure Start	Various indoor facilities	Twinkle Time	0 - 1 yrs
		Outdoor play provision	Dads Childcare Course	0 - 4 yrs
			Dad's Drop In Session	0 - 4 yrs
			Early Years Group	0 - 4 yrs
			Little Gems	0 - 4 yrs
			Music Box	0 - 4 yrs
			Day Care	0 - 2 yrs

Ferryhill Station Sure Start Centre (Primary School)	Sure Start	Various indoor facilities	Early Years Group	2 - 4 yrs
Ferryhill Business and Enterprise College	Community College	Outdoor play provision	Toy Library & Toddler Group	0 yrs +
			Lifelong Learning	16 yrs +
			Online Centre	12 yrs +
			Out of Hours Learning	12 - 16 yrs
			Ferryhealth	11 - 18 yrs
Ferryhill E-café	Youth Centre/Facility	Chill out area	Youth sessions and project work	11 yrs +
		Music/IT Room		
		Outdoor space		
Dean Bank and Ferryhill Literary Institute	Youth Centre/ Facility		Jabadao	0 - 1.5 yrs
			Jabadao	1.5 - 4 yrs
			Top Tots	0 - 4 yrs
			Salsa Dancing	16 yrs +
			Ferryhill Kids Club Ltd	4 yrs - 13 yrs
			Jazz Band	8 yrs +
Ferryhill Ladder Centre	Youth Centre/Facility	Various Rooms	Café Drop In	5 yrs +
		Outdoor play provision	FLAG	11 yrs +
			Youth Group	11 yrs +
			Sexual Health	13 yrs +
			Junior Club	5 - 13 yrs
Ferryhill Scout Hall	Youth Centre/Facility		Cubs	8 - 10 yrs
			Beavers	6 - 8 yrs
			Scouts	10.5 - 14.5 yrs
			Playgroup	0 - 5 yrs
St Lukes Parish Centre	Youth Centre/Facility		Toddler Group	0 - 5 yrs
			Chatter Tots	0 - 4 yrs
Ferryhill Library	Library		Holiday Workshops	0 - 11 yrs
			Parent & Toddler	0 - 5 yrs
			Out of Hours Learning	4 - 11 yrs
Broom Cottages Primary	Extended Schools	Swimming Pool		
			Rainbows	4 - 7 yrs
Cleves Cross Primary	Extended Schools		After School Activities	8 - 11 yrs
			ICT Club	8 - 11 yrs
			Breakfast Club	4 - 12 yrs
Dean Bank Primary	Extended Schools		Football	5 yrs +
			After School Activities	8 yrs +
			Online Centre	8 yrs +
			Parenting Support	4 yrs +

**Area 2**  
West Cornforth

Facility	Typology	Facilities	Activities	Age Range	
West Cornforth & District Community Centre	Village Hall/Community Centre	Football Pitches	11-a-side and small sided pitch	5 yrs +	
			Badminton Club	8 yrs +	
			Hire of Snooker Tables	8 yrs +	
			Mobile Movie Shows	4 yrs +	
			Holiday Activity Club	8 yrs +	
Cornforth Library	Library	Casual usage			
Cornforth House	Youth Centre/Facility		Young Persons Clinic	11 yrs +	
			Internet Access	13 yrs +	
			Registered Learning Courses	16 yrs +	
			Cornforth Youth Aloud	12 yrs +	
West Cornforth Children's Centre (Primary School)	Sure Start	Indoor facilities	After School Activities	8 yrs +	
		Outdoor play provision	Nursery School	3-5yrs	
			Butterflies Day Care (Private)	2mths-11yrs	
			Breakfast Club	2mths-11yrs	
			Little Ducklings	Under 4's	
			Splash Holiday Programme	8 - 15 yrs	

**Area 3**  
Fishburn

Facility	Typology	Facilities	Activities	Age Range
Fishburn Youth and Community Centre	Village Hall/Community Centre	Various indoor rooms	Creche	0 - 5 yrs
		Playfield	Teatime Fun Club	8 - 10 yrs
		Library	Youth Club	11 yrs +
			Guitar Group	11 yrs +
			Duke of Edinburgh	14 yrs +
			Parent and Toddler Group	0 - 4 yrs
			Gills Dance Group	5 yrs +
			Fishburn Playgroup	2 - 4 yrs
Fishburn Swimming Pool	Sport Facility	On the Move Youth Club		15 - 19 yrs
		Swimming - Parent and Child		0 - 4 yrs



Fishburn Sports Fields	Sport Facility	Football Cricket Club House	
Fishburn Primary School	Extended School	Nursery Out of Hours Learning Brownies	3 - 4 yrs 8 yrs + 7 - 10 yrs

**Area 3**  
Sedgefield

Facility	Typology	Facilities	Activities	Age Range
Mordon & Bradbury Village Hall Association	Village Hall/Community Centre		None	
Sedgefield Parish Hall	Village Hall/Community Centre		Sedgefield Players Youth Section	7 - 17 yrs
			Youth Club Drop In	13 yrs +
			Mobile Movies	4 yrs +
Ceddesfield Hall	Village Hall/Community Centre	Various rooms	Playgroup	0 - 5 yrs
		Squash courts	Sedgefield Slayers	8 yrs +
			Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir	9 - 18 yrs
			Sedgefield Squash Club	8 yrs +
Sedgefield Community College	Community College	Tennis courts	Out of Hours Learning	11 yrs +
		Artificial 5-a-side	Tennis	8 yrs +
		Gym	Sedgefield Com. College Carpet Bowls Club	16 yrs +
		Sports Hall	Youth Club (E in C)	13+
Hardwick Hall Park	Nature Area	Lake & nature walks		0 yrs +
Sedgefield Library	Library		Various activities	Under 5's
Knotty Hill Golf Club	Sport Facility	Course & driving range	Casual membership and Coaching	
Sedgefield Cricket Club	Sport Facility	Cricket pitch	Junior Cricket Club	Under 13, 15, 17
Segefield Primary	Extended Schools		1st Sedgefield Guides	10 - 15 yrs
			Out of Hours Learning	8 yrs +
			Computer Club	8 yrs +
			Sedgefield Out of School Club	4 - 13 yrs
			1st Sedgefield Rainbows	5 - 7 yrs
			1st Sedgefield Brownies	7 - 10 yrs
Hardwick Primary	Extended Schools		Nursery	3 - 4 yrs
			2nd Sedgefield Brownies	7 - 9 yrs

Scout Hall	Youth Centre/Facility	1st Sedgefield Beavers 1st Sedgefield Cubs 1st Sedgefield Scouts The Zone Methodist Playgroup Parent & Toddler St Edmunds Tiny Steps	6 - 8 yrs 8 - 10.5 yrs 10.5 yrs + 16 yrs + 2.5 - 5 yrs 0 - 4 yrs 2.5 - 5 yrs
Drop-in shop	Youth Centre/Facility		
Sedgefield Methodist Church	Youth Centre/Facility		
St Edmunds Church	Youth Centre/Facility		

**Area 3**  
Trimdons'

Facility	Typology	Facilities	Activities	Age Range
Trimdon Village Hall	Village Hall/Community Centre		Parent & Toddler Group	0 - 4 yrs
Trimdon Community College and Junior School	Community College	Artificial 5-a-side pitch Sports Hall Grass football pitches	Out of Hours Learning Breakfast Club Trimdon United Juniors Football Club	8 - 11 yrs 7 - 11 yrs 5 - 18 yrs
		Primary School	Splash Holiday Programme Senior Youth Club Cricket Coaching Karate Club Junior Club Inter Youth Club Carpet Bowls	8 - 15 yrs 13 yrs + 8 - 13 yrs 8yrs + 8 - 13 yrs 11 - 12 yrs 16 yrs +
Trimdon House	Youth Centre/Facility	Various rooms	Little Tykes Rural Youth Project Young Peoples Project Connexions	0 - 5 yrs 13 yrs + 13 yrs + 13-19 yrs
Trimdon Village Library	Library		After School Reading project Trimdon Newsletter Group	8yrs + 8 yrs +
Trimdon Colliery Community Centre	Village Hall/Community Centre		Toddler Group	Under 5's
Trimdon Grange Community Centre	Village Hall/Community Centre		Splash Holiday Programme Ladies Kick Boxing Arts & Crafts Fun 4 Kids Youth Club Activity Dance Academy Activity Dance Academy Taekwondo Free Zone	8 - 15 yrs 16 yrs + 8 - 13 yrs 8 - 13 yrs 8 - 13 yrs 3 - 7 yrs 8 - 18 yrs 8 yrs + 12 yrs +

	Little Rascals	0 - 4 yrs
	Mobile Movies	4 yrs +
	Taekwondo	8 yrs +
	Out of School Club	3 yrs +

**Area 4**  
Shildon

Facility	Typology	Facilities	Activities	Age Range
Shildon Sunnysdale Leisure Centre	Sport Facility	Sports Hall	Parent & Toddler	0 - 4 yrs
		Gym	Hapkido	8 yrs +
		Martial Arts Room	Self Defence	5 yrs +
		Indoor Bowling Green	Durham Royals	9 yrs +
		Cyber Café	Taekwondo	8 yrs +
			Karate	8 yrs +
			Lifestyle Fitness Suite	15 yrs +
			Durham District Roller Skating Club	4 yrs +
			Caprice Roller Skating Club	4 yrs +
			Shildon Jubilee Jazz Band	6 - 17 yrs
			Internet Access	
Shildon Stadium 2000	Sport Facility	Athletics stadium	Shildon Running & Athletics Club	8 yrs +
Jubilee Fields Community Centre	Youth Centre/Facility		Aycliffe Running Club	8 yrs +
			Jubilee Junior Youth Club	5-8 yrs
			Jubilee Junior Youth Club	9-12 yrs
			Baby Massage	0 - 2 yrs
			Baby Café	0 - 1 yrs
			Jubilee Toddler Group	0 - 4 yrs
			Messy Play	0 - 4 yrs
			Jubilee Holiday Playscheme	5 - 11 yrs
			Junior Youth Club	5 - 8 yrs
			Junior Youth Club	8 - 11 yrs
			Sans Pareil Jazz Band	5 yrs +
Shildon Centre	Youth Centre/Facility		Tearaways	11 - 15 yrs
			High Five Skaters Group	12 yrs +
			Sunnydale Youth Club	8 - 16 yrs
Shildon Sure Start Centre (Timothy Hackworth Primary)	Sure Start		Various activities	Under 4 yrs

Shildon Library	Library	Share a Book Session	0 - 5 yrs
Shildon Methodist Church	Youth Centre/Facility	Shildon Toddler Group	0 - 4yrs
		Music & Playtime	2 yrs +
		Methodist Shell Group	7 - 11 yrs
		Methodist Youth Connection	11 yrs +

**Area 5**  
Newton Aycliffe

Facility	Typology	Facilities	Activities	Age Range
Woodham Village Hall	Village Hall/Community Centre		Cubs	8 - 10 yrs
			Scouts	10 - 15 yrs
Great Aycliffe Village Hall	Village Hall/Community Centre	2 Halls	Aycliffe Village Youth Council	11 - 18 yrs
		Cyber Café	Acle Scout Group	1 - 18 yrs
Midridge Village Hall	Village Hall/Community Centre		None	
School Aycliffe Community Centre	Village Hall/Community Centre		Toddlers Group	Under 4 yrs
Neville Parade Community Centre	Village Hall/Community Centre		None	
Agnew Community Centre	Village Hall/Community Centre		Mother and Toddler Group	Under 4 yrs
Oak Leaf Sports Complex	Sport Facility	Sports hall	Woodpecker 5-a-side League	16 yrs +
		4 squash courts	Junior Squash Coaching	8 yrs +
			Tae-bo	16 yrs +
			Bums Legs and Tums	16 yrs +
			Junior Badminton Coaching	8 yrs +
			Pilates Class	16 yrs +
			Oak Leaf 5-a-side League	16 yrs +
			Yoga Class	16 yrs +
			Indoor Bowls Club Night	8 yrs +
			5-a-side Football League	7 - 16 yrs
			Newcastle Breweries 5-a-side League	16 yrs +
			Pilates Class	16 yrs +
			Casual Sports Bookings	8 yrs +
			Holiday Activities	7 yrs +
Oak Leaf Playing Pitch	Sport Facility	Grass football pitches Running track	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre Football Club	5 yrs +
Oak Leaf Golf Course	Sport Facility	Course & Driving range	Casual Usage	8 yrs +

Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre	Sport Facility	2 Sports halls Swimming pool Gym Climbing Wall Cyber Café	Splash Holiday Activities Aikido Aqua Aerobics Badminton Club Dance Football Leagues Gymnastics Club Keep Fit Maui Thai Session Netball League Sword Club Trampolining Water Polo Sedgefield 75 Club Young Antics Wildcats Basketball	8 yrs + 13 yrs + 16 yrs + 8 yrs + 5 yrs + 16 yrs + 5 yrs + 13 yrs + 13 yrs + 13 yrs + 13 yrs + 8 yrs + 13 yrs + 6 to 18 yrs 8 yrs + 11 yrs +
Moor Lane Sports Fields	Sport Facility	Various outdoor pitches	Moor Lane Cricket Club Moor Lane Football Club Moor Lane Rugby Club	7 yrs + 7 yrs + 7 yrs +
Woodham Golf Club	Sport Facility	Golf course	Junior Membership and coaching	8 yrs +
Newton Aycliffe Children's Centre	Sure Start		Various activities	Under 4 yrs
Newton Aycliffe Library	Library		Various activity sessions	Under 4 yrs
Christian Life Centre (Woodham & Greenfield Hall)	Youth Centre/Facility		Planet Kids Parent and Toddler Group Children's Breakfast Club Children's after School Care Children's Holiday Club Planet Kids Pre School Planet Kids Buzz - fun sessions	1 - 4 yrs 4 - 12 yrs 4 - 12 yrs 4 - 12 yrs 3 - 4 yrs 3 - 6 yrs
St Clare's Church	Youth Centre/Facility		Planet Kids Fusion Pure NRG - young people activities Planet Youth - youth sessions Toddler Group Brownies Youth Group	7 - 12 yrs 12 - 14 yrs 14 yrs + Under 4 yrs 7 - 10 yrs 8 yrs +
Burnhill Methodist Church	Youth Centre/Facility		Tinies, Tots and Toddlers	0 - 4 yrs
Dandy Cart	Youth Centre/Facility		Dance Group Weekly Disco Neighbourhood Watch	6 yrs + 8 yrs + 8 yrs +
TA Centre	Youth Centre/Facility		Air Cadets	13 yrs +

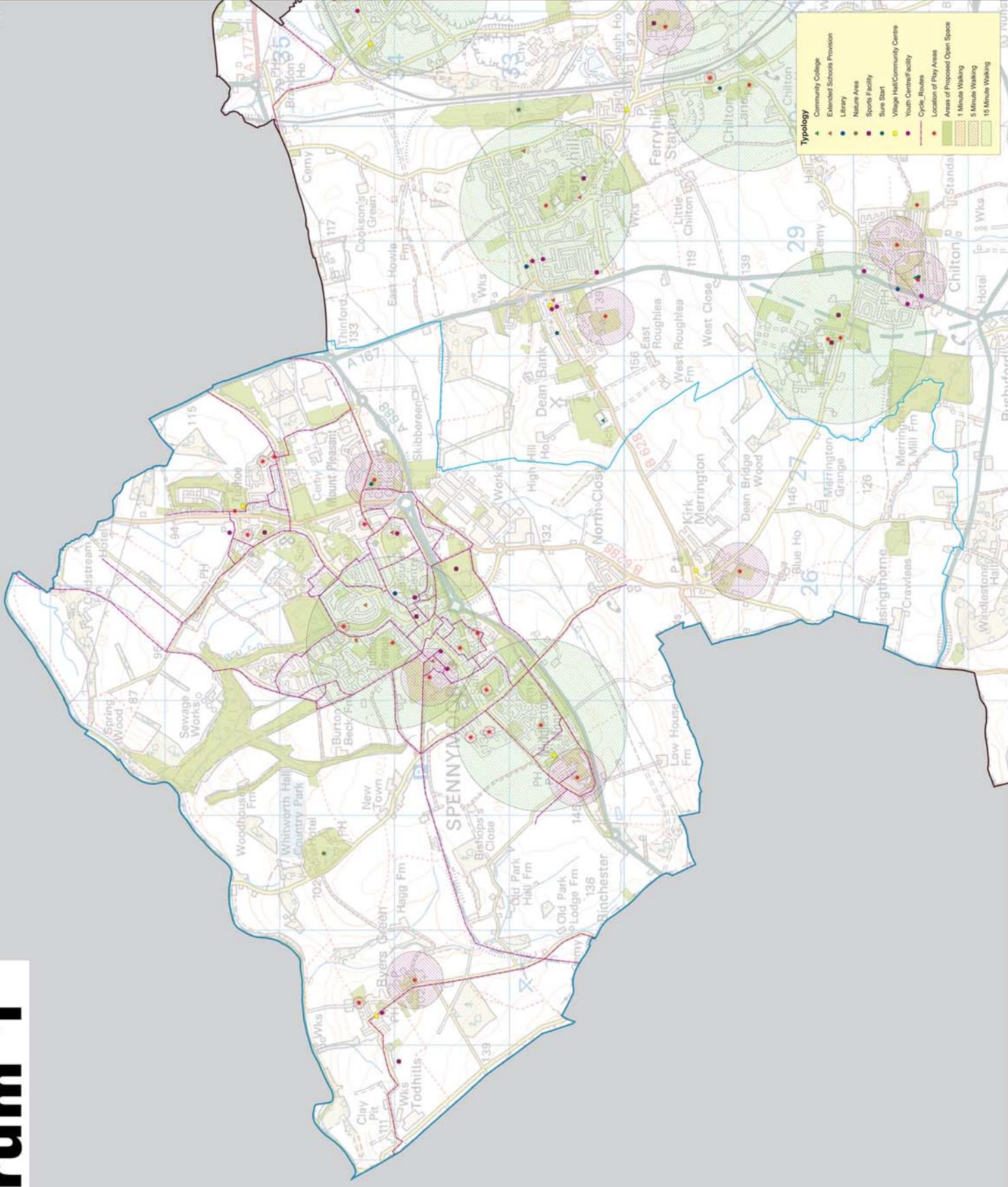
Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre	Youth Centre/Facility	Small sports hall	NE Time - Health Drop in	13 yrs
			Inters Learning	6 yrs +
			Bear Club	3yr +
			Seniors Youth Club	13yrs +
			Dance Group	13yrs +
			Duke of Edinburgh Group	14yr +
			Beavers	4 - 8 yrs
			Cubs	8 - 11 yrs
			The Legionnaires	5 - 18 yrs
			Scouts	11 yrs +
Newton Aycliffe Scouts Hall	Youth Centre/Facility	Tennis Courts	Music Session & Jackanory	0 - 4 yrs
			All weather 5-a-side	0 - 4 yrs
			Sports hall	0 - 4yrs
			Arts Centre	0 - 4 yrs
			Dance studio	4 yrs +
				4 yrs +
				12 - 16 yrs
				12 yrs +
				12 yrs +
				5 yrs +
Greenfield Community & Arts Centre	Community College	Arts Programme	Artificial Football Surface	12 yrs +
			Tea Time Club	10 - 12 yrs
			Tuneful Tots	0 - 4 yrs
			Special Needs Parent and Toddler Group	0 - 4yrs
			Young Parents Support Group	13 yrs +
			Special Needs Drop In Session	2 - 4 yrs
			Baby Clinic	0 - 2 yrs
			Brownies	7 - 9 yrs
				8 - 12 yrs
Woodham Technology College Emfield Primary	Community College Extended Schools	Out of Hours Learning	Out of Hours Learning	8 - 12 yrs
			Out of Hours Learning	8 - 12 yrs
			Out of Hours Learning	8 - 12 yrs
			Breakfast Club	4 - 11 yrs
			After School & Holiday Club	4 - 11 yrs
				8 yrs +
				8 - 12 yrs
				8 - 12 yrs
				5 - 7 yrs
				0 - 4 yrs
St Francis Junior School St. Joseph's RC primary Stephenson Way Primary	Extended Schools Extended Schools Extended Schools	Out of Hours Learning	Out of Hours Learning	8 - 12 yrs
			Out of Hours Learning	8 - 12 yrs
			Out of Hours Learning	8 - 12 yrs
Sugar Hill Primary Vane Road Primary Woodham Burn Pre School	Extended Schools Extended Schools Extended Schools	Out of Hours Learning	Out of Hours Learning	8 - 12 yrs
			Out of Hours Learning	8 - 12 yrs
			Out of Hours Learning	5 - 7 yrs
		Stay and Play	0 - 4 yrs	

Aycliffe Village Primary	Extended Schools	Parent & Toddler	0-4 yrs
		Out of Hour Learning	8 yrs +

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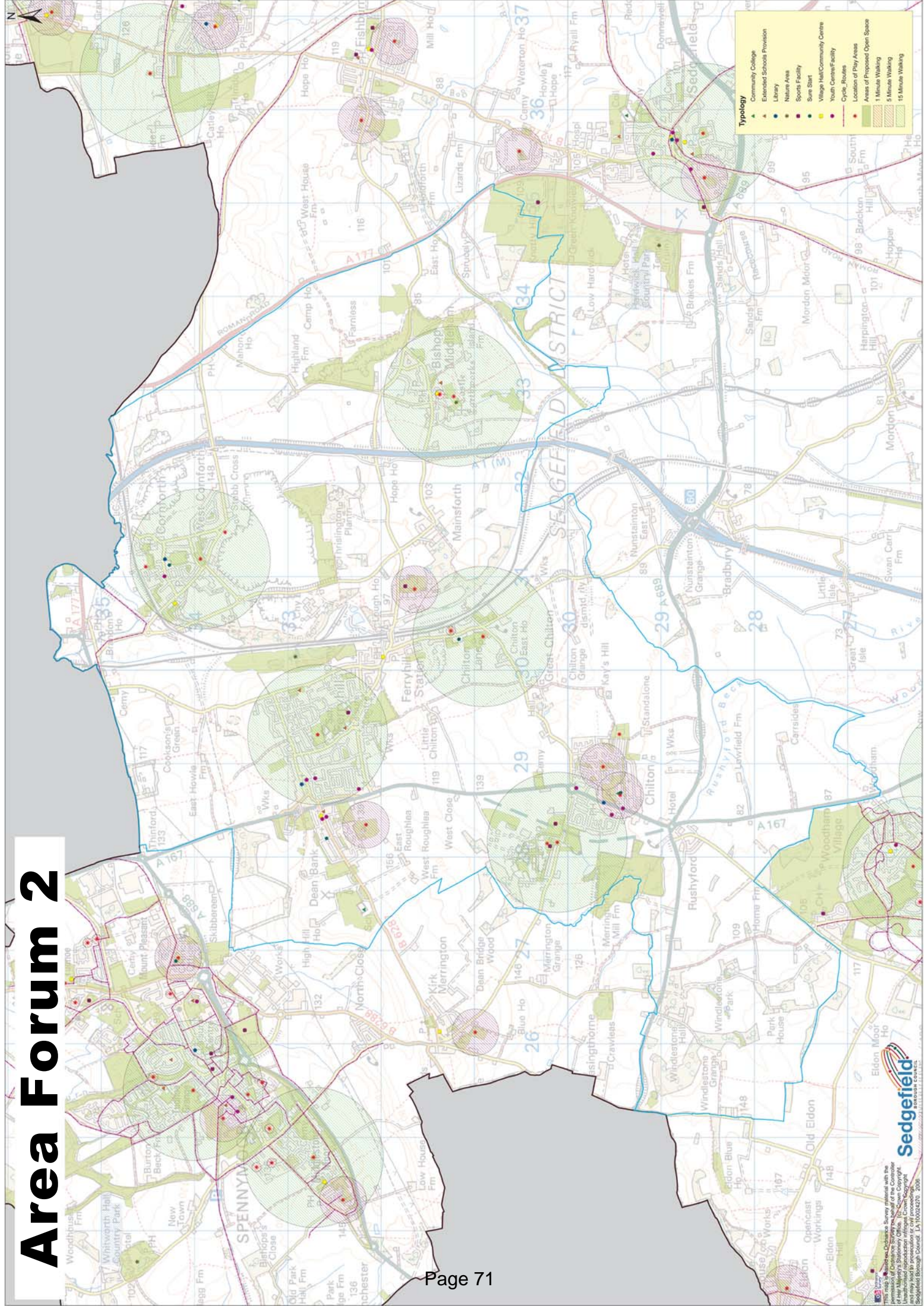
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# Area Forum 2



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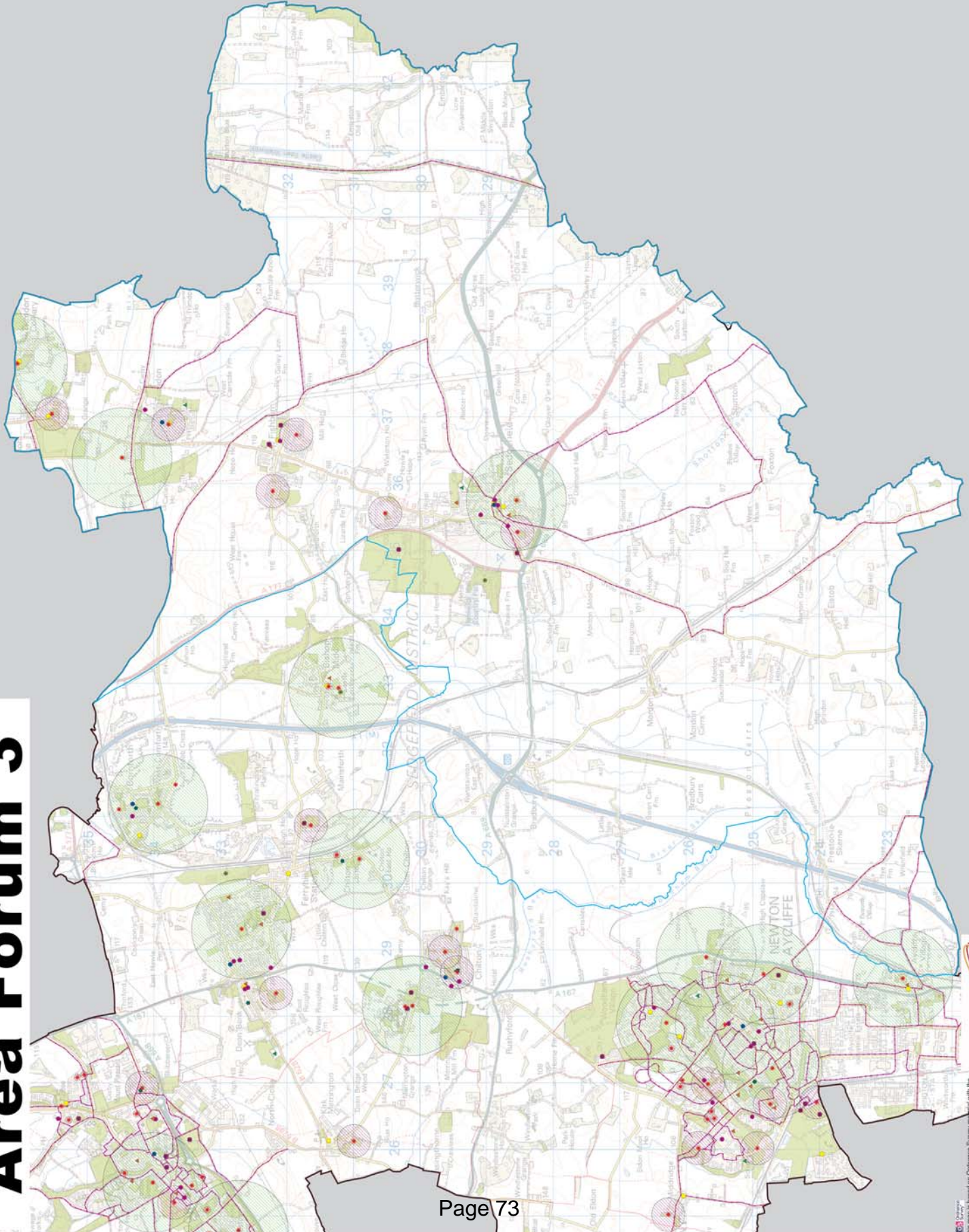




# Area Forum 3

**Typology**

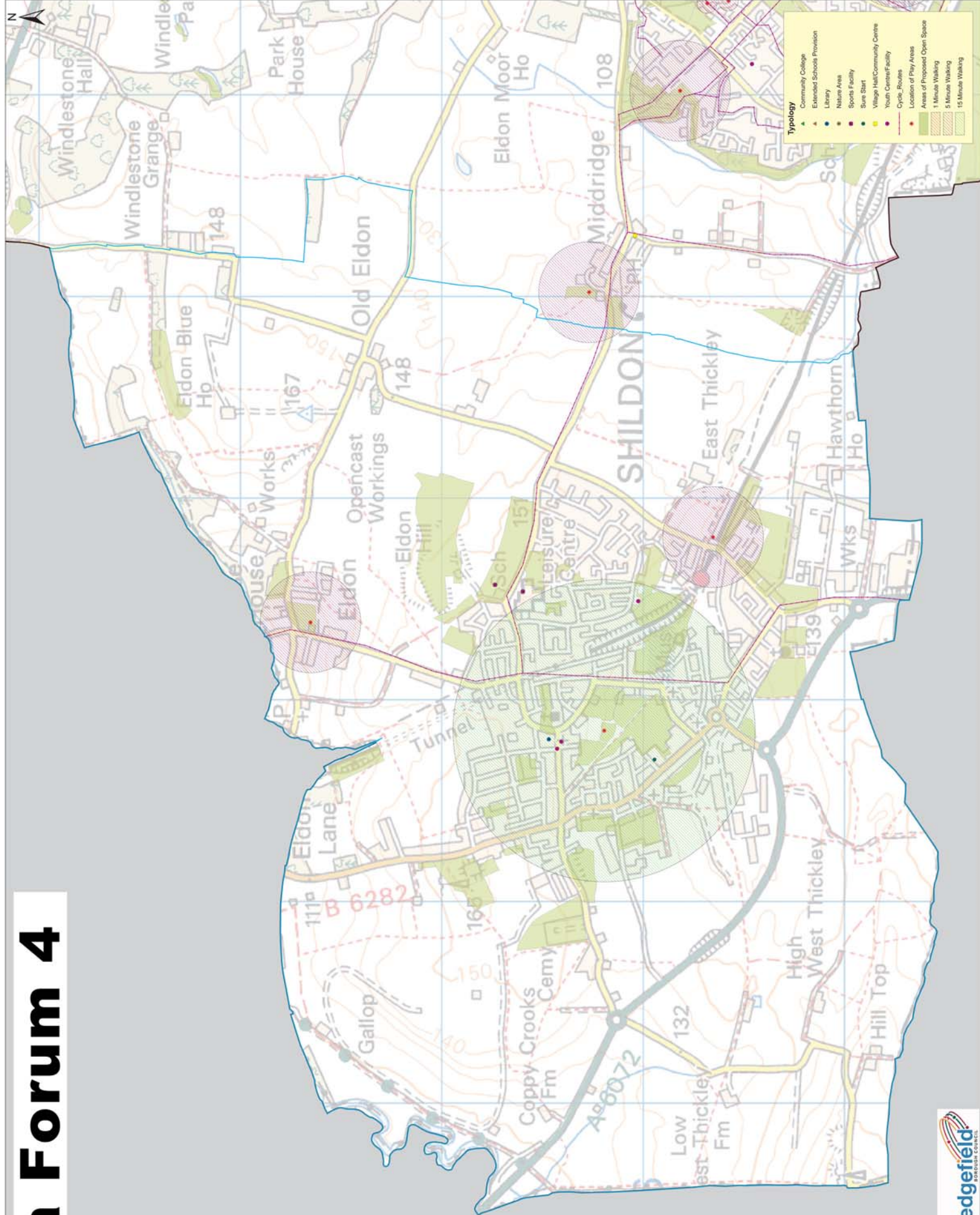
- ▲ Community College
- ▲ Extended Schools Provision
- ▲ Library
- Nature Area
- Sports Facility
- Sure Start
- Youth Centre/Facility
- Village Hall/Community Centre
- Cycle Routes
- Location of Play Areas
- Areas of Proposed Open Space
- 1 Minute Walking
- 5 Minute Walking
- 15 Minute Walking



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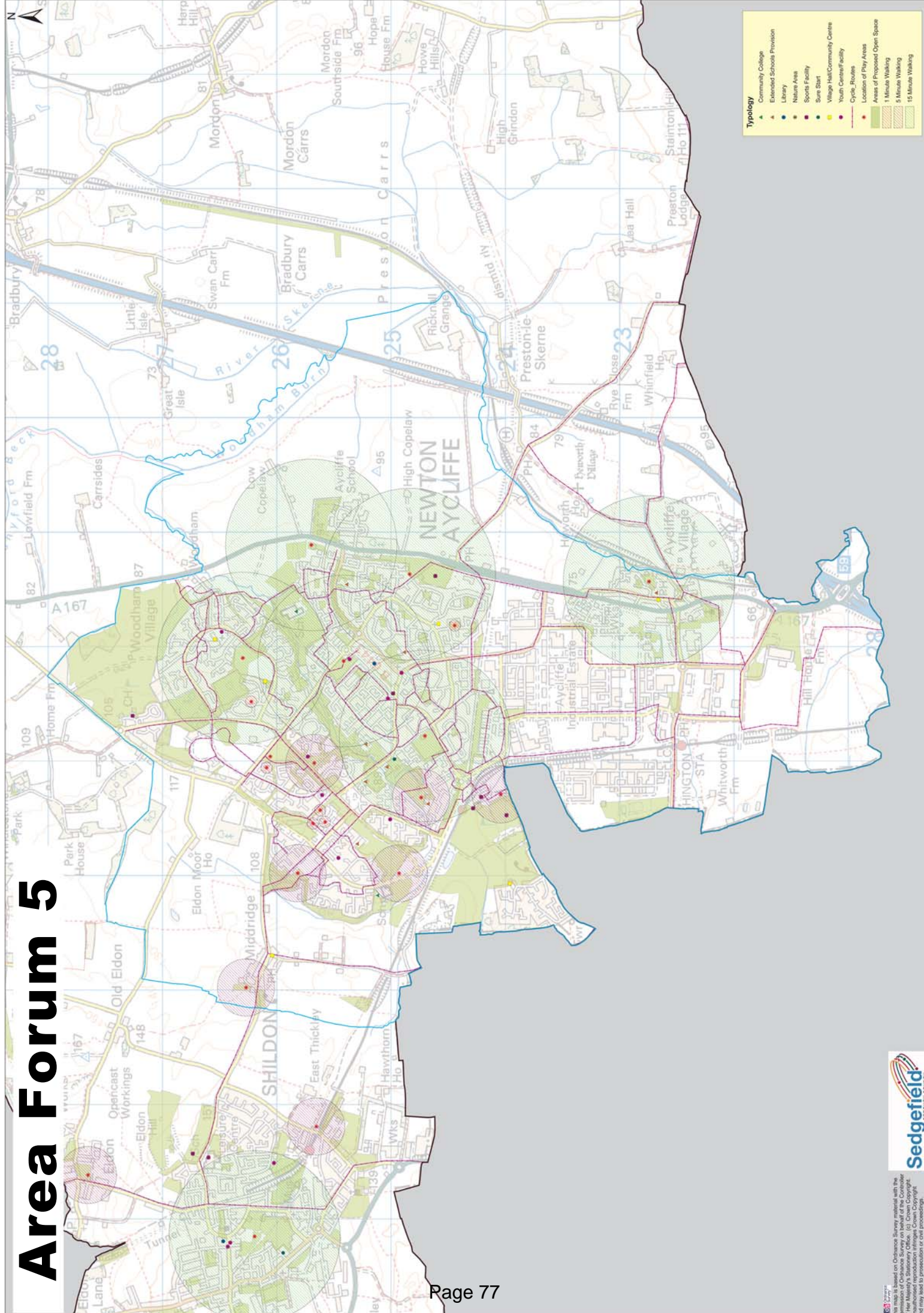
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# Area Forum 5



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# Item 5

## KEY DECISION

REPORT TO CABINET  
2 NOVEMBER 2006

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LEISURE  
SERVICES

**Portfolio: Leisure and Culture**

**Feasibility Study, Development of Open Space, Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe**

### 1 SUMMARY

In June 2005 LDA Design Consultants were appointed by the Borough Council to devise a 2 option approach for the redevelopment of land along Burnhill Way in the western area of Newton Aycliffe.

The final version of the feasibility study has now been received and members of Cabinet are asked to agree a way forward.

Plans will be available for members but in essence the area of land under consideration extends from Burn Lane, which is adjacent to the Pioneering Care Centre through to Greenfield Way, which is adjacent to Greenfield Community Arts College.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

- That Cabinet agree to consult on the key findings of the report and report back in due course.

### 3 DETAIL

Members may be aware that in the early days of the Cobblers Hall development, significant sport and recreational provision was identified for this land, information which was contained in the area structure plan.

The recent playing pitch strategy and other developments has led officers to reconsider sport and recreation provision which originally included providing grass pitches for a range of sporting activity.

It is clear that given the extent of the way in which the Cobblers Hall site has been developed to date, sports provision and its location needs to be reconsidered. In an effort to provide options for land use, LDA Consultants were commissioned in 2005 to develop a two option appraisal.

Although the study suggests some fairly major engineering consideration to the pedestrian underpasses that run alongside Burnhill Way, in essence the environmental features suggest an exciting gateway into the town of Newton Aycliffe providing a progression from informal play through to more organised sporting activity.

It is clear from the feasibility study that more detailed local consultation is required and members are asked for their views to enable officers to develop a strategy for what is currently a significantly underused area of public open space.

#### **4 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Although LDA Consultants have identified costs in their study, without the benefit of detailed consultation around what might be considered appropriate, any financial analysis at this stage serves little purpose.

However, should Cabinet agree to the reports recommendation, consideration will be given to whether the capacity to commence the public consultation exercise exists in-house or whether it is necessary to buy this in from external sources.

#### **5 CONSULTATION**

The consultants have taken soundings from a limited local audience in Newton Aycliffe about their proposals and it was always accepted that within the budget profile for commissioning this study more consultation would be required with all those organisations and individuals who could be affected by investment in the Cobblers Hall area.

#### **6 LINKS TO COUNCIL AMBITIONS**

The development of this land into an attractive exciting gateway into the town of Newton Aycliffe will contribute to the key regeneration principles of bringing currently underused/unattractive land into greater public use.

#### **7 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

##### **7.1 Risk Management**

Key risk issues which could impact on the project are around the relationship between the outcome of public consultation and the ability to deliver the project in a way which reflects the consultation.

Planning issues and an environmental impact study will need to be taken into account.

##### **7.2 Sustainability**

Consideration as to future maintenance of the land mass will be required if a high quality scheme is to be sustained in the long term.

##### **7.3 Equality and Diversity**

Not Applicable.

##### **7.4 Crime and Disorder**

Opportunities provided by the scheme to encourage more sport, physical activity and play will add to the ability to divert some people into more positive use of their leisure time.

7.5 Human Rights and Social Inclusion

Not Applicable.

7.6 Health and Safety

Not Applicable.

**Contact Officer:** Mr Phil Ball  
**Telephone No:** (01388) 816166 ext : 4386  
**Email Address:** pball@sedgefield.gov.uk

**Ward(s)** More than two wards.

**Background Papers**

**Examination by Statutory Officers**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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# Item 6

## REPORT TO CABINET

2nd November 2006

Report of Chief Executive

Portfolio: Strategic Leadership

### CONFERENCES

#### 1. SUMMARY

1.1 To consider the Council's representation at the following:-

Enterprising Britain: The Debate, Monday 13 November 2006, Victoria Park, London.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Council be represented at the Enterprising Britain: The Debate, by the Deputy Leader plus one member of Cabinet.

#### 3. DETAIL

3.1 Britain is engaged in an ambitious drive to create a more enterprising economy at a time of enormous global change. This launch event will debate how best to extend enterprise across business, education and local communities in the UK.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of the Enterprising Britain: The Debate is: £175.00 plus VAT per delegate.

### CONSULTATION

5.1 Not applicable.

**Contact Officer:** Tom Dyer  
**Telephone No.** (01388) 816166 – 4219

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**Background Papers**

Notice from Enterprise Insight.

**Examination by Statutory Officers**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



# **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1**

## **REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER INFORM**

### **REPORT OF THE REVIEW GROUP**

#### **Members of the Review Group**

Councillor J.M. Khan (Chair)

Councillor A. Gray

Councillor J.G. Huntington

Councillor B. Meek

Councillor J.M. Smith

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<b>The Role of Editing, Publishing, Printing and Distribution of Inform</b>	<b>10</b>
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Further information on this review can be obtained from  
**Jonathan Slee, Scrutiny Support Officer: Tel 01388 816166 ext.4362.**

## **CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

The Council's Community Newspaper Inform provides an excellent opportunity to engage with Residents and to communicate news stories and events to Residents of the Borough. This review aims to evaluate and assess whether Inform is fulfilling its purpose, is comparable with Best Practice Local Authority newspapers and to identify possible future improvements.

The Review has been carried out by a small group of Councillors, supported by Officers from the Council's Democratic Services Section who have gathered the detailed information for the review. Information has also been obtained from the Council's Press & Public Relations Officer together with an input from other Council Members, Directors, Heads of Service and Residents from within the Borough. Following a wide ranging review, a number of recommendations have been made for consideration by Cabinet.

I would like to thank all who have contributed to the review and look forward to developments arising from its conclusions and recommendations.

Councillor John M. Khan  
Chairman of the Inform Review Group

# SUMMARY

## Membership of the Review Group

Councillor J.M. Khan (Chairman)  
Councillor A. Gray,  
Councillor J.G. Huntington  
Councillor B. Meek  
Councillor J.M. Smith

## Objectives of the Review

- Is Inform fulfilling its purpose?
- Identify/establish 'best practice' and measure Inform against it.
- Can any aspect of Inform be improved?

## Contribution to the Council's Ambitions and Community Outcomes

The Council's Ambitions and Community Outcomes are shown in its Annual Corporate Plan. This Review contributes towards the Council's Corporate Values of engaging local communities.

## Methodology

The Review Group gathered information and evidence as follows:-

- a) Through meetings held between May – September 2006.
- b) Through information and presentations by J.G. Turnbull, Head of Democratic Services, G. Robinson, Press and Public Relations Officer and J. Slee, Scrutiny Support Officer.
- c) Analysis reports from surveys carried out with Readers of Inform, Sedgefield Borough Council Members, Chief Officers and Heads of Service.
- d) Comparing Inform against 'best practice' Council Newspapers.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Is Inform fulfilling its purpose?

The Review Group concludes that Inform fulfils its purpose of highlighting Council issues, success stories and informing residents of what is happening within the Borough. As it is published on a monthly basis, information contained within it is timely and relevant. Inform also contributes to the Council's commitment to the core actions of the Local Government Association Reputation Initiative.

This view has been supported by information received and survey findings from Officers of the Council and Residents.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. *The current methods of publishing, printing and distributing Inform continue.***
- 2. *Inform continues to be published on a monthly basis.***
- 3. *The Press & Public Relations Officer liaises with the Council's Strategy and Regeneration Section in an effort to include articles that would appeal to young people.***
- 4. *Following the 2007 Local Election, a 'Guide to Councillors' that includes a pen-portrait profile of each member be published on a six monthly basis to provide information to assist residents to contact their Ward Councillor.***

### Comparisons with other Council Publications

When compared to Best Practice examples of Council Newspapers and Magazines identified, Inform compares favourably. The existing format of Inform should therefore be retained.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5 *The format of Inform to be retained in full colour tabloid style.***
- 6 *Inform to remain as a 16-page publication.***
- 7 *Appropriate budget provision be made to support publication of Inform on this basis.***

- 8 Internal advertising to remain free of charge to provide the opportunity for Departments to promote their services and any forthcoming events to all residents within the Borough.**
- 9 External advertising coverage within Inform remain at approximately 5% of the publication to ensure that the focus is to provide information on Council news stories and events.**
- 10 The rate for external advertising be raised to £9 per centimetre column for new adverts and be reviewed periodically.**

### **Improvements to Inform**

Through information received and survey findings, the Review Group has identified areas for further improvement. These are listed below as recommendations and if delivered will contribute to improving the Council's Community Newspaper Inform.

- 11. Procedures for identifying articles for Inform be reviewed to ensure that appropriate news is included.**
- 12. The redesigned masthead at Appendix 3 be adopted to provide a clear identity.**
- 13. Arrangements be made to enable Inform to be downloaded from the Homepage of the Council's Website.**
- 14. An appropriate article be published in Inform to indicate to readers that the newspaper can be downloaded from the Council's website.**

# MAIN FINDINGS

## BACKGROUND

Research undertaken by MORI has found that Council Community newspapers or magazines are consistently cited as being in the residents' top three preferred sources of receiving information, together with local newspapers and leaflets. Community newspapers are favoured as a cost-effective means of communicating with a wide and diverse audience. The most effective newspapers and magazines are those which include the type of information that residents' want, combined with good design and reliable distribution methods.

The Council produces a community newspaper called Inform, on a monthly basis as a means of promoting the Council and its services and keeping residents informed about Council related activities.

The Council has produced a Community Newspaper since 1975. Initially produced on a quarterly basis, Inform has been produced on a monthly basis since 1991.

Inform was increased to a 16-page format in March 2006 and is also published in full colour.

The Review has focused on the following aspects:

- The Purpose of Inform
- The Wider Communications Agenda
- The Role of Editing, Publishing, Printing and Distribution of Inform
- Comparisons of Inform with other Council Publications
- Content, Style and Layout of Inform
- Frequency of Publication
- Budgets
- Advertising
- Website

## **THE PURPOSE OF INFORM**

Inform aims to highlight Council issues, success stories and inform residents of what is happening within the Borough.

Inform is an excellent tool to communicate with residents and enable them to feel involved with the Council. This message is enforced by the strap line heading of 'Your community newspaper from Sedgefield Borough Council' printed under the Masthead.



## **THE WIDER COMMUNICATIONS AGENDA**

### **The Reputation Initiative**

The Local Government Association (LGA) and the Improvement & Development Agency (I&DeA) launched the Local Government Reputation Initiative in 2005. The launch included commissioning MORI to undertake research to identify a number of key services and issues that have the greatest impact on how local people judge their authority.

MORI research identified 12 core actions that, when delivered well, have proven to have a marked and positive impact on a council's reputation. The Reputation Initiative is about councils working together to deliver these core actions with support from the LGA and I&DeA.

Five of the core actions concern communication issues within Councils. These actions are:

- Manage the media effectively to promote and defend the Council
- Provide an A-Z guide to services
- Publish a regular Council Magazine or Newspaper to inform residents
- Ensure the Council brand is consistently linked to services
- Communicate well with staff so they become advocates for the Council

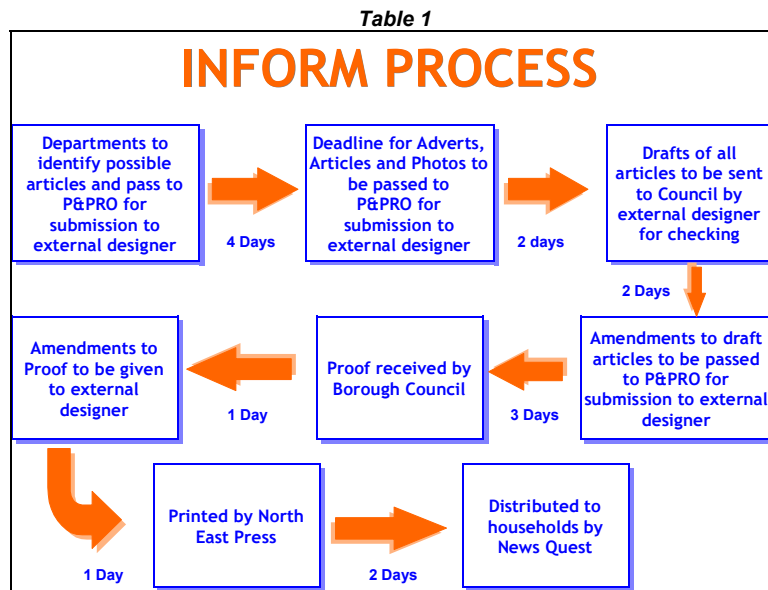
The action relevant to the review is 'Publish a regular Council Magazine or Newspaper to inform residents'. MORI research found that councils should produce a Council magazine or newspaper because:

- It keeps residents informed and improves overall satisfaction with the Council.
- Residents like to get information directly from the Council, delivered to their doorstep.
- It is the most cost effective form of communication for getting key messages across.
- It can demonstrate to residents that the Council is joined up with key local strategic partners.
- Council staff are often customers too and a publication encourages employees to become Council ambassadors.

The Review Group has noted information regarding the Reputation Initiative and supports the Council in achieving the Core Actions.

## THE ROLE OF EDITING, PUBLISHING, PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF INFORM

Responsibility for the Editing, Publishing, Printing and Distribution of Inform lies with the Council’s Press and Public Relations Officer. The Review Group were informed that this process is carried out with strict adherence to deadlines by the Press and Public Relations Officer (P&PRO), North East Press who print the document and Newsquest who deliver it. Table 1 identifies the deadlines and procedure for publishing Inform.



### Editing

The Press and Public Relations Officer compiles and writes stories from information provided by Departments and services of the Council. Potential stories are received through the following methods:

- Officers submitting stories by e-mail or verbally
- Agenda Items from Cabinet, Council or Committee Meetings
- Follow up stories from events included in the ‘What’s on Column’

In addition a proforma is issued to Chief Officers and Heads of Service on a six weekly basis that enables Departments to forward information on forthcoming stories and events. Information received from departments is then used to produce a calendar of events for proactive press releases and articles for Inform. It was reported to the Review Group that the supply of information by this method was inconsistent.

The Review Group considered issues of staffing and contingency planning, noting that the Press and Public Relations Officer has been for some years the Council’s officer in dealing with the preparation and publication of Inform. The recent appointment of a Communications Officer within the Press and Public Relations Section would in future provide support and enhance activities within Press &

Public Relations. The Review Group was informed that contingency arrangements were also in place to produce Inform in the event of the absence of Officers within the Press and Public Relations Section.

### **Publishing, Printing And Distribution Of Inform**

Following editing, Inform is designed and published by an external contractor who liaises closely with the Press & Public Relations Officer to make amendments prior to printing.

The North East Press (the Sunderland Echo/ Hartlepool Mail Group) print all copies of Inform and then deliver them to Newsquest (The Northern Echo) who distribute Inform to households within the Borough at the same time as the Advertiser Series.

The Review Group noted that the distribution of Inform with the Advertiser Series significantly reduced costs. Table 2 details the findings from a cost comparison exercise carried out with neighbouring authorities, and highlights that Sedgefield Borough Council has the lowest distribution costs.

*Table 2*

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Distribution cost per copy</b>
Sedgefield Borough Council	2p
Authority A	6p
Authority B	8.4p
Authority C	14p
Authority D	15p

Newsquest deliver Inform with the Advertiser Series to the vast majority of households within the Borough. To maximise coverage by this method they also deliver to some areas that do not receive the Advertiser. There are, however, some areas that cannot be served by this distribution method, e.g. remote locations and new properties where highways etc have not yet been adopted by Durham County Council. In these circumstances Inform is delivered by post.

A survey carried out with residents reported that 89% of respondents said they receive Inform on a regular basis. These findings were consistent with a survey carried out through the Citizen's Panel in 2002 that reported 86% of respondents receive Inform on a regular basis.

The Review Group recommend, based on the information received from the surveys, that the current methods of publishing, printing and distributing Inform should continue.

## CONTENT, STYLE and LAYOUT OF INFORM

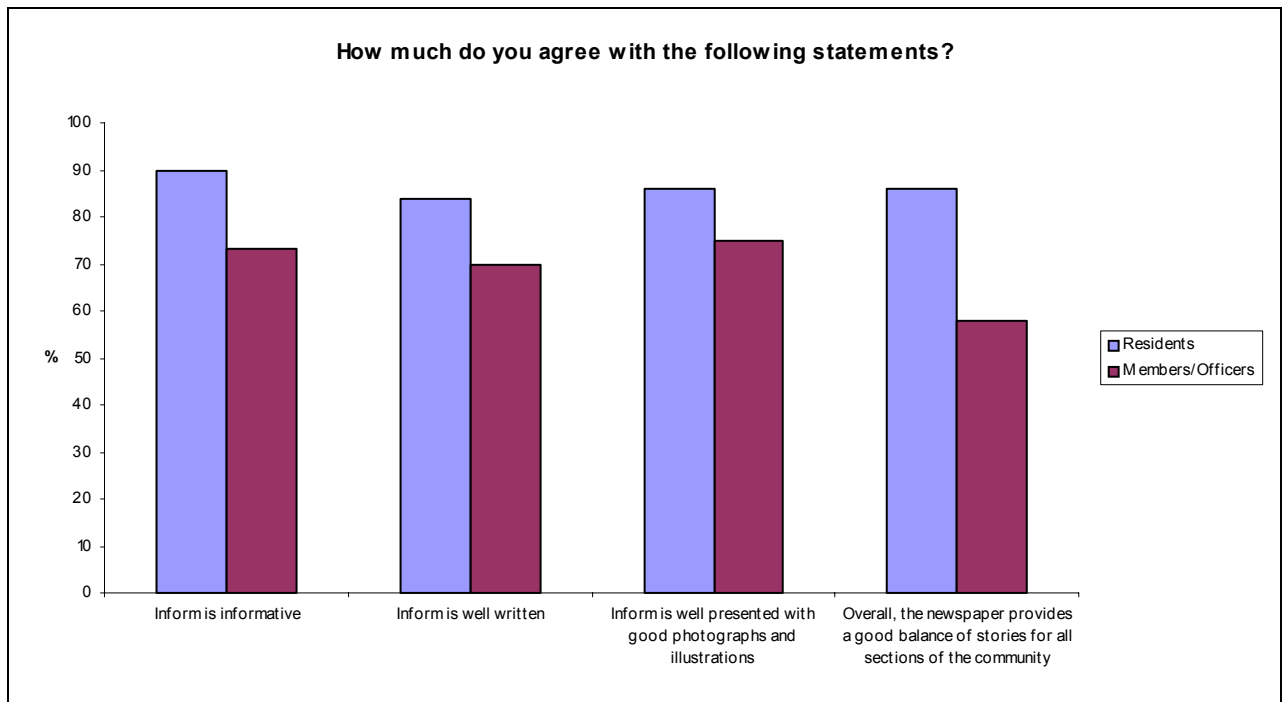
Inform aims to highlight Council issues, success stories and to inform residents of what is happening within the Borough. To achieve this, the Press and Publications Officer aims to provide a balance of news stories to reflect all Council Departments and Services. The Review Group acknowledge the need to prioritise which stories to include and exclude from the publication and note that there are inconsistent demands for articles from Services within the Council.

Responses from a survey carried out with residents of the Borough and Sedgefield Borough Council Members and Officers asked if they agreed with the following statements:

### Inform is -

“Informative”, “Well Written”, “Presented with good photographs and illustrations” and “Overall, provides a good balance of stories for all sections of the community”

The chart below details responses that were received.



The Review Group noted the difference in the statement ‘Overall, the newspaper provides a good balance of stories for all sections of the community’.

Responses from Residents, Members, and Officers indicated that they would like future editions of Inform to focus on the following issues/articles:

<b>Issue/Article</b>	<b>Residents (%)</b>	<b>Members &amp; Officers (%)</b>
Community Safety/Crime	18	13
Environmental/Street Cleansing etc	17	16
Community News	17	18
Health	14	12
Leisure/Arts/Culture	13	11
Regeneration/Improvements	13	16
Housing	5	11
Other	3	4

The recommendation to review the information gathering proforma and improve communication with departments will ensure more articles, stories and events submitted for inclusion. This should provide a healthy balance of stories for all sections of the Community that reflect the Council's Services.

Inform is an excellent tool to communicate information and to engage with local residents. Following the May 2007 Local Council Elections, the Review Group recommend that Inform should include, on a six monthly basis, a 'Guide to Councillors' that includes a pen-portrait of each member. This will include information on how residents can contact their Ward Councillor.

### **Young People**

Concern was expressed that only 3% of respondents to the survey were aged between 16-24 and this suggested that Inform might not appeal to younger residents within the Borough. The Review Group recommend that the Press & Public Relations Officer liaises with the Strategy and Regeneration Section in an effort to include articles that would appeal to young people.

### **Masthead**

Members of the Review Group explored options to improve the current masthead to provide a clear identity. Three mastheads were presented to Members for consideration and they recommended that the example attached in APPENDIX 3 be adopted.

### **Size of Publication**

Demand for space within Inform from Departments has increased during the last year, leading to an increase in size from eight to sixteen pages. The survey carried out with Members and Officers showed that 76% of respondents agreed that a 16 page Inform was 'about right.'

## **COMPARISONS OF INFORM WITH OTHER COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS**

The Review Group compared Inform with a variety of newspapers and magazines from other local authorities. The following publications were selected as they had either received recognition as best practice or were from an authority in the region.

### **Inform – *Sedgefield Borough Council***

- Published monthly in full colour Tabloid Newspaper format. The 16-page publication contains Council news and stories, information on services and a 'looking back' section where residents' forward old photographs and share memories. Inform also contains both internal and external adverts.

### **Best Practice Examples - National**

#### **Carlisle Focus - *Carlisle City Council***

- Chartered Institute of Public Relations - Civic Newspaper/Magazine under 60,000 circulation – Winner 2006
- Published quarterly in A4 Magazine format the 16-page publication contains Council news and events with no external advertising

#### **South Wiltshire Citizen - *Salisbury District Council***

- Chartered Institute of Public Relations Civic Newspaper/Magazine under 60,000 circulation – Highly Commended 2006
- Published quarterly in A4 magazine format the 24-page publication contains news stories and events linked to Council Services with no external advertising

#### **Outlook - *South Oxfordshire District Council***

- Chartered Institute of Public Relations Civic Newspaper/Magazine under 60,000 circulation – Highly Commended 2006
- Published quarterly in full colour Tabloid Newspaper format the 8-page publication contains Council news and stories including joint partnership working with local Police Authority on Community Safety. The publication contains no external advertising.

#### **Courier - *Colchester Borough Council***

- Chartered Institute of Public Relations - Best Civic Newspaper/Magazine 60,000 and over circulation – Winner 2006
- Published quarterly in full colour format the 28-page publication contains news and events linked to Council Services with 2 pages of information from the local Primary Care Trust and no external advertising.

### **North East Local Authorities**

#### **City Life - *Newcastle City Council***

- Published bi-monthly in full colour tabloid magazine format the 44 page publication contains Council news stories and events, information regarding services, and articles from Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Authority.

**Town Crier – *Darlington Borough Council***

- Chartered Institute of Public Relations Civic Newspaper/Magazine under 60,000 circulation – Highly Commended 2005
- Published monthly in full colour A4 magazine format, the 32 page publication contains news and information on Council Services, internal and external adverts and 2 pages of information from Darlington Primary Care Trust

**District News – *Chester-le-Street District Council***

- Published Quarterly in full colour A4 magazine format, the 20 page publication contains information on Council related stories and events with no advertising

**District Infopoint – *District of Easington***

- Published quarterly in full colour tabloid magazine format the 12 page publication contains no adverts and focuses on Council news with a page of information from Easington Primary Care Trust

**Durham City News – *Durham City Council***

- Published bi-monthly in full colour tabloid magazine format the 24 page publication contains Council News Stories and events, information regarding services, and articles from County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority.

The Review Group examined aspects of layout, content and style for all of these publications and agreed that Inform compared favourably with publications from other local authorities and recommended that the current format of Inform be retained.

## **FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION**

Inform was originally produced on a quarterly basis and from 1991 has been produced on a monthly basis for residents within the Borough. A report published by the Improvement & Development Agency (I&DeA) found that there was no consistency with the frequency of publication of Council Newspapers or Magazines. The frequency varied from fortnightly to six monthly. Most common practice was either a monthly or quarterly publication for residents. This was evident when comparing Inform with other Council Newspapers and magazines.

Monthly publication ensures that current events are highlighted within an appropriate time frame. For example, when the changes to the concessionary bus scheme were being considered residents were consulted at every phase of the process via Inform. If Inform had been a six weekly or quarterly publication the information would have quickly become out of date and be misleading to residents in relation to their entitlement.

If Inform was published on a less frequent basis it would require a greater number of pages. This would be necessary to ensure all Departments receive the desired coverage.

The survey carried out with Residents, Members and Officers indicated that publishing Inform on a monthly basis was 'Just Right'.



## BUDGETS

The Review Group noted that the budget for Inform had been set out at £52,000 for 2005/06 and 2006/07. The publication had, however, been increased to a 16 page full colour publication in March 2006. The Review Group highlighted that the budget would need to be increased to cover additional costs.

## ADVERTISING

Inform contains both internal and external adverts. An examination of the April and May editions of Inform identified the following levels of advertising coverage:-

Month	Total Coverage	Internal	External
April	8%	5%	3%
May	16%	11%	5%

The table identified that there was an increase in the percentage coverage of internal adverts within the May edition of Inform and that external coverage had increased marginally.

The Review Group considered the feasibility of increasing the coverage of external adverts to increase revenue and employing someone on a part-time basis to sell advertising space. The Review Group concluded that the coverage of external advertising should remain at its current level and therefore it would not be feasible to employ someone to sell advertising space.

### Advertising rate per centimetre column

The chart below shows figures for the costs for advertising space in the newspapers published within the North East region per centimetre column and their circulation figures

Publication	£ per cm column	Possible circulation
Herald and Post	29.85	252,111
Evening Chronicle	18.75	91,553
Northern Echo	18.21	57,092
Sunday Sun	14.60	81,571
Evening Gazette	12.80	60,415
Journal	12.65	43,315
Sunderland Echo	10.70	48,691
Darlington and Stockton Times	10.34	30,337
Advertiser series	10.00	220,206
<b>Inform</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>44,000</b>
Shields Gazette	5.59	21,502
Hartlepool Mail	5.05	20,873
Newton News	3.00	15,000

Advertising figures for North Eastern publications range from £3 - £29 per centimetre column.

Inform's existing rate of £6 per centimetre column is considered excellent value when compared to the advertising rates of other publications in the area. It can be seen that £3 for the Newton News is appropriate as it has a circulation of 15,000.

To keep Inform in line with other publication advertising rates it is justifiable for the £6 per centimetre column of advertising space to be increased.

The Review Group recommended that the rate for external advertising be raised to £9 per centimetre column for new adverts. The Council should honour adverts that have been pre-paid.

Discounted rates are offered for adverts taken out for 3 editions and over. The Review Group were of the opinion that these discounts should remain at the levels set out below.

5% discount for advertising in three editions of Inform.

10% discount for advertising in six editions of Inform.

15% discount for advertising in nine editions of Inform.

20% discount for advertising in twelve editions of Inform.

### Internal Advertising

At present there is no charge for internal adverts from various Departments that are published in Inform. The table below identifies the advertising coverage Departments have received during 2005/06. The potential value of the coverage is based on rates of £6 per centimetre column for Inform, compared to £18.21 per centimetre column for the Northern Echo.

Department	Value of Advertising	
	Inform (£)	Northern Echo (£)
Chief Executive's Office	2,310	7,010
Neighbourhood Services	2,582	7,836
Leisure Services	3,801	11,536
Resources	2,277	6,910
Housing	306	929
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,276</b>	<b>34,221</b>

The table identifies that during the financial year 2005-2006 departments received advertising coverage within Inform to the value of £11,276. If Inform did not include internal advertising, the cost to the Council to receive the equivalent value of advertising within the Northern Echo would be £34,221.

The Review Group was informed that some Council Departments recharge internally for services they provide. Consideration was given by the Review Group as to whether Council Departments should be charged for advertising within Inform.

However, it was acknowledged that the present review of Inform was expected to support the Council's ambition of engaging with local communities, with the aim to 'Improving corporate consultation and engagement with all sections of the community, including disadvantaged areas and groups.'

Adverts placed by Departments provide valuable information to residents on how to access services or forthcoming events. Charging Departments for advertising would be disadvantageous as it could lead to a fall in advertisements within Inform resulting in information not been communicated to residents.

## **WEBSITE**

Inform is available to download as a 'PDF' document from the Council's website. It can be accessed on the website by selecting the 'News' heading on the front page and then selecting the Inform icon on the News page. Inform has only received 151 hits during the period 31 May 2006 to 14 September 2006. If Inform was available from the home page this may lead to more people accessing the publication from the Council's website.

Members of the Review Group requested that research be carried out in relation to web-based publication of Council Newspapers and Magazines. Colchester Borough Council was identified as a best practice example and was voted the 2006 Chartered Institute of Public Relations, Best Civic Newspaper/Magazine 60,000 and over circulation. An electronic version of their magazine 'The Courier' is produced as an inter-active website publication and was shown to the Review Group. This web-based version is an advanced version of a 'PDF' document and to publish is a time consuming exercise and requires specialist expertise.

At present the external designer provides a 'PDF' document of Inform to the Council. This is then simply included to the Council's website by ICT Services.

The Review Group acknowledged that the Colchester Borough Council website is user friendly and an example of Best Practice. However, Inform is currently not receiving significant interest via the Council's website. Survey responses with residents reported that 2% receive information about the Council from the website. In a separate question, excluding Inform, 4% responded that they use the website to find out what is going on within the Borough and what the Council is doing.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Is Inform fulfilling its purpose?

The Review Group concludes that Inform fulfils its purpose of highlighting Council issues, success stories and informing residents of what is happening within the Borough. As it is published on a monthly basis, information contained within it is timely and relevant. Inform also contributes to the Council's commitment to the core actions of the Local Government Association Reputation Initiative.

This view has been supported by information received and survey findings from Officers of the Council and Residents.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. The current methods of publishing, printing and distributing Inform continue.***
- 2. Inform continues to be published on a monthly basis.***
- 3. The Press & Public Relations Officer liaises with the Council's Strategy and Regeneration Section in an effort to include articles that would appeal to young people.***
- 4. Following the 2007 Local Election, a 'Guide to Councillors' that includes a pen-portrait profile of each Member be published on a six monthly basis to provide information to assist for residents to contact their Ward Councillor.***

### Comparisons with other Council Publications

When compared to Best Practice examples of Council Newspapers and Magazines identified, Inform compares favourably. The existing format of Inform should therefore be retained.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5. The format of Inform to be retained in full colour tabloid style.***
- 6. Inform to remain as a 16-page publication.***
- 7. Appropriate budget provision be made to support publication of Inform on this basis.***

- 8. Internal advertising to remain free of charge to provide the opportunity for Departments to promote their services and any forthcoming events to all residents within the Borough.**
- 9. To ensure that the focus of Inform is to provide information on Council news stories and events, external advertising coverage within Inform to remain at approximately 5% of the publication.**
- 10. The rate for external advertising be raised to £9 per centimetre column for new adverts and be reviewed periodically.**

### **Improvements to Inform**

Through information received and survey findings, the Review Group has identified areas for further improvement. These are listed below as recommendations and if delivered will contribute to improving the Council's Community Newspaper Inform.

- 11. Procedures for identifying articles for Inform be reviewed to ensure that appropriate news is included.**
- 12. The redesigned masthead at Appendix 3 be adopted to provide a clear identity.**
- 13. Arrangements be made to enable Inform to be downloaded from the Homepage of the Council's Website.**
- 14. An appropriate article be published in Inform to indicate to readers that the newspaper can be downloaded from the Council's website.**

## INFORM SURVEY - Residents

Name:.....  
 Address:.....  
 Postal Code:.....  
 How old are you? 3% 16 – 24 16% 25 – 44 33% 45-64 46% 65+

**Q.1 How do you currently receive information about the Council? (Please tick all that apply)**

Local newspapers .....	19%	Council website.....	2%
Leaflets delivered to your door .....	17%	Contact with Councillors .....	4%
Local television news .....	9%	Contact with Council Staff.....	2%
Local radio.....	3%	Public Meetings/ Exhibitions .....	3%
Family & friends.....	6%	Draft documents from the Council.....	2%
'Inform' Council Newspaper.....	26%	Other (Please state).....	0%
Leaflets on noticeboards in libraries .....	7%	.....	

**Q.2 Does your household regularly receive the Council's newspaper, 'Inform'?**

Regularly .....	89%	Don't know .....	1%
Do not regularly receive.....	10%		

**Q.3 Overall, how do you rate 'Inform'?**

Very useful .....	48%	Not really useful .....	3%
Quite useful .....	47%	Not at all useful .....	2%

**Q.4 How much do you agree/disagree with the following statements? Please tick the appropriate box for each statement**

**"Inform is informative"**

Strongly agree 35% agree 55% neither agree or disagree 6% disagree 3% strongly disagree 1%

**"Inform is well written"**

Strongly agree 37% agree 47% neither agree or disagree 13% disagree 1% strongly disagree 1%

**"Inform is well presented with good photographs and illustrations"**

Strongly agree 42% agree 44% neither agree or disagree 12% disagree 1% strongly disagree 1%

**"Overall, the newspaper provides a good balance of stories for all sections of the community"**

Strongly agree 29% agree 52% neither agree or disagree 12% disagree 4% strongly disagree 3%

**Q.5 To what extent do you usually read 'Inform' Council Newspaper? Please tick as many boxes as apply**

Read all of it or nearly all of it .....	58%	Just glance at it.....	3%
Read most of it .....	28%	Don't look at it at all .....	1%
Read a few articles.....	11%	Not sure/ can't recall .....	0%

**Q.6 What issues/articles would you like Inform to focus on in the future? Please tick the appropriate box/es:**

Environment/street cleansing/ refuse collection	17%	Regeneration/improvement.....	13%
Housing.....	5%	Safety/crime/ anti-social behaviour.....	18%
Leisure/arts/culture .....	13%	Community news.....	17%
Health.....	14%	Other (Please State).....	3%

**Q.7 Other than Inform, how else do you find out about what's going on in the Borough and what the Council is doing?:**

Council's website.....	4%	Newspapers.....	34%
Council Leaflets .....	33%	Television.....	16%
Radio .....	4%	Other (Please state).....	9%

**Q.8 Inform is published monthly. Do you think this is? Please tick the appropriate box:**

Too much.....	9%
Not enough.....	7%
JustRight.....	84%



## INFORM SURVEY- Members & Officers

Members from Overview & Scrutiny Committee 1 are carrying out a review of the Council's Community Newspaper Inform. Please take a few minutes to let us know what you think of Inform by completing the survey below.

**Q.1 Overall, how do you rate 'Inform'?**

Very useful .....	39%	Not really useful .....	21%
Quite useful .....	32%	Not at all useful .....	7%

**Q.2 How much do you agree/disagree with the following statements? Please tick the appropriate box for each statement**

**"Inform is informative"**

Strongly agree 19% Agree 54% Neither agree or disagree 4% Disagree 15% Strongly disagree 8%

**"Inform is well written"**

Strongly agree 15% Agree 55% Neither agree or disagree 12% Disagree 18% Strongly disagree 0%

**"Inform is well presented with good photographs and illustrations"**

Strongly agree 14% Agree 61% Neither agree or disagree 7% Disagree 18% Strongly disagree 0%

**"Overall, the newspaper provides a good balance of stories for all sections of the community"**

Strongly agree 6% Agree 52% Neither agree or disagree 12% Disagree 15% Strongly disagree 15%

**Q.3 To what extent do you usually read 'Inform' Council Newspaper? Please tick as many boxes as apply**

Read all of it or nearly all of it .....	45%	Just glance at it.....	7%
Read most of it .....	28%	Don't look at it at all .....	3%
Read a few articles .....	17%	Not sure/ can't recall .....	0%

**Q.4 Do you feel that INFORM represents all Departmental areas of the Council's work equally?**

Yes .....44%                      No ..... 56%

**If no, which areas do you feel are not covered?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**Q.5 What issues/articles would you like Inform to focus on in the future? Please tick the appropriate box/es:**

Environment/street cleansing/ refuse collection	16%	Regeneration/improvement .....	16%
Housing.....	11%	Safety/crime/ anti-social behaviour .....	13%
Leisure/arts/culture .....	11%	Community news.....	18%
Health.....	12%	Other (Please State).....	4%

.....

.....

**Q.6 Inform is published monthly. Do you think this is? Please tick the appropriate box:**

Too much.....15%                      Just Right.....85%

Not enough.....0%

**Q.7 Inform has for the last 6 months increased to 16 pages. Do you think this is**

Too Long .....26%                      Too Short ..... 0%

About Right .....74%

# MAJOR CLEAN-UP HAILED A SUCCESS

## Tackling anti-social behaviour



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A MAJOR clean-up exercise in Trimdon Village has been hailed as a success. 'Operation Kilo' concentrated its efforts on tackling Crime and Disorder in the village's hot-spot areas.

The focus of the operation was on tackling anti-social behaviour, criminality and environmental issues in targeted areas of the village.

Sedgefield Borough Council's Street Scene department carried out a major waste removal exercise during the Operation to prevent further fly tipping issues and 13 tonnes of domestic waste was removed from targeted areas.

Local Fire and Rescue officers also took part in the operation by attending checks with the Sedgefield Borough Council Licensing team. And, some 30 checks were carried out over a two-week period with a heavy emphasis placed on fire safety and under age

drinking.

Sgt Brian O'Connor, of Durham Police, hailed the success of Operation Kilo.

He said: "We are extremely happy with the results we achieved. A number of arrests were made, drug seizures and individuals who are responsible for causing persistent anti-social behaviour were identified and action taken."

He added: "An application has also been made to the court for a Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order (CRAS-BO) against a persistent perpetrator in the Village."

Helen Dent Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Manager for the Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership said "We will continue to support the village over coming months. Indeed, we are already making plans to work with local schools concentrating on Education issues around Crime and Disorder."

## Mayor's charities share more than £2,000

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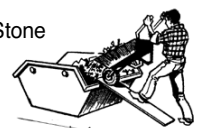
Sedgefield  
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# Item 8

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

Conference Room 1,  
Council Offices,  
Spennymoor

Tuesday,  
10 October 2006

Time: 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillor A. Gray (Chairman) and  
Councillors Mrs. K. Conroy, Mrs. J. Croft, B. Hall, J.G. Huntington,  
J.M. Khan, B. Meek and Mrs. E.M. Paylor

**Invited to attend:** Councillor R.S. Fleming

**In Attendance:** Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, Mrs. J. Gray and T. Ward

**Apologies:** Councillors G. Morgan, J.K. Piggott, G.W. Scott and  
Mrs. I. Jackson Smith

**OSC(1).12/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
Members had declarations of interest to submit.

**OSC(1).13/06 MINUTES**  
The Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**OSC(1).14/06 REVIEW OF THE COUNCILS COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER INFORM**  
The Chairman of the Review Group presented the report of the Inform Review Group, which had been established to evaluate and assess whether Inform was fulfilling its purpose and was comparable with best practice Local Authority newspapers. The Review Group also identified possible future improvements to Inform. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the Review Group had gathered information and evidence through meetings, presentations by officers, analysis reports from surveys carried out with readers of Inform, Councillors, Chief Officers and Heads of Service and by comparing Inform against best practice Local Authority newspapers.

The Review had focused on the following aspects

- The purpose of Inform
- The wider communications agenda
- The role of editing, publishing, printing and distribution of Inform,
- Comparisons of Inform with other Council publications
- Contents style and layout of Inform
- Frequency of publication
- Budget
- Advertising
- Website.

The conclusions and recommendations formulated by the Review Group for consideration by Cabinet were set out in the report.

Councillor R.S. Fleming left the meeting following consideration of this report.

Members queried whether the Review Group had examined how other Local Authorities engaged with young people. It was explained that the Review Group had explored a number of aspects of Inform and had concluded that the publication was both informative and an excellent tool for communicating with residents of the Borough.

*RECOMMENDED: That the report and recommendations contained therein be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.*

### **OSC(1).15/06 PUBLIC SECTOR EFFICIENCY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Financial Services providing Members with a progress update with regard to the Gershon efficiency agenda and the achievement of efficiency targets set by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). (For copy see file of Minutes).

The report contained details of the Council's overarching strategy that had been developed for achieving efficiency gains and actual efficiency statements relating to 2004/05 2005/06 and 2006/07 submitted to the DCLG.

The report set out the following: -

- Background
- Efficiency gains
- Central government support
- Reporting for efficiency – Annual Efficiency Statement
- Targets and efficiency achievements
- Future considerations

It was explained that all departments had a responsibility to make efficiency savings, which were then brought together to produce the Public Sector Efficiency Report.

Members were of the opinion that it was difficult for Directors and Heads of Service to review their own service area. It was explained that benchmarking information was used to examine how Sedgefield Borough Council compared with other Local Authorities. The Audit Commission also highlighted any weakness within a section or department.

Specific reference was made to procurement and the effect this could have on efficiency savings. It was pointed out that the Council needed to develop packages that looked attractive to potential suppliers. In some

cases this could be achieved by working in partnership with neighbouring authorities.

Members queried what action would be taken if the Council did not achieve efficiency savings of 2.5% per annum.

In response it was explained that although the Council had already exceeded this target, efficiency savings must continue to be made, especially if a 3% rise in Council Tax was to be maintained.

*AGREED: That the progress made by the Council in relation to the efficiency agenda and achievement and monitoring of efficiency savings be noted.*

#### **OSC(1).16/06 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP REPORT: AREA FORUMS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman of the Committee setting out the Cabinet's response and action plan following its consideration of the recommendations arising from the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Review of Area Forums. (For copy see file of Minutes).

A suggested timetable for the implementation of recommendations together with the responsible officers was also attached to the report.

Specific reference was made to the implementation of a public question time at the beginning of each Area Forum. It was explained that this would enable members of the public to ask specific questions and then, if they wished, leave the meeting.

*RECOMMENDED:*

- 1. That Cabinet's response to the recommendations of the Review of Area Forums together with the implementation timetable outlined be noted.*
- 2. That progress on the action plan be reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 at its meeting in February 2007.*

#### **OSC(1).17/06 PREPARATION OF ANNUAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive in relation to the preparation of the Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The Committee reviewed the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 throughout 2005/06, considered a suggested action plan for the Overview and Scrutiny function and reviewed working methods in order to improve the Overview and Scrutiny function.

The achievements that the Committee had progressed were also outlined in the report.

Discussion took place in relation to the call in procedure. Members were of the opinion that it was more effective for Overview and Scrutiny Committees to establish Review Groups to review specific topics rather than have a high number of 'call ins'.

- AGREED:*
- 1. That the work undertaken during 2005/06 be noted.*
  - 2. That the proposed action plan for 2006/07 be supported.*

#### **OSC(1).18/06 WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman of the Committee setting out the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and review. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members were updated on the progress of the ongoing reviews.

It was pointed out that as both the review of Inform and the review Sickness Management were at the end of the review process, topics for future review needed to be identified.

- AGREED:*                    *That the Work Programme be noted.*

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#### **ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Mrs. L. Walker Tel 01388 816166 Ext 4237 email [lwalker@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:lwalker@sedgefield.gov.uk)