

Criteria for choosing sites Richmond Playbuilder 2010-2011

The plan should set out key targets, milestones and risks (and how they will be managed). In addition to setting out which play areas will be delivered by when, the Plan should also contain details of **how** the Recipient will deliver the investment. This should include the following sections:

Innovation

- The plan should set out how the recipient will deliver innovative and stimulating equipment and landscaping on sites that will provide physically active play opportunities, which are attractive to all children, including 8-13 year-olds. The Department expects the adventure playground or playpark to focus specifically on this age range.

Engagement

- The plan should contain details of how the recipient intends to involve children and young people, parents, carers and the wider community and locally-elected members in the decisions about where and how the grant will be spent, particularly in relation to the adventure playground or playpark. This must go deeper than one-off consultation and should seek to engage and involve them throughout the process. It must also include children seen as 'hard to reach', whom the recipient may need to access through voluntary and community sector groups. Play England will be able to advise recipients with less experience in this area.
- The plan should detail arrangements for encouraging bids from community and third sector groups, given their play expertise and direct experience of working in the community with children, families and other residents. The Department would expect each recipient to look to fund a number of appropriate third sector and/or community-led projects, in line with their established procurement procedures.

Access

- The plan should set out how the recipient will ensure that sites are open-access (with children generally free to come and go as they please) and free of charge. They must also ensure better access and experiences for disabled children across all the sites that are developed. This must include ensuring that all developments of play areas comply with the disability discrimination legislation.

Safety

- The plan should show how the recipient will carry out risk assessments to ensure the safety of play areas developed, and also how the recipient will ensure that children are able to travel to and from play areas in safety. This may be in the form of making links with other projects aimed at safer travel for children. However, the capital grant may not be used for such purposes as traffic-calming.

Operational sustainability

- The plan should show how the recipient will ensure that the capital investment is sustainable in terms of protection of sites against vandalism and ongoing maintenance of sites. Approaches will need to vary according to the location of the play area. The support body will be able to advise. Recipients should also look to maximise the use of other capital assets to support their play investment.
- Recipients should indicate how they plan to mainstream this funding and support for play beyond 2011. How will the local authority sustain the push on play

provision beyond 2011?

Environmental sustainability

- The plan should set out the recipient's consideration of the environmental impact of its investment, and the recipient should give serious consideration to sustainable refurbishment of play areas using natural materials which encourage children to explore the natural environment.

Please note this grant is to be used to develop new and existing public play areas. The grant is not to be used to develop or refurbish schools or children's centres. The grant cannot be used to substitute existing or planned expenditure on play.

The Department and Play England has published detailed design guidance which sets out principles of good play design and provide examples of them. Alongside the design guide there is also the Managing Risk in Play Provision guide. These materials, along with others, can be found at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/play/>. The Department expects pathfinders and playbuilders to demonstrate best practice in innovative design and production of play sites and to be mindful of this guidance when undertaking their capital investment. Pathfinders and playbuilders should also be prepared to discuss decisions made on the location and design of sites with Play England.