

# Children's Play Spaces

**Adopted Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**  
**Maldon District Council**  
**March 2006**



**Children's Place Spaces**

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## 1. The Purpose and Scope of this SPD

- 1.1 The purpose of this SPD is to set out a formula that allows a developer contribution to be calculated for new housing development. The contribution takes account of the requirement to make room for a play space and provide the necessary equipment on larger developments, whilst also requiring a pro-rata contribution from smaller developments so that all proposals share an equal contribution.
- 1.2 This SPD sets out how policy REC3 in the Maldon District Replacement Local Plan will be implemented and is intended for use by developers, the public and other interested parties. The basic principle of policy REC3 is that new housing development should make provision for public play space as an integral part of the development based on National Playing Fields Association standards. This is to prevent new houses being built without enough room for play space so that children have no opportunity to play safely in their neighbourhood. The intention of the policy is that development should make a proportionate contribution to provision of new play space, or upgrading of existing play spaces, (depending on circumstances) to cater for the demands on play space created by the development of new housing.
- 1.3 The SPD indicates the requirements of different types of children's play space, in relation to residential development and sets out the contribution that should be provided for new development. Separately to this document the Council has prepared strategies for play space, green space and sports fields (Play and Recreation Strategies). Those strategies identify the existing level of provision. They indicate any deficiencies that exist and explain the improvements that are needed to bring everything up to the desired standards.
- 1.4 This SPD will be used in conjunction with the play and recreation strategies. The SPD will set out the level of development contribution that will be required. The play and recreation strategies will identify whether a development contribution is actually required in any particular location. The principle is that, if development is proposed in a location which has a deficiency of provision then a contribution will be required. However, if development is proposed in a location which has adequate provision (and the development does not overload the existing facilities), then no contribution will be required. This approach relies on the play and recreation strategies of the Council being kept up to date. Within this framework the SPD reflects current Government advice and draws on corporate strategies prepared by Maldon District Council.
- 1.5 During the last 20 years the District has experienced significant growth in the residential population, notably in the major settlements. The provision of children's play space has not matched population growth. It is therefore necessary to ensure that shortfalls in provision are addressed. The Council will seek to provide a wide range of children's play space facilities for varied

age groups of children in close proximity to as many residential areas as possible.

- 1.6 In 2005 Maldon District Council is updating a survey of existing play space facilities carried out in 2002. The results of which are set out in appendix 6 of the Replacement Local Plan. This shows that the majority of the villages in the District provide some children's play space, although in many cases they do not meet the adopted standards. This is particularly the case in Maldon, where the large area of children's play space at the Promenade Park disguises the lack of facilities elsewhere in the town.

## **2. Policy Context**

### **(i) National planning context**

- 2.1 Policy Planning Statement 12 – Development Plans indicates that Supplementary Planning Documents are an important mechanism to ensure that detailed Local Plan policies are implemented. PPS 12 states that SPD may be taken into account as a material consideration when determining planning applications provided that it is;
- ◆ Saved against an adopted Local Plan Policy
  - ◆ Subject to appropriate consultation in accordance with the regulations
  - ◆ Formally adopted by the Council and
  - ◆ Regularly reviewed as required.
- 2.2 SPD is therefore a significant tool in translating policies and objectives into provision on the ground.
- 2.3 Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 – Planning for open spaces sport and recreation provides the Government's advice on all aspects of open space sport and recreation. It acknowledges the importance of children's play space as one component of public open space requirements in the local community. The national guidance endorses the need for local assessments to identify deficiencies of provision, to assist with securing additional facilities through the planning process. The PPG and the associated document "Assessing needs and opportunities, PPG17 a companion guide", provide guidance on the use of planning obligations and the use and calculation of commuted sums and developer contributions. The general stance encourages the Local Planning Authority to protect existing facilities, enhance and promote qualitative improvements to existing facilities, to provide new facilities giving priority to areas of deficiency and ensure that adequate provision is made in association with new development.

**(ii) National standards**

- 2.4 The National Playing Fields Association published a revised "Six Acre Standard" in December 2001. This gives national advice on the standard requirements for all types of play space to encourage provision of an adequate amount of useable open space to cater for all aspects of outdoor recreation. Although the current national thinking, reflected in PPG17, is that play space standards should be local standards based on local assessment of provision and need, the NPFA standards are a useful starting point. They provide useful advice on the detailed requirements for different types of children's play space. The intention is that all children have the opportunity for access to outdoor play space close to home. Therefore this SPD uses and adapts the NPFA standards for outdoor playing space as a basis for defining provision and demand in the District. The definition and requirements arising from this are set out in section 3 of this document.

**(iii) Local planning context**

- 2.5 Maldon District Replacement Local Plan policy REC3 is the policy in the Replacement Local Plan which is the subject of this SPD. It is set out in full below:

**POLICY REC3 Children's play space associated with new housing developments and elsewhere in the District**

**Planning permission for new housing will only be granted if:**

**Play space is provided in accordance with the adopted standards of the District Council; or**

**Where all or part of the proposed development lies within 400m of the centre of existing play space; enhancement of that play space is carried out in accordance with the needs generated by the proposed new development ; or**

**A combination of (a) and (b); or**

**Where the above cannot be fulfilled, a commuted sum is to be paid to the District Council for the provision or enhancement of children's play space of the same value to level as provision of the facilities.**

**Planning permission for new housing will only be granted if children's play space areas are;**

**Secure and located where there is good visibility on a pedestrian network accessible by local residents to allow supervision and surveillance;**

**The space will be equipped according to the standards of the District Council;**

**It does not result in adverse impact on residential amenity or character of the countryside;**

**The play space is for public use in perpetuity;**

**Pedestrian access exists or will be provided via a footpath giving safe access to the site.**

**Development proposals that do not meet the above standards will not be granted planning permission.**

- 2.6 This SPD will assist with the Implementation of the Replacement Local Plan policy, aiming to protect and enhance existing play spaces as well as provide additional facilities with new development and to meet identified shortfalls.

#### **(iv) Corporate strategies**

- 2.7 The planning system, through the Local Plan and development control is only one mechanism for providing; enhancing and protecting children's play spaces. Management and maintenance of such facilities goes beyond the remit of planning and involves other Local Authority services, generally led by Leisure and Recreation Departments. Maldon District Council has produced the following strategies which have corporately identified issues addressed in this SPD
- ◆ Outdoor Play Facilities Strategy
  - ◆ Community Plan
  - ◆ Playing Pitch Strategy
  - ◆ Cultural Strategy
- 2.8 These documents have informed the background to the policy in the Replacement Local Plan and will be updated and reviewed in order that this SPD can continue to be used in planning decisions.

**3. Requirements and definitions of children's play space.**

- 3.1 Children's play space is usually just one component of larger parks or areas of formal public open space. The Replacement Local Plan has incorporated public open space standards which are based on a local assessment of provision and need. These are derived from the NPFA standards, taking into account local circumstances. The three large towns and majority of large villages in the District are built to a density of less than 30 dwellings per hectare. In the main the District is sparsely populated with a large number of small communities separated by extensive areas of open countryside. As a result this SPD modifies the recommendations of the NPFA to establish standards that relate the rural settlement pattern in the District to the level of appropriate provision. Two standards are adopted, one for the larger key settlements and another for the rural areas. The children's play space component, also follows the NPFA minimum standards, with local variations.
- 3.2 The NPFA standards for children's play space identifies three levels of play provision; LAP, LEAP, NEAP (see below). Each level of play space must be within a minimum walking distance of the area it serves. The minimum requirements based on the modified NPFA standards are also illustrated in Table 1.
- **Local Area for Play (L.A.P.)** A small area of unsupervised open space specifically designed for play activities for young children close to where they live. The target users are mainly 4-6 year olds and any equipment provided should be correctly scaled so as to discourage use by older children.
  - **Local Equipped Area for Play (L.E.A.P.)** An unsupervised play area for children of early school age. The target users are mainly accompanied children between 4-8 years of age. Needs of children under 4 as well as those over 8 should also be considered. Areas should be equipped offering at least 5 types of play equipment. In addition seating for accompanying adults should be provided.
  - **Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (N.E.A.P.)** An unsupervised site serving a substantial residential area, equipped mainly for older children, but also including opportunities for younger children's play. The target users are mainly unaccompanied and unsupervised children from 8-14 years of age. Consideration should also be given for slightly younger unsupervised children. Play areas should be equipped offering at least 8 types of play equipment suitable for the intended age range. It should also include a kick-about area and wheeled play area (eg skate boarding). Seating should be provided for adults as well as a teenage meeting area.
- 3.3 A full specification for LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs is included in Appendix 1 of this SPD.

- 3.4 “The Six Acre Standard” (2) published by The NFPA sets out the walking distance from home and size for the three different types of play space. The standards adopted by this Authority and illustrated in Table 1 modify these standards to reflect the particular circumstances of this District. The NPFA standards are shown in brackets.

TABLE1.

Specification	Time	Walking Distance	Radial (Straight Line) Distance.	Minimum Size Activity Zone	Nearest Dwelling	Characteristics And age group
Local area for play (LAP)	1.5 min. (1min)	140m (100m)	100m (60m)	100m <sup>2</sup>	5m from Activity Zone <sup>1</sup> Up to 6 years	Small, low key games area (may include “demonstrative” play features) Up to 6 years
Local equipped area for play (LEAP)	7.5min (5 min.)	400m (600m)	400m (240m)	400m <sup>2</sup>	10m from Activity Zone <sup>2</sup> 4 –8 years	5 types of play equipment, small games area 4 –8 years
Neighbourhood equipped area for play (NEAP)	15 min.	1,000m (1700m)	1000m (600m)	1,000m <sup>2</sup>	30m from Activity Zone <sup>3</sup> Older children	8 types of play , opportunities for ball games or wheeled activities Older children

<sup>1</sup> To the forward-most part of dwelling that faces the LAP

<sup>2</sup> To property boundary

<sup>3</sup> To property boundary

<sup>1</sup> Source: “The Six Acre Standard 2001” by the National Playing Fields Association

- 3.5 The NPFA recommends that for settlements in rural areas the following approach be adopted.
- Settlements of 1000 people or more; full provision of LAP's, LEAP's and NEAP's.
  - 250 to 1000; full provision of LAP's and LEAP's with priority being given to a LEAP

- 100 to 250 people; provision for a LEAP plus, for existing housing areas, a casual play area of not less than 100m<sup>2</sup> and, for new developments, LAP's. These should be located as close as possible to the centre of the newly extended settlement. However, it is recognised that within existing communities the only available land may be orientated towards the extremity of the settlement.
  - Less than 100 people; provision of a casual area of play of not less than 100m<sup>2</sup> for existing housing areas and LAP's in any new developments. These should be located as close as possible to the centre. However, it is recognised that within existing communities the only available land may be orientated towards one end of the settlement.
- 3.6 This standard suggests that a new development should make provision for the full range of play and recreation space as part of a development setting out the threshold population for each type of facility. It suggests a development with a population of 1000 people would require 1 NEAP, 8 LEAP, 16 LAP and one sports field. However taking account of the rural nature of the district and the high quality environment the Council has modified the six acre standard to a more appropriate level of provision as outlined above.

#### L.E.A.P.'s

- 3.7 Taking account of the rural nature of the district and easy access to countryside the standard adopted for L.E.A.P's varies the N.P.F.A. standard by substituting the "radial line" distance with the "walking line" distance in Table 1. This effectively reduces the frequency of L.E.A.P provision. Calculating the population served by each L.E.A.P. determines those settlements where L.E.A.P's should be provided.
- 3.8 This approach indicates that Maldon, Heybridge, Burnham, Mayland, Tollesbury and Southminster require L.E.A.P's. The remaining settlements are considered to be rural settlements and should be dealt with using a more relaxed formula.

#### N.E.A.P.'s

- 3.9 Using the methodology adopted for calculating the standard for L.E.A.P.'s, substituting the "radial line" distance with the "walking line" distance in Table 1 and calculating the population by served by each N.E.A.P using a much-reduced housing density figure determines those settlements where N.E.A.P.'s should be provided.
- 3.10 As the area of land required for this type of facility is quite significant and the separation distance between housing and the N.E.A.P. is large it is

considered that these will be mostly accommodated on land already owned by the District Council.

#### L.A.P's

- 3.11 LAP's should be provided at frequent intervals on small areas of land located on developments. It is expected that developers, as part of the layout process, will provide these play spaces.
- 3.12 Play pitches such as football, cricket and rugby. These should be provided at a district level to cater for older children as well as adults needing access to sport facilities.

#### **4 Provision of Playspaces and Facilities**

- 4.1 The Replacement Local Plan 2005 does not identify any further land for development of new housing. The demand for new play space will arise from the redevelopment of existing sites as identified in the Urban Capacity Study. All the identified sites are physically constrained in terms of accessibility and space to include provision of play space as part of any potential development. There are a large number of "small" sites in the district with potential for less than 10 houses. These account for nearly 30% of the supply of housing in Maldon District.
- 4.2 In the absence of provision for new housing development on undeveloped land the Council will not seek the provision of the actual play and recreation space as part of housing development. Developer contributions will be required where the recreation and play strategies identify a lack of provision in the vicinity of the proposed development and the strategy has identifies a site that can be improved or developed. Developer contribution will not be required where the strategies indicate appropriate provision of facilities in the vicinity of the proposed development. The recreation and play strategies therefore indicate the level of developer contribution in any particular location.
- 4.3 The intention of the SPD is that, subject to a need identified in the relevant recreation and play strategy, smaller development should contribute to the full provision of sports and recreation facilities in proportion to the overall level of provision. Thus a development with a population of 10 should contribute 1/100<sup>th</sup> of the cost of providing the full range of facilities for a population of 1000.
- 4.4 As this SPD refers to a number of mechanisms for securing provision of play space, it is important that methods of implementation are clearly understood and that sound advice exists for calculating developer contributions. The following definitions apply to the implementation of the

SPD. PPG 17 and the Companion Guide includes some advice on these issues, these are referred to here.

- 4.5 Planning Obligations PPG 17 endorses the use of Planning Obligations to secure the provision of additional facilities. It states “Planning Obligations should be used as a means to remedy local deficiencies in the quantity or quality of open space, sports and recreation provision. Local Authorities will be justified in seeking planning obligations where the quantity or quality of provision is inadequate, or under threat, or where new development increases local needs.” It is necessary for local Authorities to have undertaken detailed assessments of need and audits of existing facilities and set minimum standards in order to justify Planning Obligations.
- 4.6 Developers' Contributions These are capital receipts intended to fund a particular quantity of a particular form of new provision, usually off site. Where contributions are sought there is a need for a normalised capital cost per unit of provision to establish the payment required. This cost can include any or all of the following; Land costs and related legal fees; construction costs where appropriate; essential equipment, e.g. play equipment on a LEAP or NEAP.
- 4.7 Commuted Maintenance Sum Taking account of practical implications of agreeing appropriate maintenance payments the District Council does not intend to ask developers for commuted sums to fund maintenance of play facilities. Instead the Council will ask for contributions, either in cash or by way of direct provision of facilities towards achieving the Outdoor Play Facilities Strategy.
- 4.8 Programming of provision Developer contributions will be used together with funding from the District Council to upgrade existing play spaces and establish new play spaces on land currently under the control of the District Council. These play spaces will be located in the settlements where the under-provision of L.E.A.P.’s or N.E.A.P.’s outlined in section 3 has been identified.
- 4.9 Provision will be prioritised having regard to:
  - ◆ Need as assessed by the lack of facilities in a particular area.
  - ◆ the available financial resources generated by developer and other contributions in each settlement and
- 4.10 The establishment and adoption of LEAP’s or NEAP’s secured through the construction of a large residential development will be in addition to those provided through developer contributions and will be subject to opportunities arising..
- 4.11 Funding

**5      Application Of The Play Space Standard and Calculation of Commuted Sums for the provision of Play Spaces.**

- 5.1 The play space standard is based on the estimated population that a new development will generate. This population is estimated using the occupancy standards listed in table 2 below. These occupancy standards are used to calculate the threshold figures set out in table 3.

TABLE 2

Dwelling size (No. of rooms excluding hallways larders Etc)	Occupancy (average)
3	1.4
4	1.7
5/6	2.4
7+	2.9

This information is derived from the 2001 census and may be subject to revision.

- 5.2 A development scheme population can be calculated using the information listed in table 3. Developments with a projected occupancy that equates to the threshold population for each of the play space types listed should seek to provide that facility on site.

TABLE 3

Type of play space	Minimum size of facility (excluding buffer zone)	Threshold population (derived from the 6 Acre standard)	m <sup>2</sup> per person	m <sup>2</sup> per person x dwelling size				
				(no. rooms)	3	4	5/6	7+
1 x Youth/Adult	8,100m <sup>2</sup>	470	17.0	24	29	41	49	
1 x LAP	100m <sup>2</sup>	62	1.6	2	3	4	5	
1 x LEAP	400m <sup>2</sup>	124	3.2	4	5	8	9	
1 x NEAP	1,000m <sup>2</sup>	1,000	1.0	1	2	2	3	
1 x Casual Play Space			1.0	1	2	2	3	

- 5.3 It is accepted that some types of accommodation such as sheltered accommodation for the elderly are unlikely to create demand for play space.

This type of development will not be expected to make a contribution to play space provision.

- 5.4 Where the site population of a development scheme falls between or below the threshold for a type of play area (e.g. a site population of 30 would generate a requirement for half a LAP), the following approach will be applied:-
- 5.5 The area of the different play types in excess of the minimum sizes, from the last two columns of table 3 should be treated as follows:
- 5.6 The partial provision of youth/adult, N.E.A.P.'s and L.E.A.P.'s should be used to increase the size and quality of the nearest proposed or existing play area, identified in the Play Space Strategy of Maldon District Council.
- 5.7 Excess identified for LAP's should be used to enlarge a proposed area of casual play to provide a defined play area.
- 5.8 In calculating the provision of play space it is important to take accessibility into consideration. Simply enlarging or up grading the nearest play area may not necessarily increase provision if that play area has a full range of equipment but is shared by a larger community. In such cases developers should seek to work with the Council to identify alternatives where possible.

### **Commuted Payments For Off Site Provision**

- 5.9 The District Council acknowledges that due to the lack of green field development opportunities in the Replacement Local Plan, on site provision may not be feasible, particularly where development is required to provide larger play areas. In such cases, the Council will seek to negotiate a planning obligation under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This obligation enables developers to make a contribution towards the provision of suitable off site play space in lieu of direct provision within the development site where there are identifiable and appropriate opportunities for providing new play space or upgrading existing play space in accordance with the Play Space Strategy (see table 4). In calculating commuted sums, the Council will have regard to existing facilities that could serve the development.
- 5.10 Where existing play facilities with sufficient capacity to absorb the increased level of use generated by the proposed development meet the Council's play space requirements; the Council will not require duplicate provision.

TABLE 4

LAP	It will not be possible to commute provision of LAPs as they cannot functionally be located outside of the development.
LEAP/NEAP	Commuted payments will be accepted where there are appropriate and identifiable opportunities for providing new or improved play space.
YOUTH/ADULT	It will be unlikely that youth/adult play space will be provided on site except on the largest developments. In most cases therefore, the Council will negotiate a commuted payment for off site provision. All residential development is therefore required to make provision for this type of provision, irrespective of any existing facilities within the locality.

**Calculating Commuted Sums Required**

- 5.11 The amount of contribution sought will be based on estimated costs for land, design, layout and equipment calculated as a figure per dwelling type for youth/adult facilities, L.E.A.P.'s and N.E.A.P.'s. In cases where a proposed development is sufficiently large enough to provide an element of on site play space provision to the minimum size and design requirements, then these will be discounted from the commuted sums to avoid duplication of provision.
- 5.12 Table 5 sets out the level of commuted sums. This information is correct at the time of publication of this document and will be reviewed annually to take account of increases in costs, and any future changes at national level or in the Council's own policies regarding health and safety inspections. The purpose of table 5 is to provide a baseline for negotiation.

TABLE 5

Dwelling type/ No. rooms	Average occupancy*	Youth/ adult play	NEAP	LEAP	Total**
		£	£	£	£
3	1.4	178	176	845	1,199
4	1.7	216	213	1,026	1,455
5/6	2.4	305	301	1,448	2,054
7+	2.9	368	364	1,750	2,482

\*2001 Census

- 5.13 To calculate the appropriate amount of commuted sum payment for a particular scheme developers should:
- ◆ identify the total population of the proposed site and level of play space required using table 3,
  - ◆ identify which of the full range of required play spaces are able to be provided on site,
  - ◆ identify the level of requirement required off site, and, together with officers of the Council identify whether there are any existing play facilities (see appendix 1 and plan 1) which fulfil the relevant play space requirements
  - ◆ check distances and times as set out in table 1, and have the capacity to cater for the demand generated by the proposed development.
- 5.14 Where provision for play space cannot be accommodated on site, or at appropriate existing facilities, developers should:-
- ◆ Establish, together with officers of the Council, whether there are any viable opportunities for alternative facilities to be provided off site in locations which would fulfil the relevant play space requirements as set out in table 1.
  - ◆ Calculate the appropriate commuted sum by multiplying the number of dwellings by the sum given in table 5 for the play space types that it has been agreed can be provided off site.
- 5.15 Monies collected via commuted sum payments will be held in a discrete fund. Payments for N.E.A.P.'s and L.E.A.P.s will be spent on the most appropriate facility to the proposed site. Payments for youth/adult provision will be used to fund borough wide projects.
- 5.16 **Financial Contributions** The contributions collected will be used to finance the provision of either LAP's, L.E.A.P.'s or N.E.A.P.'s or the upgrading from a LEAP to a NEAP located within the same settlement as the development making the contribution in accordance with the Play Space Strategy.
- 5.17 **Specified villages where developments are the subject of commuted sums.** Developers will be expected to contribute to the cost of providing these facilities in relation to the number of dwellings being constructed either by:
- (a)** Making a financial contribution to cover the cost of providing a site and equipping the site to NPFA standards as well funding the future maintenance of the site or
  - (b)** Providing a site for a play space and equipping it to NPFA standards or

- (c) Providing the necessary improvements directly to an existing play facility in accordance with the Outdoor Play Facilities Strategy.
- 5.18 A combination of (a) (b) and (c) allowing the developer to satisfy the LPA's requirement with a mix of fixed assets and funding.
- 5.19 If the funds collected cannot be used within five years of occupation of the development they will be returned.

## 6 Abstract of Play Space Strategy.

- 6.16 Contributions will be required in Maldon, Heybridge, Mayland, Southminster, Burnham on Crouch and Tollesbury. Contributions will only be used to support the creation of play spaces in the villages where the development takes place.
- 6.17 Rural Communities. In those settlements not large enough to support the provision of a LEAP or NEAP the District Council will assist in funding either the provision of new facilities or the improvement of existing facilities under a Grant Scheme operated by this Authority. In these instances funding assistance will be determined following the receipt of an application from the Parish Council. The applications will be considered in relation to the District Councils capital expenditure programme for the following financial year. Decisions on those applications will also be made having regard to the following priorities
- 6.18 Provision of play facilities in settlements where no facilities currently exist will have the highest priority

**APPENDIX 1**

**Specification for Local Area for Play (L.A.P.)**

It caters for children for up to 6 years of age

It is within 1min walking distance from home.

To be positioned beside a pedestrian pathway on a route that is well used.

It occupies a reasonably flat site that is well drained with grass or a hard surface

It has an activity zone a minimum of 100m<sup>2</sup> in area

It contains features that enable children to identify the space as their down domain, for example, a footprint trail, a mushroom style seat or a model of an animal or insect

A buffer zone of 5 metres minimum depth, is provided between the activity zone and the forward most part of the nearest dwelling that faces a LAP. Gable end or exposed walls should be protected from use for ball games by, for example, providing a strip of dense planting of 1 metre in depth.

The buffer zone includes planting to enable children to experience natural scent, colour and texture.

Some individual seats provided for parents and carers

It has a 600mm high guard-rail or similar low level fence around the perimeter (either within or adjacent to areas of planting) to prevent access to the play area by dogs.

It has a barrier to limit the speed of child entering or leaving the facility.

It has a sign to indicate that the area is solely for use by children, that adults are not allowed unless accompanied by children and that dogs should be excluded.

It is overlooked by nearby houses.

The area of the activity zone contributes to meeting the children's playing space part of the Six Acre Standard.

**Specification for Local Equipped Area for Play (L.E.A.P.)**

It caters for children of 4-8 years in age.

It is within a walking time of 5 minutes from home

To be positioned beside a pedestrian pathway on a route that is well used.

It occupies a site that is well drained with grass or a hard surface and features an appropriate impact-absorbing surface beneath and around the play equipment.

It has an activity zone a minimum of at least 400m<sup>2</sup> in area.

It contains at least 5 types of play equipment, of which at least two are individual pieces rather than part of a combination. Each item is designed to stimulate one of the following

Balancing e.g. beams, stepping logs, clatter bridges, or graphic line elements.

Rocking e.g. see-saw or spring animals

Climbing or agility, e.g. frames, Dnets, overhead bars, or angled climbers.

Sliding, e.g. traditional slides, straight or angled "fire fighters" poles.

Social play, e.g. sheltered areas or child seating

Additional items might focus upon rotating, swinging, jumping, crawling, viewing,(e.g. ground graphics) counting or touching (e.g. sand and water)

There is adequate space around the equipment to enable children to express their general exuberance and play games of "tag" and "chase".

It has fencing, if the site is not already adequately enclosed, of at least 1 metre in height around the perimeter of the activity zone with two, outward opening and self closing , pedestrian gates on opposite sides of the space (to deter entry by dogs and to restrict opportunities for bullying).

It has a barrier to limit the speed of the child entering or leaving the facility

Privacy of neighbouring residential gardens is protected

A buffer zone, not less than 10 metres in depth, is provided between the edge of the activity zone and the boundary of the nearest property containing a dwelling. Normally a minimum of 20 metres should be provided between the activity zone and the habitable room façade of the dwelling. Where the minimum distances apply, careful consideration needs to be given to

The design of the means of enclosure planting scheme and/or other physical features on the boundary of the residential property and

The siting of the play equipment within the activity zone (to preclude opportunities for overlooking nearby gardens and a consequential loss of privacy for residents.

The buffer zone includes planting to enable children to experience natural scent, colour and texture.

Some seats are provided for carers and parents

It has a notice to indicate:

That the area is solely for use by children

That adults are not allowed unless accompanied by children.

That dogs should be excluded

The name and telephone number of the operator of the facility to report any incident or damage to the play equipment.

It has a litter bin.

The area of the activity zone contributes to meeting the children's playing space part of the Six Acre Standard

### **Specification for Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (N.E.A.P.)**

It caters for predominately older children

It is well within a walking time of 15 minutes from home.

It is positioned beside a pedestrian pathway on a route that is well used.

It occupies a site that is well drained with grass or a hard surface and features an appropriate impact-absorbing surface beneath and around the play equipment.

It has an activity zone a minimum of 1000m<sup>2</sup> in area that is divided in two parts; one containing a range of play equipment and the other provided with a hard surface of at least 465m<sup>2</sup>( the minimum area needed to play five-a-side football).

It contains at least 8 types of play equipment comprising:

At least 1 item to stimulate rocking, touch, social or developmental play among younger children.

At least 2 items to facilitate, sliding, swinging or moderate climbing.

At least 5 items , of which at least 3are individual pieces rather than in combination, to encourage either more adventurous climbing , single point swinging, balancing , rotating, or gliding(e.g. aerial runway).

There is adequate space around the equipment to enable children to express their general exuberance and play games of “tag” and “chase”.

It has fencing, if the site is not already enclosed, of at least 1 metre in height around the perimeter of the activity zone with two, outward opening and self-closing, pedestrian gates on opposite sides of the space (to deter entry by dogs and to restrict opportunities for bullying)

It has a barrier to limit the speed of a child entering or leaving the facility

A buffer zone, of 30 metres minimum depth is provided between the activity zone and the boundary of the nearest property containing a dwelling. A grater distance may be needed where purpose-built skateboarding facilities are provided.

The buffer zone includes planting to enable children to experience a part of the "natural" environment.

Some individual seats are provided for parents or carers in the vicinity of the play equipment and other seating is provided within the hard surfaced games area.

It has a notice to indicate:

That the area is solely for use by children.

That adults are not allowed in the equipped space unless accompanied by children

That dogs should be excluded

The name and telephone number of the operator of the facility to report any incident or damage to the play equipment.

The location of the nearest public telephone.

It has litter bins at each access point and in proximity of each group of seats.

It has convenient and secure parking facilities for bicycles.

The area of the activity zone contributes to meeting the children's playing space part of the Six Acre Standard

**APPENDIX 2****Catchment Areas for LEAP's and NEAP's and funding requirements.**

In order to determine whether the provision of a play space can be justified in terms of “user intensity,” the SPG aims to establish a population threshold for the provision of children’s play facilities. The determination of the threshold relies on a modification of the NPFA standards for the provision of LEAP’s and NEAP’s.

To reflect the particular circumstances of this District and ensure a balance between frequency of provision and intensity of use in established residential areas the “walking distance” stated in Table 1 has been used as the “radial line distance”.

**Catchment Areas****L.E.A.P.’s**

Area served (1)	400m from centre of play space comprising 50 ha.
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Dwelling density (2)	30 dwellings per hectare
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Occupancy rate	2.6 persons per dwelling
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Minimum population served by L.E.A.P.	3900 persons
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**N.E.A.P.’s**

Area served (1)	1000m from centre of play space comprising 314ha..
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Dwelling density (3)	15 dwellings per hectare
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Occupancy rate	2.6 persons per dwelling
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Minimum population served by N.E.A.P.	9400 persons
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- (1) The area served in both cases uses the walking line distance stated in the NPFA standards to determine the area served by the respective play areas.
- (2) Density reflects the low end of the density range suggested by PPG3.
- (3) Density reduced to reflect the fact that in this District an area of 300ha is likely to be developed at a density of no more than 15 dwellings to the

hectare.

Relating these statistics shows that L.E.A.P's can only be justified in the settlements of Maldon, Heybridge, Mayland, Burnham, Southminster and Tollesbury.

N.E.A.P's require a larger investment and serve a larger population and only 5 or 6 N.E.A.P's are required in the District located in the major population centres.