

Report on	Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan
Date of Meeting	Thursday 14 th November 2019
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek Member approval for the Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan.
2.0	Background
2.1	Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) was commissioned in November 2016 to prepare a Public Park and Play Strategy for Mid Ulster District Council area (MUDC) that will provide direction for the management and development of facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources, and investment over the period 2017-2022 within the Mid Ulster District Council area. MUDC park estate boasts over 100 public park/play facilities across the Council area ranging from small equipped areas for play, Multi Use Game Areas (MUGAs) to parkland of 70 acres in size. In assessing the park locations, the spatial distribution is an important factor. While a higher concentration of park/play facilities are located in the larger towns and settlements, some areas within Council are over provided for while others experience provision to a lesser extent. The draft Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan was presented to committee in June 2018. Members requested that further consultation be undertaken.
2.2	Two workshop information sessions were held on 31st July and 2 nd August for members participation from which contributions were collected and factored in to the current plan. Mainly in relation to Cookstown town centre and Magherafelt play proposals. The Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan was presented to Committee again in September 2018. Members deferred approval requesting further consultation. Additional one to one consultations were made available to members in October and November 2018. Amendments, as agreed were factored into the draft. The draft was presented to Committee in October 2019. Seven DEA meetings were held in October 2019 as requested.
2.3	Council are committed to develop public park space, increasing the open and green areas for all members of the community where possible. This Strategy provides an opportunity to review the Council's overall offering with regards the type of provision and also consider the needs of each DEA with regards the distribution of public parks and play for the coming five year period.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The overall aim is to prepare a strategy that will provide direction for managing and developing parks and play facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources, and investment over a projected 5 year period. The Strategic Plan process has assessed the status of parks and play within the Council area and planned a future that reflects the Corporate Priorities of the Council and needs of the community.</p> <p>Objectives</p>
3.2	<p>In order to achieve the aims of the Strategy, the following objectives were addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detail and GIS map the nature and extent of public parks and current play provision in Mid Ulster • Outline relevant context of play against what is happening at a regional and national level • Conduct consultation exercise with relevant stakeholders including Council elected representatives, Council Officers, local community groups and user groups to identify current usage and aspirations for future development of public parks and play in the MUDC area • Undertake research into the benefits, trends and best practice in play • Identify future opportunities and sites for development using supplementary information from the 2011 Census and L&PS • Produce a 5 year costed Action Plan (2020-2025) outlining proposed plans for development between 2020-2025 • Cost the Action Plan providing cost summary for both capital works and revenue costs and identify potential sources of funding to help deliver the Plan.
3.3	<p>A programme of works setting out the recommendations for each of the 102 public park/play park locations has been identified. The first five years of the strategy has a projected average spend of £250,000 per annum, a total cost of £1,250,000. The Rural Development Programme (RDP) will contribute an additional £1,103,839 of funding over the period of the strategy across 19 sites. A further contribution of £300,000 from Peace IV will provide a combined strategy expenditure of £2,653,839 for identified for Parks and Play projects across Mid Ulster District Council to the end of 2025. The strategy will be reviews in year three to review progress and profile the remaining two years.</p> <p>This Public Parks and Play Strategy for the Mid Ulster Council area sets out a strategic framework for the next 5 years in order to help reposition the parks and play provision within the Council. It will help improve co-ordination, collaboration, capacity and the Councils' capability to meet the current and future challenges in a way that maximises opportunities, benefits, investment and resources.</p>
3.4	<p>In addition, it will help consolidate into one joined up Plan previous pieces of work undertaken by the legacy Councils.</p>

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan will require council resourcing for the period of the programme that equates to £1,250,000 (excluding external funding streams) over a five year period as scheduled in the action plan. The Parks and Play Strategy may be subject to variables associated to opportunities of external funding that may enhance or change the delivery objectives over the life of the strategy.</p> <p>Consultancy costs to develop the strategy were £17,100.</p>
	<p>Human: Current staff structure sufficient to deliver on Parks and Play Strategic Plan in conjunction with the appointment of appropriately qualified and experienced consultancy (ICT) and supply team (IST).</p>
	<p>Risk Management: The strategic plan will be managed and monitored by the Parks Services in line with Council's risk management governance procedures</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: An extensive process of consultation was carried out with individual Council Officers, Council elected members, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), public and statutory agencies, children's day-care providers, youth centres, community associations and groups, sporting clubs and the general public.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: In line with the Mid Ulster Council Community Plan, one the 15 outcomes is to 'give our children and young people the best chance in life'¹. Within this Strategy, it is the aim of Council to address this deficiency and ensure citizens of all abilities are adequately provided for across rural and urban areas</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to approve the Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan as presented.
5.2	Approval is sought to seek the appointment of suitably qualified Integrated consultancy and supply teams (ICT and IST) to deliver the five-year action plan objectives as detailed.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 - Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan.