

Report on	Play Strategy Update
Date of Meeting	6th April 2022
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Paul Bailie, Parks Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide an update on current progress of the Mid Ulster District Council Five Year Parks and Play Strategy.
	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council maintain 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. Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) were commissioned in November 2016 to prepare a Public Park and Play Strategy for Mid Ulster District Council area that would seek to provide direction for the management and development of facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources, and investment over a five year period.
2.2	The Strategic Plan process assessed the status of parks and play within the Council area and outlined a future framework that aimed to reflect the Corporate priorities of the Council and needs of the community.
2.3	A number of workshops, consultations and DEA meetings took place including updated draft strategies presented to Development committees in June and September 2018, and again in October 2019. Members resolved to approve the Mid Ulster District Council Five Year Parks and Play Strategy in November 2019 (minute reference: D193/19)
2.4	Previously in December 2019, Members at the Policy and Resources Committee resolved to approve the allocation of £1,250,000 funding from Council Capital Budget, over a five year period from April 2020 (minute reference: PR220/19).
2.5	Additionally, the Rural Development Programme (RDP) contributes an additional £1,103,839 of funding across 19 sites and 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 over the five year term. The strategy will be reviewed in year three (2023) to review progress, review the outstanding works and profile the remaining two years.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	To date, 28 projects have been completed at an estimated value of £1.7m. Further details of works completed to date are enclosed within Appendix A.

3.2	A further 3 projects are in current progress at an estimated value of approx. £175k in line with the prioritised phasing of the approved strategy - recently in February 2022, Members at the Development Committee resolved to approve the appointment of contractors to supply and install play facilities at Glenburn (Magherafelt), Jacksonville (Moygashel) and Monrush (Cookstown) – minute reference: D034/22. It is expected that works will be completed by the Autumn of 2022.
3.3	Presently Officers are working on the next tranche of works in line with the prioritised phasing of the strategy (20 projects at an estimated value of £460k) with the pending procurement of the highlighted areas within Appendix A – it is estimated that procurement to appoint contractors/suppliers will be released during Quarter 1 of this financial year with an anticipated contract award during Quarter 2.
3.4	A report will be brought back to a future Development committee for members consideration following evaluation of the pending procurement process.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: The approved Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan has had council capital allocation for the period of the programme that equates to £1,250,000 (excluding external funding streams) as scheduled within the approved 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 to include a contingency allowance with each year to allow for agreed variations where necessary (approx. £25k).</p> <p>Human: Ongoing Officer time to manage the contract and to monitor compliance and effectiveness of the contract.</p> <p>Risk Management: In line with Council Policies and Procedures.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: Members resolved to approve the Mid Ulster District Council Five Year Parks and Play Strategy in November 2019 (minute reference: D193/19). It was noted within this approval that 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: Members resolved to approve the Mid Ulster District Council Five Year Parks and Play Strategy in November 2019 (minute reference: D193/19). It was noted that within this approval and in line with the Mid Ulster Council Community Plan, one of the 15 outcomes is to ‘<i>give our children and young people the best chance in life</i>’. Within this approved 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	That Members note the contents of this report.

6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A – Play Strategy Update