

Report on	Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan
Date of Meeting	Thursday 13 th September 2018
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

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 seek Member approval for the Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>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. Two workshop information sessions were held on 31st July 2018 and 2nd August 2018 for members' participation from which contributions were collected and factored in to the current plan.</p> <p>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 years.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	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 the next 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>Objectives</p> <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 (2017-2022) outlining proposed plans for development between 2017-2022 • 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. <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 spend of £250,000 per annum, a total cost of £1,125,000. The Rural Development Programme (RDP) will contribute an additional £1,004,339 of funding during the first two years of the strategy across 19 sites that will provide for new facilities and enhancement to existing parks and play areas. A combined projected strategy expenditure of £2,129,339 has been identified for Parks and Play projects across Mid Ulster District Council to the end of 2022.</p> <p>This programme aims to enhance the public park and play provision across Mid Ulster, tailoring the provision to the needs of the community in each DEA. However due to the volume of locations, it is suggested that the Strategy is revisited within the third year to assess progress and review progress and outstanding works to be completed in the remaining 2 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> <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	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan will require council resourcing for the period of the programme at £250,000 per annum for five years equating to £1,125,000 (excluding external funding streams). The Parks and Play Strategy may be subject to variables associated to opportunities of external funding that may enhance the delivery objectives over the life of the strategy.</p> <p>Human: Current staff structure sufficient to deliver on Parks and Play Strategic Plan</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	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <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	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
5.1	<p>Members are asked to approve the Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan and recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee that Capital funding of £250,000 per annum be released to fund the proposed programme of work.</p>
6.0	<p>Documents Attached & References</p>
6.1	<p>Appendix 1 - Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan</p>
