


Report on	Interim Update on Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan
Date of Meeting	Thursday 11 th February 2021
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	Interim update in relation to Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>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. 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. Additional workshop information sessions were held on for members participation from which contributions were collected and factored in to the current plan. The Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan was presented again to Committee again in September 2018. Members deferred approval requesting an extension for further consultation. Additional one to one consultations were made available to members in October and November 2018. Amendments, as agreed were factored into the final draft, which was presented to November 2019 Development Committee where it was approved. Budget allocations were presented to P&R Committee December 2019 and subsequently approved.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The adopted strategy will provide direction for managing and developing parks and play facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources, and investment over a projected 5 year period 2020 – 2025. The Strategic Plan process has assessed the status of parks and play within the Council area and proposes a direction that reflects the Corporate Priorities of the Council and needs of the community.</p> <p>A programme of works setting out the recommendations for each of the 102 public park/play park locations has been identified. The five year 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 25 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.</p>

	<p>The strategy will undergo a period review in year three to assess progress on its objectives. This report is an interim reflection of the current position given the impact of Covid-19 on the projected strategic action plan.</p> <p>3.2 The Council in conjunction with the Rural Development Programme (RDP) have been rolling out initial phases of the Five Year Strategy with improvement schemes across twenty-five target locations, seventeen of which have been completed with the remaining eight projects ongoing. Major public park and play improvements ranging in value from £150,000 to £250,000 have been completed at Ballygawley, Upperlands and Fivemiletown with smaller village schemes across the district, delivering play park improvements to a maximum of £40,000 per site.</p> <p>3.3 Two Strategic capital public park improvement schemes identified in the Council's five-year action plan are currently progressing at Ballyronan Marina and Round Lake, Fivemiletown. Projects to the value of £1.67m and £965,000 respectively, when completed will deliver modern and innovative flagship visitor amenities for an anticipated summer season in 2021.</p> <p>3.4 In parallel with current live projects, framework tenders are being developed to deliver further play objectives across three existing sites at Monrush (Cookstown), Jacksonville (Moygashel), and Drum Manor (Cookstown) with a collective expenditure of £160,000. A new play park will also be created at Glenburn (Magherafelt) with a budget expenditure of £45,000.</p> <p>3.5 Enhancement projects at Boyne Row (Castledawson), Knockloughrim, Northland (Moneymore), Reford Park, Ballysaggart and Killymerron (Dungannon) along with Ratheen (Cookstown) will represent a further investment of £160,000 under continued play scheme objectives with projected works programmes scheduled for summer 2021.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan is resourced from central capital budget allocations and external funding streams as presented and approved by Council in December 2019.</p> <p>The Parks and Play Strategy may be subject to variables associated to opportunities of additional external funding that may enhance or change the delivery objectives over the life of the strategy.</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>

<p>4.2</p>	<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 lifeⁱ’. 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>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p>Members are invited to note the content of the report as presented for updates and information purposes.</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Documents Attached & References</p>
<p>6.1</p>	<p>A considerable number of the objectives set by the Parks and Play Five Year Strategy have been delivered in conjunction with emerging and current opportunities. This is encouraging even in the face of lockdown restrictions slowing down progress on occasion. The following illustrations reflect some of the projects large and small that will enhance the quality and play experiences for families and their children for decades to come across the Mid Ulster Council District. The strategy will continue to roll out programme projects annually and will be evaluated in year three (2022-23) to ensure that the strategic direction is maintained and that opportunities that present are maximised.</p>
<p>6.2</p>	<p>Ballyronan Marina Inclusive Play Hub Concept design. Project estimate £200k.</p> 

6.3 Fivemiletown Play Park Enhancement, drone footage. Project £150k.



6.4 Caledon Play Park Improvements 2020. Project £40k.



6.5 Ballygawley Play Park extension and upgrade 2019-20



6.6 Ballygawley Public Path improvements 2019-20. Project £250k



6.7 Tobermore Project £17k and Granville Play Park Project £40k 2019-20.