

Report on	Play Park Annual Audit 2020-21
Date of Meeting	Thursday 9 th July 2020
Reporting Officer	N Hill Head of service
Contact Officer	P Bailie Parks Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek approval for the commissioning of suitable qualified independent Play Inspectorate services to conduct annual play equipment inspection audit and report.
2.0	Background
2.1	Children's playgrounds should be inspected annually by an independent specialist to ensure the long term safety of the site, equipment and ancillary items. This will also meet legal and insurance responsibilities as well as complying with the requirements of EN1176 (the European Playground Standard).
2.2	A written report is supplied covering site safety and condition, equipment, surfacing, and ancillary item safety and condition, and compliance with EN1176 where relevant. Recommendations for any remedial action required are given together with risk ratings for each item.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The safety of children on their playgrounds does not depend solely upon the initial design of the site and the selection of equipment. The continued management and the provision of high quality inspection and maintenance programmes are essential if safe opportunities for children to play creatively are to be preserved. The Parks Service will continue in its commitment to inspect, monitor and improve children's play provision within the district. The annual independent audit and Play Inspection Report is an important component that insures that our 102 play areas comply with BS/EN standards, DDA compliancy and play value.
3.2	The provision of an independent play inspection report will also assist council in defence of any potential legal claim for damages. This should be carried out by a specialist not connected with the playground operator or manager. Essentially it looks at vandalism, minor and major wear, long-term structural problems, changes in Standard compliance and design practice, risk assessment etc. Such

3.3	<p>inspections are offered by insurance companies, playground equipment manufacturers, commercial companies and safety organisations, such as RoSPA.</p> <p>The annual inspection will be conducted by a qualified RPII Inspector (Register of Play Inspectors International). The RPII Inspector has been tested and is competent to carry out the routine playground inspections. All RPII qualified inspectors appear on the Register of Play Inspectors.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Estimated cost £6,500 - £7,000. Expenditure is included within annual Parks Service Budget revenue budgets.</p> <p>Human: Council Staff time contribution.</p> <p>Risk Management: The Health and Safety Executive looks for a systems approach to safety and for playgrounds to meet relevant standards or guidance. The provision of annual inspections assists with ensuring that risk levels within play parks are maintained as low.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: In line with council policies and procedures</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: In line with council policies and procedures</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Approval is sought for the commission the services of suitable qualified independent Play Inspectorate to conduct an annual play equipment inspection audit and report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A