



Subject:	Playground Improvement Programme 2017 - 2018
Date:	13 th June 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
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Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the successful 2016/17 Playground Improvement Programme and outline plans for playground refurbishments in 2017/18. Members are asked to note that the refurbishments are funded under the Capital Programme and that an allocation of £580,000 has been agreed to for this work, in this financial year.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Recommend to Committee the refurbishment of playground sites below under the Playground Improvement Programme which has an allocated budget of £580,000 under the Capital Programme for financial year 2017/18.

• Blythefield
• Tullycarnett/Hanwood
• Musgrave Park
• Botanic
• Alexandra Park Upper
• Springhill Park
• Browns Square
• Falls Park
• Knocknagoney
• White Rise
• Areema

(Table 1)

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Playground Refurbishment Programme</p> <p>Since its inception in 2012, the Playground Refurbishment Programme has made a significant impact on overall quality and play value to the city’s playgrounds; this has greatly improved accessibility and play value, providing new inclusive playground equipment, safety surfacing, boundary fencing, site furniture and landscaping works. In 2012 the Independent Playground Inspector classified 25% of our playground facilities as being ‘poor’ (quality score of 3.0 or less). However with continued investment over the last 5 years the Council has achieved the desired improvement in overall safety, quality and play value at each of the sites refurbished under the programme. The playgrounds improved under previous programmes are now more inviting, inclusive and exciting places for children and parents to visit. The 2016/17 Improvement Programme which consisted of four major refurbishments and five minor/partial refurbishments has now been completed, moving their scores to the desired higher standard. (See Appendix 1 - Image of a recent playground refurbishment).</p>
3.2	<p>Members should note that this year’s cycle of independent inspections has been undertaken again by Play Services Ireland Ltd. The ‘quality’ score allocated for each playground is based on compliance with European safety standards BS EN 1176 & 1177. The inspection reports also continue to identify and prioritise repairs to existing equipment and these repairs are undertaken by either Facilities Management or our own Playground Inspectors.</p>

(See Appendix 2 – sample copy of the Independent Playground Inspection report 2017) which categorises playgrounds, giving each one a ‘quality score’:

Score 9 – 10 Excellent
Score 8 – 9 Very Good
Score 7 – 8 Good
Score 6 – 7 Fairly Good
Score 5 – 6 Sufficient
Score 4 – 5 Fair
Score 3 – 4 Insufficient
Score 2 – 3 Poor
Score 1 – 2 Very Poor
Score 0 – 1 Extremely Poor

3.3 Following the independent inspection assessments of all 97 playgrounds across the city, it is proposed that the sites listed in Table 1 above are refurbished under this year’s Playground Improvement Programme which has an allocated budget of £580,000 under the Capital Programme.

3.4 The playgrounds recommended for refurbishment are the ones with the lowest overall quality scores (See Appendix 3 – 2017 Mean Quality Score ratings). As a result of the proposed refurbishment works, these playgrounds will move from ‘Fair’ to the higher classifications of ‘Very Good - Excellent’ (quality score 9.0 – 10.0) when reinspected.

3.5 Members are asked to note that Twinbrook/Brook Activity playground will be rebuilt and moved to a new location close to the existing site as part of the Leisure Transformation programme.

3.6 Ardoyne community centre playground whilst list as 6.3 was refurbished after the 2017 Independent inspection visit therefore will score 9/10 in the next inspection report. Avoniel playground will be closed as a new playground has been constructed in Flora Street Walk way, as part of the Connswater Community Greenway project.

3.7 Members are also asked to note that a new playground has recently been constructed at Blacks Road.
Work on a new facility at Poleglass is due to commence in August 2017, which was originally scheduled under the 2016/17 Improvement Programme however works had been

