



Subject:	Playground Improvement Programme 2019 – 2020
Date:	2 nd April 2019
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services Alan McHaffie, Woodland/Recreation Manager

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 2018/19 Playground Improvement Programme and outline plans for playground refurbishments in 2019/20.										
2.0	Recommendations										
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the refurbishment of playground sites below under the Playground Improvement Programme which has an allocation budget of £580,000 Under the Capital Programme for financial year 2019/20. 										
2.2	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Table 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Ormeau Park Lower</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>McClure Street</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Blackmountian</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Geeragh (Finaghy Community centre)</td> </tr> </table>	Table 1		1.	Ormeau Park Lower	2.	McClure Street	3.	Blackmountian	4.	Geeragh (Finaghy Community centre)
Table 1											
1.	Ormeau Park Lower										
2.	McClure Street										
3.	Blackmountian										
4.	Geeragh (Finaghy Community centre)										

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Playground Refurbishment Programme</p> <p>Since its inception in 2012, the Playground Refurbishment Programme continues to make a significant and positive impact to the overall quality and play value of the city's playgrounds; this has greatly improved accessibility, providing more inclusive equipment, safety surfacing, boundary fencing, site furniture and landscaping works.</p>
3.2	<p>With continued investment over the last seven years, the Council is achieving the desired improvements at each of its sites. The Council's newest refurbished playground facilities below which are nearing completion are now more inviting, inclusive and exciting places for children and parents to visit; moving their quality scores to the desired higher standard. (See appendix 1 – image of the recently refurbished playgrounds).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Duncairn – part funded by the Department for Communities 2. Glenbank – part funded by the Department for Communities 3. Barnett's Demesne 4. Fullerton 5. Orangefield – part funded by the Department for Communities
3.3	<p>Members are asked to note that the Hammer Playground was also extensively refurbished in 2018/19. The refurbishment was funded from monies received from the transfer of land from NIHE at Tudor Place. DFC also match funded the refurbishment.</p>
3.4	<p>Members are asked to note that Play Services Ireland Ltd undertook independent playground inspections on behalf of the Council. The 'quality score' allocated for each playground is based on compliance with the BSEN European safety standards - BS EN 1176 & BS EN 1177.</p>
3.5	<p>The independent playground inspection report identifies and prioritises repairs to existing playground equipment. The Council's Facilities Management and Playground Inspectors continue to undertake these repairs. (See Appendix 2 – copy of the 2019 Independent Playground Inspection report for Geeragh playground). Each playground is individually categorised, giving a combined 'quality score'. Geeragh playground for example was allocated an overall quality score of 5.</p>
3.6	<p>Quality scores:</p> <p>Score 9 – 10 Excellent</p> <p>Score 8 – 9 Very Good</p>

	<p>Score 7 – 8 Good</p> <p>Score 6 – 7 Fairly Good</p> <p>Score 5 – 6 Sufficient</p> <p>Score 4 – 5 Fair</p> <p>Score 3 – 4 Insufficient</p> <p>Score 2 – 3 Poor</p> <p>Score 1 – 2 Very Poor</p> <p>Score 0 – 1 Extremely Poor</p>
3.7	<p>Following the independent inspection assessments of all 101 playgrounds across the city, it is proposed the sites listed in Table 1 above are refurbished under this year's Playground Improvement Programme, which has an allocation budget of £580,000 under the Capital Programme.</p>
3.8	<p>The playgrounds recommended for refurbishment are the ones with the lowest quality scores (See appendix 3 – 2019 mean quality score ratings). Because of the proposed refurbishment works, these playgrounds will move from sufficient/fair to the higher classification of 'Excellent' – quality score 9 – 10 when reinspected.</p>
3.9	<p>Members are asked to note that the 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.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The proposed playground refurbishment works will be funded through the Capital Programme and a budget of £580,000 has been allocated to this. Staff from the Landscape, Planning and Development unit will continue to deliver the Playground Improvement Programme. As in previous years, the Community Park Managers and Outreach officers will continue to assist with the distribution of information relating to playground improvements to members of the local communities.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Image of recently refurbished playgrounds

	<p>Appendix 2 – Copy of the 2019 Independent Playground Inspection report for Geeragh playground</p> <p>Appendix 3 – 2019 playground Quality Score ratings</p>
--	--