

To: INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND & ENVIRONMENT POLICY BOARD

On: 25TH AUGUST 2021

Report by: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Heading: Outdoor Access and Play Area Improvements 2021- 2022 Investment Programme

1. Summary

- 1.1 A report was submitted to the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Board on the 26 May 2021 setting out a planned investment of £2.284 million to support improvements in outdoor access and play areas over the next 2 financial years.
- 1.2 In August the Council also received a capital grant award from Scottish Government of £158,000 for 2021/2022. This is Renfrewshire's share of £5million allocated to local authorities for 2021/2022 from a £60million fund being provided to local authorities over the course of the parliament, to support renewal of playparks in Scotland, and will enhance the funding agreed by Council set out in paragraph 1.1 of this report.
- 1.3 The Appendix to this report sets out 2 programmes of work to be taken forward during 2021/2022. The first programme, renewal of play areas, sets out to renew 14 play areas across all electoral wards in Renfrewshire. The second is a refurbishment programme where certain infrastructure will be replaced, thereby enhancing the play area and increasing its longevity. Completion of the programmes within this financial year will be subject to market capacity and materials availability to deliver such a wide range of improvements throughout Renfrewshire and updates on progress will be reported via policy board.
- 1.4 Funding from Cycling, Walking & Safer Streets capital investment will be used to provide additional infrastructure, such as bicycle and scooter stands and ensuring, where appropriate, routes in and around play areas are accessible. In addition, capital funding will be made available to support tree works and vegetation cutback at

play areas where it is required to improve access, prevent damage to equipment and bring in additional light.

2. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board:

- 2.1 Agrees the programme of works for renewal and refurbishment of play areas as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.
 - 2.2 Notes the Capital Grant Allocation of £158,000 for 2021/2022 from Scottish Government for investment in the renewal of play areas in Renfrewshire.
 - 2.3 Notes a second phase of the play area renewal and refurbishment programme for delivery in 2022/2023 will be brought back to the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board in March 2022 for consideration.
-

3. **Background**

- 3.1 Renfrewshire Council owns and maintains 94 play areas. These play areas are typically located in parks or open spaces within communities.
- 3.2 This capital investment will improve outdoor access and play areas across Renfrewshire, encouraging and supporting outdoor play facilities with a focus on enhancing and improving the play experience in council owned recreation areas across Renfrewshire. In addition, the funding will enhance access and infrastructure improvements to support increased recreational walking activity and general enjoyment of greenspace in Renfrewshire.
- 3.3 The investment will be led by the condition of the play park assets, with at least one complete play area renewal in each of Renfrewshire's electoral ward areas, as proposed in appendix 1. Investment will take two forms:
 - (i). Complete renewal of sites that are old and the equipment is reaching the end of its expected lifespan.
 - (ii) Refurbishment of play areas where the equipment is in good condition but investment will prolong the lifespan and improve appeal of the site.Where play areas are included for complete renewal, there will be a small number of play equipment items which remain in good condition and will be retained as part of the renewal programme.
- 3.4 Officers are currently working in partnership with some communities who are seeking to renew a play area included in Phase 1. Where no partnerships currently exist for a phase 1 sites, we shall engage with communities and update on plans for local play areas.

- 3.5 Whilst seeking to use the investment to make Renfrewshire wide improvements to play areas, a range of factors have been used to inform the sites selected in the proposal, such as condition and location. The existence of community groups, with a particular interest in a play area, and representations from communities in general have also been factored in the proposals.
- 3.6 There will be future phases to the play area renewal and investment programme for delivery in 2022/2023. This may also extend beyond 2022/2023 subject to capital funding availability from Scottish Government from the £60 million play area renewal fund.
-

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The investment programmes set in Appendix 1 will be met from funds allocated by Council in March 2021. Note a further £158,000 of Capital grant has been received by Scottish Government to spend on Renewal on Play Parks in 2021/2022. The funding will be allocated based on the asset condition and community requirements.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
3. **Community Planning**

Our Renfrewshire is well - the services encourage use of our parks and open spaces to promote a healthy and active lifestyle. It supports communities to have their voice heard and influence the places and services that affect them.

Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy - Developing strong community-based services that respond to local need. This is closely aligned to the ‘sustainable and connected’ priority of the Renfrewshire Community Plan which seeks to ‘listen and respond to the needs of communities, and partners.’
4. **Legal** – None
5. **Property/Assets** – None
6. **Information Technology** – None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** -
The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals’ human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report

as the proposals recognise individual arrangements that would have to be accommodated due to particular circumstances. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – Works will be instructed using the Scotland Excel Frameworks.
10. **Risk** - A risk register will be developed as part of the implementation.
11. **Privacy Impact** - None
12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None.
- 13 **Climate Risk** – The Council's green space has a key role to play in supporting the delivery of park improvements and the Council's ambitious actions to tackle climate change.

List of Background Papers – None

Author: Gordon McNeil, Director of Environment & Infrastructure

**Outdoor Access and Play Area Improvements 2021- 2022
Investment Programme****1. Complete Renewal of Existing Play Area**

Ward	Play Area	Address	Proposal
1	Campbell Street	Campbell Street, Renfrew	Complete renewal
2	Tinto Square	Lomond Ave, Renfrew	Complete renewal
3	East End Park	Seedhill Road, Paisley	Complete renewal
4	Maxwellton Park	Newton Street, Paisley	Complete renewal
5	Ben Lawers (Hawkhead Park)	Ben Lawers Drive, Paisley	Complete renewal
6	Crags Road	Crags Rd / Rowan St, Paisley	Complete renewal
7	Durrockstock Park	Waverly Road, Paisley	Complete renewal
7	Morar Drive	Morar Dr / Green Rd, Paisley	Complete renewal
8	Elm Dr / Sycamore Ave	Elm Drive, Johnstone	Complete renewal
9	Ellerslie Street	Ellerslie Street, Johnstone	Complete renewal
9	Lochwinnoch Park	Lochlip Road, Lochwinnoch	Complete renewal
10	Ardgryffe Park	Ardgryffe Crescent, Houston	Complete renewal
11	Churchill Drive	Churchill Dr, Bishopton	Complete renewal
12	Park Mains	Park Mains, Erskine	Complete renewal

Outdoor Access and Play Area Improvements 2021- 2022 Investment Programme

2. Refurbishment of Existing Play Area

Ward	Play Area	Address	Proposal
1	Robertson Park	Inchinnan Road, Renfrew	Refurbishment of original playcrete castle area constructed in 1996.
3	Barshaw Park	Glasgow Road, Paisley	Refurbishment of Laura's Playpark.
8	Dunvegan Avenue	Dunvegan Avenue, Elderslie	Refurbishment of existing play area.
9	Howwood Toddler / Junior	Midton Road, Howwood	Refurbishment of existing community funded play area.
10	Houston Public Park	Houston Road, Houston	Refurbishment of existing play area.
11	Moss Road Park	Moss Road, Bridge of Weir	Refurbishment – Mainly safer surfaces.
12	Inchinnan Playing Fields	Old Greenock Road, Inchinnan	Refurbishment of existing community funded play area.