



To: Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board

On: 30 August 2023

Report by: Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure

Heading: Outdoor Access and Play Area Improvements 2023- 2026

1. Summary

- 1.1 Reports were submitted to the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Board on 26 May 2021 and 25 August 2021, setting out the planned investment programme to the improvements play areas. In addition, investment in a further 6 planned playparks was agreed at the Board of 24 May 2023 with a further 4 play parks being renewed as part of the #YouDecide project.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to update on progress of the planned investments, as agreed at previous boards and to seek approval for the proposed programme of renewal/refurbishment of playparks from 2024/25 until 2025/26.
- 1.3 Since 2021 the Council has invested £2,728,000 in the renewal and refurbishment of its play parks with 25 play parks being completed so far, and a further investment of £995,000 planned for 2023/24. A further 10 play parks will be refurbished/renewed in 2023/24.
- 1.4 The Council has allocated £350,000 capital towards the investment in playparks in 2023/24 with a further £307,000 being granted from the Scottish Governments capital allocation for renewal of play parks.
- 1.5 The Scottish Government has committed further sums of capital allocation for renewal of play parks of £461,000 for 2024/25 and £768,000 for 2025/26.
- 1.6 The Nature Restoration Fund for 2023/24 will supplement the open space strategy works with £100,000 being allocated to remove redundant play equipment in

unsuitable areas in order to enhance the sites for biodiversity with habitat and species restoration.

- 1.7 If any future investments are allocated, then the proposed programme of replacement will be accelerated.
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2. Recommendations

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

- 2.1 Agree the planned programme of works for renewal and refurbishment of play areas and the priorities for investment from 2024/25 and beyond, as detailed in appendix 1 of this report. This will be subject to the current capital allocation of grant continuing from the Scottish Government for 2024-26.
 - 2.2 Agree that officers will have delegated powers to escalate the programme based on need and condition of the remaining play parks and to change the order of replacement based on any unexpected significant failures identified through regular health and safety inspections.
 - 2.3 Agree the play areas which are not suitable for refurbishment, identified in appendix 2 will be removed and the land reinstated for biodiversity and habitat restoration.
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3. Park Investment

- 3.1 The Council agreed in March 2021, as part of its budget, to invest £1.5 million to support improvements in outdoor access and play areas. A sum of £1.142 million has been committed directly on play park investments and this was supplemented by Scottish Government grants of £158,000 in 2021/22 and £155,000 in 2022/23.
- 3.2 The previous report set out programmes of work for 2021/22 and 2022/23. The investment has resulted in 13 play areas completely renewed, 1 refurbished and a further 3 currently in Procurement.
- 3.3 The priorities for investment in 2023/24 have been outlined in appendix 1.
- 3.4 A number of existing old play areas are not suitable for renewal, either as a result of poor conditions of the surrounding land, being sited in remote locations or having restricted access that can't easily be improved. It is proposed that these old play areas are restored with £100k of Nature Restoration Funds from the 2023/24 Scottish Government grant allocation. This will allow the removal of any remaining out of date/end of life play equipment and surfaces and enhance the sites for biodiversity with habitat and species restoration.

Implications of this report

1. **Financial** – Capital funding has been provided by the Council for 2023/24 and the Scottish Government have committed further capital grants for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 for play park renewal. Additional Scottish Government capital has been committed for Nature Restoration for 2023/24.
2. **HR and Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community/Council Planning** –

Our Renfrewshire is well - the service encourages 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** – There will be a significant improvement in Council owned play park assets.
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 and Safety** – None.
9. **Procurement** – Works will be instructed using the Scotland Excel Frameworks or through a standard Renfrewshire Council tender process.
10. **Risk** – The programme of works is based on the assumption that the Scottish Government will continue to the pay capital allocation for renewal of play parks from 2023-26 as detailed in the confirmation letter of 31 August 2022.
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

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Play Park Renewal & Improvement 2021 – 2026

Completed Renewal of Play Area Progress from 2021

Ward	Play Area
1	Campbell Street, Renfrew
2	Tinto Square, Renfrew
3	East End Park, Paisley
4	Glencoats Park, Paisley
4	Maxwellton Park, Paisley
5	Ben Lawers (Hawkhead Park), Paisley
6	Crags Road, Paisley
6	Neighbourhood Park (Skye Crescent), Paisley
7	Durrockstock Park, Paisley
7	Green Road (Morar Drive), Paisley
8	Dunvegan Avenue, Elderslie
8	Elm Drive / Sycamore Avenue, Johnstone
8	Queens Road, Elderslie
8	Spateston, Johnstone
9	Ellerslie Street, Johnstone
9	Howwood Park, Howwood
9	Kilbarchan Park, Kilbarchan
9	Lochwinnoch Park, Lochwinnoch
9	Sandyflats, Johnstone
10	Ardgryffe, Houston
10	South Mound (Helicopter Park), Houston
11	Churchill Drive, Bishopton
11	Moss Road Park, B.O.W.
12	Barwood Park, Erskine
12	Bargarran, Erskine
12	Park Mains, Parkhill, Erskine

2023/24 Programme

Ward	Play Area	Proposal
1	Anne Avenue (Charles Avenue), Renfrew	Renewal
1	Urquhart Crescent, Renfrew	Part Renewal / Refurbishment
1	Millburn Way (Glebe Street), Renfrew	Renewal (#YouDecide)
2	Victory Gardens, Renfrew	Renewal
2	Netherhill Road, Paisley	Renewal
4	South Candren Village Green, Paisley	Renewal (#YouDecide)
5	Jenny's Well, Paisley	Renewal (#YouDecide)
8	Benston Place (Tannahill Crescent), Johnstone	Renewal

Play Park Renewal & Improvement 2021 – 2026

9	Miller Street, Johnstone	Renewal
9	Howwood Toddler / Junior, Howwood	2023/24 programme
10	Houston Public Park, Houston	2023/24 programme
11	Station Road, Langbank	Renewal (#YouDecide)
12	Inchinnan Playing Fields, Inchinnan	2023/24 programme

2024/25 Programme

Ward	Play Area	Proposal
3	Barshaw Park, Laura's Playpark, Paisley	Renewal
6	Braids Road, Paisley	Part Renewal / Part Refurbishment
8	Elm Drive / Maple Drive, Johnstone	Renewal
8	Poplar Avenue, Johnstone	Renewal

2025/26 Programme

Ward	Play Area	Proposal
1	Robertson Park Original, Renfrew (Castle)	Renewal
1	KGV Playing Field, Renfrew	Renewal
3	Barshaw BMX Track, Paisley	Upgrade (Convert to pump track)
3	McKerrell Street, Paisley	Renewal / New Location
4	Ferguslie Gardens Bottom Play Area, Paisley	Part Refurbishment
7	Green Road (Morar Drive) – Toddler, Paisley	Renewal
7	Braehead Rd, Paisley	New Play Area
8	Elderslie West (Old Road), Elderslie	Renewal
10	Campbell Street, Johnstone	Renewal
10	East Fulton, Linwood	New Play Area
11	Lyle Crescent, Bishopton	Renewal
11	Stuart Road, Bishopton	Renewal
12	Millfield Meadows, Erskine	Renewal

List of Play Parks Proposed for Complete Removal & Land Restoration

2023/24 Proposals to be Funded From the Nature Restoration Fund

Ward	Play Area	Address	Proposed Action	Potential Future Use
1	Castlehill	Orchard Street, Renfrew	Complete removal	Biodiversity. Feature trees and wildflowers
5	Saucelhill Park	Saucelhill Terrace, Paisley	Complete removal	Biodiversity. Wildflower areas with feature trees.
6	Burnfoot Crescent	Burnfoot Crescent, Paisley	Complete removal	Nature restoration
10	Berl Avenue	Berl Avenue, Houston	Complete removal	Nature restoration
10	Erskinefauld Rd B	Erskinefauld Road, Linwood	Complete removal	Biodiversity landscaped area with seats.
11	Anderson Road	Anderson Road, Bishopton	Complete removal	Nature restoration
12	Balmedie	Barhill Road / Rashieglan, Erskine	Complete removal	Nature restoration
12	Park Winding	Park Winding, Erskine	Complete removal	Biodiversity. Tree planting but not close to houses.

Future Proposals to be Considered for Funding

Ward	Play Area	Address	Proposed Action	Potential Future Use
1	Fulbar Avenue	Fulbar Avenue, Renfrew	Complete removal	Low maintenance Landscaping
1	Robertson Park – Craigielea Rd	Craigielea Road, Renfrew	Complete removal	Nature restoration
7	Waverly Road	Waverly Road / Amochrie Road, Paisley	Remove play equipment now and re-purpose area as outdoor gym in future.	Outdoor Gym or other teen facility
10	Cowal Drive	Cowal Drive, Linwood	Complete removal	Development proposal which will lead to removal.
11	Camphill Gardens	Camphill Gardens, Bishopton NB. Play area in private ownership. Maintained historically but may need to remove if residents unwilling to adopt.	Hand over to residents or complete removal.	Nature restoration of site depending on outcome of consult with residents.