
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	31 October 2019
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No:	ENV045/19/KL
Contact Officer:	Kenny Lang	Contact No:	01475 715906
Subject:	Play Area Strategy - Investment Funding Update		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the Play Area Strategy.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 Inverclyde Council approved the allocation of £250k in the budget for "Play Area Strategy" as part of the Investment Proposals in March 2019. It was remitted to officers to bring back a report to this committee outlining proposals.

2.2 Officers have identified 3 projects detailed within this report, phased over 2 years.

These are:

- Rainbow Centre/Park Farm – Improvements to MUGA fencing and surface.
- Extended provision of accessible play equipment.
- Joint development with RCH of a play area within the Broomhill area.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the Committee agree to the distribution of the allocated budget of £250,000 as follows:

Rainbow Centre MUGA £90k

Expansion of accessible play equipment £120k, split over two financial years.

3.2 That it be remitted to officers to discuss with RCH the siting of a new play in the Broomhill area on a joint funded basis and that £40k be set aside for this purpose.

Martin McNab
Head of Environmental & Public Protection

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council's Play Area Strategy was developed in 2010/11 and aimed to provide play areas throughout Inverclyde.
- 4.2 Since the introduction of the Strategy, all the Council's play areas have been refurbished, developed or removed due to non-use. Members should note that any new housing developments either have a play area within their existing development or alternatively provide funding to the Council to support locality based play areas.
- 4.3 The Council currently has 53 play areas within reasonable proximity to households. Additionally there are "destination" play areas situated within larger parks at Kilmacolm, Port Glasgow, Greenock and Gourock.
- 4.4 Inverclyde Council's 2019/20 Budget allocated a sum of £250k towards the Play Areas Strategy subject to a more detailed report to this Committee. This report outlines 3 projects identified by officers over the next two financial years subject to Committee approval.

5.0 IDENTIFIED PROJECTS

5.1 Rainbow MUGA Port Glasgow

The MUGA next to the Rainbow nursery currently consists of a hard tarmac surface surrounded by low fencing on the long sides and high fencing with goals and basketball hoops at the short sides. This MUGA requires work to repair the fencing and surface.

Officers have identified works as follows:

- renewal of fencing and gates
- renewal of existing goals and hoops
- concrete heel kerb to perimeter
- associated surfacing repairs and MUGA lining and finishes

Property Services have provided costings for the required works to the value of £90k. It is anticipated that the works would be completed in 2019/20.

5.2 Provision of accessible play equipment

A limited number of play areas within Inverclyde have inclusive play equipment accessible to all children. The provision of such equipment supports families and the Play Strategy for Scotland as outlined in the recent "Inclusive Parks Scotland (2019)" report. The equipment allows children with disabilities to access play areas as well as providing opportunities for disabled and non-disabled children to play together.

Currently Inverclyde has provision for accessible play at the Battery Park, Inverkip Hub, Gourock Walled Garden and Birkmyre Park Kilmacolm. Accessible equipment is also planned for Boglestone and will be in situ by the end of this financial year. This equipment is largely made up of swings with harnesses. A fully inclusive play park has a more diverse range of equipment.

It is proposed to further extend the number of parks with accessible play equipment and also provide a more diverse range of equipment in those parks detailed above. Where equipment is required to be replaced, consideration will be given to replacing equipment with accessible /inclusive play equipment. Works will also be undertaken to improve access for wheelchairs where practicable.

Members should note that there is a higher cost for this equipment, due to the manufacture and also the relative demand. It is anticipated that £120k of the £250k allocation would be spent on provision of accessible play equipment and improving access to play areas. This project would be phased over two years with an equal budget allocation in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

5.3 River Clyde Homes - Broomhill

Discussions have taken place with senior staff at RCH with a view to installing a play area in the Broomhill area. At present a site has to be identified and officers will be meeting RCH staff to identify suitable locations and thereafter consult with residents and Elected Members on these sites. It is anticipated that this project would be jointly funded and as such an allocation of £40k would be set aside into 2020/21.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

Financial Implications - One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend £000	Virement From	Other Comments
Play Areas Strategy EMR	Play Areas	2019/20	90		Park Farm MUGA
Play Areas Strategy EMR	Play Areas	2019/20	60		Accessible Play Equipment
Play Areas Strategy EMR	Play Areas	2020/21	60		Accessible Play Equipment
Play Areas Strategy EMR	Play Areas	2020/21	40		Broomhill Play Area

Financial Implications - Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

6.2 Human Resources

None

6.3 Legal

None

6.4 Equalities

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

6.5 Repopulation

The provision of high quality facilities should increase Inverclyde's attractiveness as a place to live.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 None

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Equality Impact Assessment.