



Subject:	Notice of Motion: Belfast City Council Inclusive Play Parks
Date:	7th June, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

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	As agreed that the May People and Communities Committee, representatives from both PlayBoard NI and the Mae Murray Foundation are in attendance in connection with the motion in relation to Belfast City Council Inclusive Play Parks, which was referred to the Committee by the Standards and Business Committee at its meeting on 24th May.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to consider the motion and, if the proposal is agreed, to agree that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	At the meeting of the Standards and Business Committee held on 24th May, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor McMullan and seconded by Councillor McKeown, was referred to the Committee for consideration:

3.2	<p>“This council believes every child has the right to play but recognises not every child in Belfast has realised this right.</p> <p>It notes the findings and recommendations of the ‘Let Me Play: Inclusive play park study 2022’ report undertaken by Play Board NI and the Mae Murray Foundation and the recent statement (and Appendix) from UK Play Safety Forum and Children’s Play Policy Forum – which has endorsed the ‘Let Me Play’ report and published definitions for ‘accessible’ and ‘inclusive’.</p> <p>The report found compelling evidence that children and families are facing exclusion from play park environments in Northern Ireland from experience across the following areas: Wider infrastructure surrounding play parks; Play Park site facilities; Access; Participation; Communication; and Attitudes.</p> <p>The UK Play Safety Forum and Children’s Play Policy Forum statement defines accessible and inclusive play spaces as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Accessible Play Space is a space which is barrier-free, allows users access to move around the space and offers participation opportunities for a range of differing abilities. Not every child of every ability will be able to actively use everything within an accessible play space. • An Inclusive Play Space provides a barrier-free environment, with supporting infrastructure, which meets the wide and varying play needs of every child. Disabled children and non-disabled children will enjoy high levels of participation opportunities, equally rich in play value. <p>This council will adopt the full findings from both the ‘Let Me Play’ report and the UK Play Safety Forum and Children’s Play Policy Forum statement into its park and play park planning processes.</p> <p>In doing so it will also conduct a review of our full estate and make strategic decisions on where to plan to specifically build or upgrade to ‘inclusive’ status to deliver accessible and inclusive play parks within reasonable distances in each quarter (North/South/East/West) for all children to play together.</p> <p>As the delivery of ‘accessible and inclusive’ play parks will also require linkage with surrounding infrastructure and public transport services, we will also work with the Department for Infrastructure, Translink and other stakeholders.”</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.3	None.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.4	This Notice of Motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None.

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