



Subject:	Playground Improvement Programme 2026 – 2027
Date:	9th May 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Operational Director of Neighbourhood Services

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 ongoing 2025-2026 Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) and seek approval for playground refurbishments under the 2026-2027 programme.
1.2	Members are asked to note that refurbishments are to be funded under the Capital Programme and that an allocation of £580,000 has been agreed for this work in this financial year.
1.3	Members should also note that scores from the independent Play Value and Accessibility Audit, carried out in 2024, have again informed this year's site selection.
2.0	Recommendations

2.1	<p>The Committee are asked to agree refurbishment works at the playgrounds below as part of the Playground Improvement Programme 2026-2027.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Eagles Playground • Lemberg Street Playground • Willowbank Playground • Browns Square Playground
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Playground Improvement Programme</u></p> <p>Since its inception in 2012, the Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) continues to make a positive impact to the overall quality and play value of the city's playgrounds, providing new equipment, safety surfacing, boundary fencing, site furniture and landscaping works. Under last year's programme the following playgrounds refurbishments are either complete or currently underway (see Appendix 1 - Playground Refurbishments Under PIP 2025-26 Images).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Rise (complete) • Ohio Street (complete) • Finvoy Street (complete) • Roddens Crescent (underway) <p>3.2 Members will be aware that, as agreed at P&C Committee in December 2023, the Play Value and Accessibility Audit informed site selection for 2025-2026 and will inform selection for all subsequent improvement programmes. Total scores allocated for each playground relate to the types of play opportunities available and their accessibility for a range of age groups and abilities (See Appendix 2 Play Value & Accessibility Results Table).</p> <p>3.3 Members should note, we suggest Carema Allen Memorial playground, ranked 10th on the Play Value and Accessibility Results Table, is not selected for refurbishment under PIP 2026-27, as this facility may be relocated and redeveloped as part of a larger capital project (Stage 1 - Emerging Project status) in close proximity to the Braniel Community Centre.</p> <p>3.4 In light of the emerging capital project at Braniel Community Centre, and based on estimated costs to deliver improvements within the available budget of £580k, the next lowest scoring playgrounds for refurbishment this financial year would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Eagles playground • Lemberg Street playground • Willowbank playground • Browns Square playground <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.5 All proposed playground improvement works will be funded through the Capital Programme within an allocated budget of £580,000. CNS Landscape Planning & Development officers will continue to re-design play facilities and project manage all works associated with the delivery of PIP 2026-27</p> <p>3.6 As with previous years, CNS Operational and Outreach Managers will continue to assist with the distribution of information relating to playground improvements to elected members, local communities, and user groups.</p>

3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Playground Refurbishments Under PIP 2025-26 Images Appendix 2 – Play Value & Accessibility Results Table