



Subject:	Playground Improvement Programme 2020 – 2021
Date:	12 th May 2020
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Ryan Black, 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 successful 2019/20 Playground Improvement Programme and to agree sites for refurbishments in 2020/21. Members are asked to note that works are funded under the Capital Programme and that an allocation of £580,000 has been agreed this financial year.
1.2	Members should note that, due to COVID 19, work under last year's programme at Blackmountain playground shut down mid-March 2020 at 80% complete. When feasible works will be completed this financial year, an estimated final account of circa £50k will be included as part of this year's £580k capital budget.

1.3	Members should also note that;
1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new build at the Vere Foster site is to be included as a replacement for the old Moyard playground, closed in recent years; the Moyard site has since been developed for social housing
1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members should note that, in parallel to this year's programme, council has agreed to deliver £145k of playground improvement works at Grosvenor Recreation Centre. This work is being fully funded by the Department for Communities (DfC) and will be undertaken by our measured term contractor (MTC) within this financial year. This scheme will not impact on the capital budget, however MTC and CNS Landscape Team resources will be required to complete the works in addition to this year's Programme
1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans for the Lisnasharragh (Clonduff) playground refurbishment will be funded under the current Leisure Transformation Programme. The planned refurbishment will further enhance and compliment the recently completed leisure centre and external pitches
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to;</p> <p>Agree that the sites below are included as part of the annual Playground Improvement Programme for 2020- 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ohio Street playground • Falls Park • Blackmountain (completion of works due to Covid 19) • Vere Foster playground
3.0	Main report
	Playground Refurbishment Programme
3.1	<p>Since its inception in 2012, the Playground Refurbishment Programme continues to make a positive impact on the overall quality and play value of the city's playgrounds; this has greatly improved accessibility, provided more equipment that is inclusive, safety surfacing, boundary fencing, site furniture and landscaping works.</p>
3.2	<p>With continued investment over the last eight years, the Council is achieving the desired improvements at each of its sites. Last year's Playground Improvement Programme</p>

delivered new facilities at the sites listed below. These playgrounds are now more inviting, inclusive and exciting places for children and parents to visit (see Appendix 1).

1. Ormeau Park lower
2. Geeragh (Finaghy Community Centre)
3. McClure Street
4. Blackmountain (80% complete due to Covid 19 shutdown)

3.3 Members should note that Play Services Ireland Ltd undertook independent inspections on behalf of the Council. The 'quality score' allocated for each playground is based on compliance with the BSEN European safety standards - BS EN 1176 & BS EN 1177.

3.4 Independent playground inspection reports also highlight the age range for each piece of playground equipment and identifies and prioritises repairs. The Council's Facilities Management and Playground Inspectors continue to undertake these repairs in the order they have been prioritised. (See Appendix 2 – copy of the 2020 Independent Playground Inspection report for the Ohio Street playground).

3.5 Each playground is individually categorised, giving a combined 'quality score'. Ohio Street playground was allocated a score of 4.8 and Falls Park playground was allocated 5.5 putting both just above the classification of Insufficient/Fair.

3.6 Following independent inspections at 101 playgrounds across the city, it is proposed that Ohio Street and Falls Park playground be included as part of this year's Playground Improvement Programme in addition to the sites listed above.

3.7 Members are asked to note that Marrowbone playground will be refurbished as part of the Urban Villages Initiative proposals for the park.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.8 Works will be funded through the Capital Programme, a budget of £580k has been allocated to this year's improvement programme.

3.9 CNS Senior Landscape, Planning and Development officers will continue to re-design play facilities and project manage all works associated with the 2020-2021 Playground

<p>3.10</p> <p>3.11</p>	<p>Improvement Programme. As in previous years, CNS OSS Managers will continue to assist with sharing information relating to playground improvements to elected members, local communities and user groups.</p> <p>Members should note that McClure Street and Blackmountain playgrounds appear in the table of the 'Quality Score Rating' Appendix 3, however McClure Street playground was completely refurbished in March 2020, Blackmountain playground's refurbishment was 80% complete when put into COVID 19 shutdown.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Images of recently refurbished playgrounds</p> <p>Appendix 2 – 2020 Independent Playground Inspection report for Ohio Street and Falls Park playground</p> <p>Appendix 3 – 2020 Playground Quality Score ratings</p>