



Title of Report:	Larchfield Play Park Replacement of Equipment
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	15th December 2020
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, healthy & engaged communities
Outcome	Citizens will have access to Council recreational facilities and protected natural environments which help them to develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health.
Lead Officer	Head of Sport & Wellbeing

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£40,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of the paper is to request Members approval for the repair and renewal of Larchfield Play Park.

2.0 Background - Play Strategy

The Play Investment Strategy establishes a strategic and operational framework within which decision making will be made as it relates to the provision and maintenance of fixed play areas and the future development of non-fixed approaches to meeting play need.

Central to the strategy is a recognition that play is one of the most, if not the most important activity that children and young people engage in as they grow and develop. The desire to play is a natural, fundamental part of children lives. By supporting active engagement in play through the childhood years this strategy seeks to support children's development in a number of key ways by:

- Providing fun and enjoyable means of developing physical and mental health and wellbeing;
- Supporting the development of social connections and friendships through social play opportunities;
- Supporting intellectual growth and the development of practical skills through the provision of creative and more challenging play opportunities;
- Supporting children to develop their personal resilience through play; and
- Establishing a connection between children at play and the community in which they live.

In order to support the development of the strategy, Council commissioned PlayBoard NI to undertake a number of key pieces of work including:

1. The completion of a play value audit of all fixed play areas maintained by the Council to identify those offering limited play value and those requiring remedial action;
2. Completion of an evaluation of demographic and settlement patterns to identify potential gap areas that may require the development of fixed play provision; and
3. An assessment of underlying demographic demand for fixed play to identify potentially redundant fixed play areas.

Since the time of the Play Audit in 2018, Larchfield Play Park has been closed to the local community due to its poor condition and health and safety concerns. The Play Strategy makes a specific recommendation in relation to Larchfield Play Park as follows:

Recommendation 3.1: Enhance low value fixed play areas at Larchfield at a cost of c. £125k subject to review of developments within the wider Kilrea area.

3.0 Current Situation – Local Engagement

Kilrea is classified as an Intermediate Settlement by the NI Statistics and Research Agency. On Census day (2011) there were 2,724 people living in Kilrea. Of these:

- 23.27% were aged under 16 years and 14.5% were aged 60 and over;
- 50.77% of the population were male and 49.23% were female;
- 67.11% were from a Catholic background and 29.77% were from a Protestant background; and
- 6.46% of people aged 16–74 were unemployed.

Council staff recently undertook local community engagement with regard to the future of the Larchfield Play Park. The pressing need emerging from these discussions was that the play

park should be opened as soon as possible to service the needs of young children and parents in the local area.

The community are content to proceed with a repair and renewal of play equipment rather than a full enhancement of the fixed play park providing that health and safety concerns are addressed and the site is future proofed for further development.

Consequently, Council staff have developed a proposal for replacement of equipment, fencing, seating and activity panels suitable for use by younger children in the area.

4.0 Proposal for Repair and Renewal

An illustration of the proposed repair and renewal of Larchfield Play Park is provided in the outline schematic and equipment selection below:



The indicative costings for new equipment, furnishings and wet pour have been estimated by Estates – Play Park Inspector as follows:

Item	Description	Amount
1.0	Supply and install 1 no see saw to existing concrete base	£2,800
2.0	Supply and install 1 no 2 bay 4 seat - 2 junior (cradle) – 2 senior (flat) swing sets c/w swings and chains to existing concrete base	£4,000
3.0	Supply and install 1 no single width embankment slide to suit existing ground conditions.	£4,400
4.0	Supply and install 1 no junior multi play unit to existing concrete base.	£5,100
5.0	Supply and install 1 no sit in springer to existing concrete base.	£1,200
6.	Supply and install 1 no dome climbing frame – 4 station to existing concrete base.	£3,600

7.	Supply and install 1 no 2.4m steel summer seat/bench to existing concrete base.	£800
8.	Supply and install 1 no vandal proof waste bin c/w bird protection to existing concrete base	£500
9.	Supply and install 21m of wooden fencing 0.8 m high using treated timber and posts.	£800
10.	Supply and install replacement wooden steps -9 step -1.2m wide –220mm going -140mm rise. Exact measurements to be confirmed on site.	£900
11.	Supply and install approx. 204m of coloured wet pour and absorption safety surfacing, average depth as per attached schedule.	£15,300
12.	Supply and install interactive play panel – post mounted	£1,250
	Total Cost	£40,650

6.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Members approve the proposal above for the repair and renewal of Larchfield Play Park, Kilrea at a total cost of £40k.

Subject to a final Council decision, the proposal can be progressed to procurement and completed within 6 months.