



Title of Report:	Play Strategy 2020-25: Mid-Term Review Report
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 January 2024
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Corporate Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Citizens will have access to a range of leisure, recreational, green and play environments which support better physical and mental health and wellbeing
Lead Officer	Head of Sport & Wellbeing

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES/NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: 2019/20
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: 2019/20
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date: 2019/20
	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 this paper is to update Members on a Mid-Term Review of the Play Strategy 2020-25 and request approval for the recommendations to be actioned over the remaining term of the strategy.

2.0 Background & Approvals to Date

In March 2019, Members received a report on the draft Play Strategy. This report was deferred for approval subject to a Members Workshop. This approach provided the opportunity for consultation with each DEA councillor grouping, allowing for Members' input and agreement of the proposals relevant to specific geographical areas of responsibility.

In October 2020, the strategy was updated following Section 75 consultation, Rural Needs Impact Assessment and Members feedback and approved by Council. The strategy was subsequently published on Council's website and has been a key reference document in the development of multiple business cases for new projects delivered in recent years. An overview of the original Play Strategy is provided below for ease of reference.

3.0 Play Strategy 2020-25

Council commissioned independent play sector specialists, PlayBoard NI to develop an overarching Play Investment Strategy for the Borough. The key recommendations of the Strategy are summarised within the costed Action Plan within the Executive Summary.

It is important to note that while the Action Plan acts as a tool to prioritise projects for future investment in fixed play, it does not constitute budget approval. All proposed investments in play will be the subject of proportionate business cases and investment decision making in compliance with Council's capital project procedures and delegated approvals.

The Action Plan recommended investment of £4.129m* across 7 areas over 5 years:

Ref	Action	Cost
1.3	Review of Megaw park play area and ancillary facilities to ensure full accessibility	£150,000
2.1	Develop new high value fixed play areas at 6 locations: 1. Limavady Town (Accessible Destination Play Area – NEAP) 2. Waterfoot (LEAP Play Area) 3. Portrush (Destination Play Area) 4. Portrush (Play installations to stimulate play along key walkways including East and West Strands, Ramore Head etc.) 5. Waterside, Coleraine (NEAP Play Area) 6. Ballykelly (NEAP Play Area)	£1,225,000
2.2	Extend and enhance existing fixed play areas at 3 locations: 1. Bio Park, Cloughmills (LEAP) 2. Quay Road, Ballycastle (Accessible Destination play area) 3. Rugby Avenue, Coleraine (Destination play area)	£850,000
2.3	Estimated costs associated with new play development at 4 locations (pending community consultation): 1. Ballymoney South 2. Castleroe 3. Bushmills 4. The Cuts 1 (Coleraine)	£500,000
3.1	Capital renewal of 12 play areas: 1. Landsdowne Road 2. Lisnagrot 3. Alexander Road/Blackburn Path 4. Middle Park 5. Cottage Wood 1 and 2 6. Garvagh Road 7. Swanns Bridge 8. Dhu Varren 9. Daneshill	£1,175,000

	10. The Warren 11. Anderson Park 12. Larchfield	
4.1	Transformation of play areas at 5 locations (dependent on community consultation): 1. Shanes Park 2. Islandmoore (Ballylagan Road) 3. Ballyknock 4. Glenullin 5. Ballanagarvey	£70,000
7.1	Development of non-fixed play services	£159,000
	TOTAL ASSOCIATED INVESTMENT	£4,129,000

**Note: The indicative project costs included above are now dated and do not reflect construction hyperinflation during 2021/22.*

In addition, PlayBoard NI undertook a condition audit of all 99 fixed play areas. As a key commitment of the Play Strategy this has resulted in individual reports which in many cases recommend maintenance and repair in addition to the projects listed above in the Action Plan. These repair and renewal recommendations were costed by Council's Estates Team with an anticipated budget of £0.5m per year to protect and reinstate the initial play value of these sites.

4.0 Mid-Term Update

Council commissioned Playboard NI to carry out a mid-term review on the Play Strategy. The high level brief for this update was to:

- Conduct a review of strategic recommendations and progress made with the delivery of new capital projects despite affordability constraints and the Covid pandemic;
- Carry out site visits and play audits on any new facilities developed to determine the overall quality and accessibility of provision and 'play values' for new play parks;
- Update strategic context for new strategies/legislation impacting on the strategy;
- Demographic review of population coverage using up-to-date population statistics (2021 census data) to assess and determine current level of need and demand;
- Identify emerging recommendations for consideration e.g. the ongoing need for repair/renewal of play parks.

As part of this review, Officers provided the opportunity for workshops with each of the political party leads to ensure the needs of local DEA Members were taken into account.

In considering the feedback provided within this section it is important to recognise the delaying impact of Covid-19 and to acknowledge that Council are still only at the halfway point in delivering the overarching play strategy.

The Mid-Term update report was concluded in December 2023 and the full report is included as an Annex to this report. The key review points are summarised below:

- **Limavady Accessible Play Park (completed):** Play Value score of 655 (out of 800) and graded at the highest level of play value. Limavady accessible play park offers an attractive, high-quality location for play incorporating a broad range of fixed play opportunities aimed at children of all abilities.
- **Ballycastle Accessible Play Park (planned):** Council have recently released plans for the redevelopment of the site to incorporate, alongside a number of key leisure facilities an accessible play park. The concept behind the play park provide a destination level play park that offers a wide range of play experiences for children of all ages and abilities. Specific play equipment will be incorporated for children with

reduced mobility and the play park will also include multi-sensory play experiences, tactile surfacing, landscaping and interactive panels.

- **Megaw Accessible Play Park (completed):** Play Value score of 640 (out of 800) and graded at the highest level of play value. During the period under review, a number of developments and enhancements have been undertaken including the introduction of an accessible trampoline, inclusive seesaw and inclusive swing seat alongside quiet play opportunities. Acknowledging the requirement for appropriate accessible toilet and changing facilities at District level inclusive play parks, a review is currently being undertaken focused on the potential installation of a Changing Places facility.
- **Flowerfield Accessible Play Park (completed):** The inclusive play park located at Flowerfield (Portstewart) was opened in 2016 providing a flagship inclusive play facility. As part of the review, a play value assessment was undertaken for Flowerfield to provide an up-to-date assessment of the level of play value currently being delivered by the play park alongside recommendations. Play Value score of 640 (out of 800) and graded at the highest level of play value albeit reduced slightly from 675.
- **Portrush Destination Play Park (completed):** As part of the play investment strategy, a new District level destination adventure play park has been developed at Ramore Head in Portrush. Play Value score of 655 (out of 800) and graded at the highest level of play value. The recently developed play park at Ramore head in Portrush provides an attractive, high value location for play for residents and visitors to the area.
- **Coleraine Waterside (no progress):** Given the high level of demand for play, the strategy recommended that Council should progress towards the development of a new fixed play park to service the area. During the intervening period, Council have undertaken a review of land availability however have been unable to progress development. Given the area remains in high need, Council should continue to explore land options.
- **Waterfoot (no progress):** Based on pre-RPA authorisation, the play investment strategy recommended that Council should explore options for the provision of a fixed play park within the main settlement of Waterfoot. To date Council has not progressed the development of an additional fixed play park within Waterfoot and should look to progress in the next phase of delivery.
- **Enhancement of Existing Play Parks:** The identified play parks were: Ballykelly, The Bio Park, Cloughmills, Quay Road (Ballycastle) to accessible destination standard and Rugby Avenue, Coleraine to destination standard. To date none of the identified play parks have been subject to extension or enhancement as outlined within the strategy.
- **Land Exploration for New Play Development:** The locations identified were: Ballymoney South, Castleroe, Bushmills and The Cutts (Coleraine). To date no potential development sites have been identified at any of the first four locations, however land exploration continues with a view to progressing the recommendations.
- **Capital Renewal Programme:** The strategy identified 12 play parks which, due to their low level of play value, required upgrade and renewal in order to enhance the standard of play on offer. As part of the review process, a further play value assessment has been undertaken for each of the identified alongside further recommendations. The Mid Term Review report highlights the significant deterioration in play values at the locations alongside actions taken since the formalisation of the play investment strategy.
- **Transformation Programme:** The investment strategy identified 5 locations which, based on a low level of demand for play, were recommended for site transformation. The five sites identified for transformation and their relative play values are: Shanes

Park (Play Value = 255), Islandmoore (Play Value = 270), Ballyknock (Play Value = 290), Glenuillin (Play Value = 335), Ballanagarvey (Play Value = 365). During the intervening period none of the identified sites have been subject to transformation action.

- **Development of Non-Fixed Play Approaches:** The Play Strategy acknowledged that whilst fixed play parks have a key role to play in meeting play need, it is not always economically viable to develop new fixed play parks within areas of low population density. In reviewing progress, Council have undertaken some steps towards the enhancement of non-fixed play approaches, albeit progress has been limited in part due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With regards to establishing a dedicated role to drive implementation of the play investment strategy, Council have allocated responsibility for play matters to the Sport and Wellbeing Development Unit Manager.

5.0 Key Conclusions

It is important to note that the Play Strategy does not commit Council to investment, instead the research/analysis supports the development of project Business Cases that may attract Council funding or new external funding opportunities e.g. UK Government Levelling Up Fund/Community Ownership Fund, Peace Plus/Small Settlement Fund etc.

As noted above by Playboard NI, the Covid pandemic has inhibited progress up to the mid-point of the strategy period. In addition, the Council's more restricted financial position during the early years of the strategy also slowed down progress with play projects that could not secure substantial external funding from other sources.

As highlighted above the indicative project costs included above are now dated and do not reflect construction hyperinflation during 2021/22. The indicative investment required of £4.129m could be uplifted by 50% to £6.193m to forecast financial need more accurately.

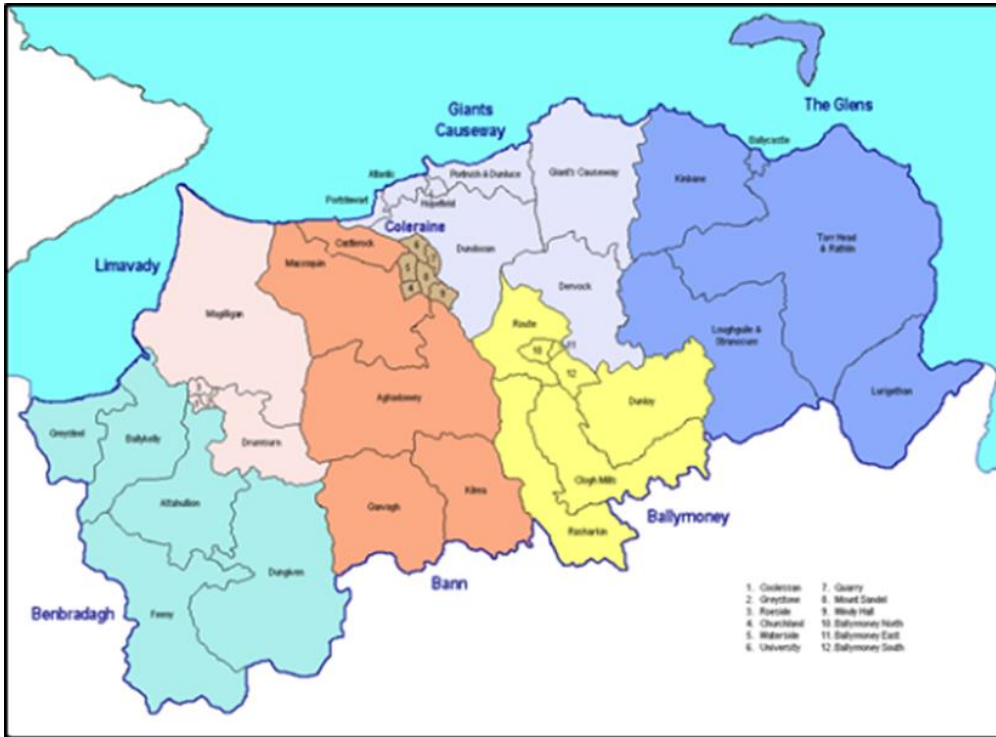
Both the original Play Strategy and Mid Term update report highlight the ongoing need for repair and renewal and adequate lifecycle budget provision to maintain the play value of existing sites.

A new play strategy will be commissioned in 2024/25 and developed for approval in March 2025 to ensure continued planning and prioritisation of investment in play across the Borough.

6.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to note the Mid-Term update report on the Play Strategy and approve the following recommendations to be actioned over the remaining term of the strategy:

- The indicative provision suggested of £0.5m per year should be earmarked for planned preventative repair and maintenance of play parks within the Capital Programme;
- The Mid Term update report should be used to revisit and inform Council's prioritised list of capital projects for play provision. The projects highlighted above that have not been progressed could then be progressed to business case subject to affordability and Committee/Council approval; and
- A report on options to address the development of Non-Fixed Play Approaches to be brought back to Committee/Council for consideration.



Play Investment Strategy Mid-Point Review

January 2024

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1.0 Introduction

This mid-point review was undertaken by PlayBoard as part of an assessment of impact associated with the first phase of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Play Investment Strategy.

The report was commissioned by Council to provide an interim assessment of impact across a number of key areas including:

- An overarching assessment of delivery against the Play Investment Strategy Action Plan.
- The undertaking of play value assessments for new play parks established under the strategy and for existing play parks identified for upgrade within the Play Investment Strategy, and review against baseline.
- A review of current population needs against fixed play park provision with a view to identifying emerging potential gap sites requiring fixed play development.
- A review of progress towards the development of non-fixed play opportunities across the Council area.

In addition, the report provides updates and additional guidance on a number of key areas which have emerged since publication of the original Strategy.

2.0 Background

In 2019 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council agreed its first Play Investment strategy. The purpose of the strategy was to establish a strategic framework within which all decision making as it relates to the provision of fixed play and the development of non-fixed play could take place.

At the core of the strategy were a number of aims which sought to enhance the developmental value, scope and range of play opportunities available to children and young people across the Borough.

Key Aims	
a)	To support children and young people to be able to engage in both fixed and non-fixed play opportunities that meet their developmental needs.
b)	To ensure that Fixed Play Areas are attractive, welcoming, safe but challenging, accessible and inclusive for all abilities offering a high level of play value through programmed capital upgrading, maintenance and renewal.
c)	To ensure effective targeting of capital investment in new fixed play development at those locations which are identified as being in most need through assessment of underlying demographic need.
d)	To ensure that children, young people, parents and communities have an integral role in decision making on play provision, both fixed and non-fixed.
e)	To enable communities to take an active role in the development and delivery of non-fixed play opportunities through dedicated support including volunteer training, mentoring and access to 'loose-parts' play pods.
f)	To highlight the benefits of play whilst encouraging adults within the wider community to recognise both the play needs and valuable contribution children make to community life.
g)	Where local demographic circumstances preclude council intervention, to support communities to develop sustainable solutions to meeting local play need.

In seeking to meet its key aims, the strategy developed an action plan for the initial 5-year period divided into 2 strands, the first of which focused on fixed play provision whilst the second focused on the development of non-fixed approaches to meeting play need.

2.1 [Development of the Strategy](#)

The strategy development process consisted of a number of key stages including:

- An assessment of the play value and demographic coverage associated with all fixed play areas within the Borough alongside recommendations on both the enhancement of sites and how existing play spaces can be used more effectively for the benefit of the community
- An assessment of underlying demographic need, the identification of gaps in fixed play provision and the establishment of criteria to guide future gap analysis
- Consultation with children and young people, parents and carers, elected officials and members of the wider community aimed at identifying areas of good practice and to identify key issues impacting on children's play experiences
- Consideration of the wider strategic environment and how it impacts on the delivery of play opportunities
- The establishment of a set of core underlying principles to guide the future design and delivery of fixed play aimed at enhancing play opportunities for all children and young people, and
- The identification of a series of non-fixed approaches to meeting play need aimed at broadening the capacity of Council to meet the challenges of a largely rural area characterised by often dispersed settlement and household patterns.

At its completion, the play investment strategy outlined a series of actions aimed at enhancing play opportunities for children and young people, both resident and visiting.

2.2 [Strategic Context](#)

In developing the Play Investment Strategy, it was acknowledged that Council operates within a wider International, Regional and Local area strategic policy context.

At each of these strategic levels a range of policies highlight:

- the importance of play in the lives of children and young people, and
- the obligations on government agencies to ensure that children are able to play in a way that best meets their developmental needs.

At its core, the strategy acknowledged that children and young people have a fundamental right to play, as enshrined in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) outlined below:

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

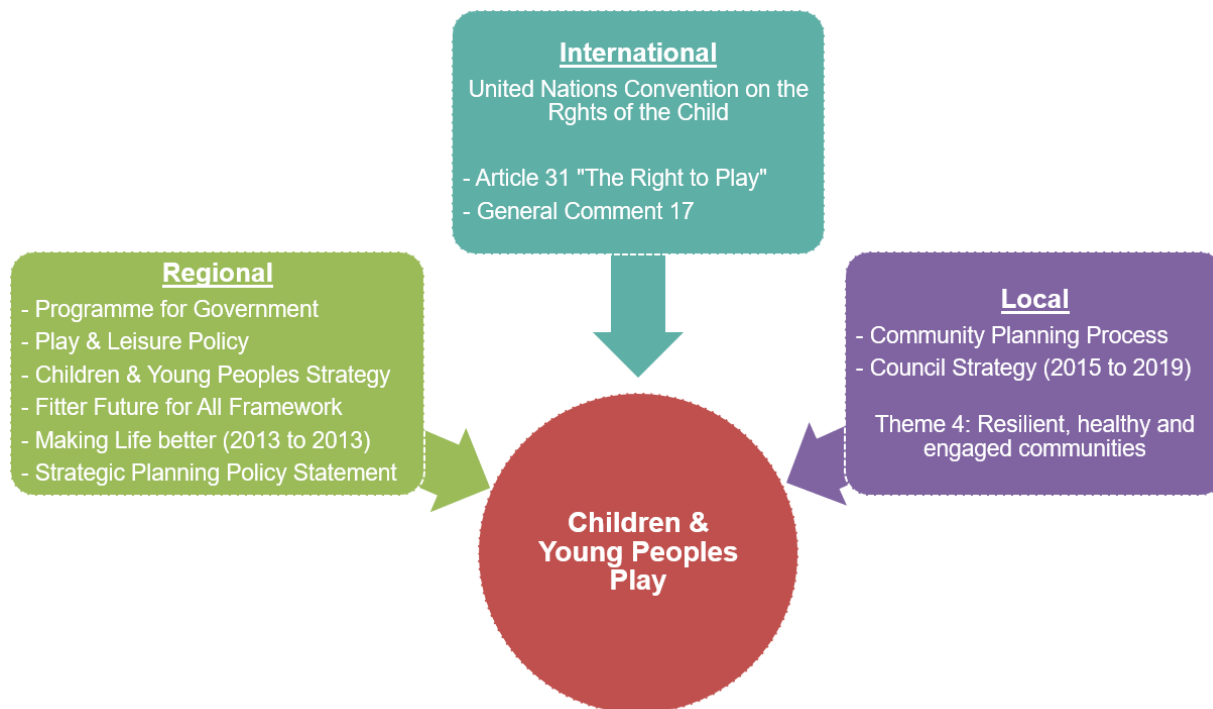
At a broader level, the strategy made acknowledgement not only of play's critical role in shaping the lives of children and young people but also its positive impact on wider society.

Whilst recognising the role of Council in meeting play need, the strategy highlighted that no single organisation has within its remit the capacity to address all of the issues that impact or restrict children's play opportunities.

At a regional level the strategy acknowledged the importance of broader NI Executive and Departmental strategies including the Children and Young People's Strategy, the Fitter Future for All and Making Life Better Frameworks and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement.

At local level, the strategy acknowledged the centrality of the Community Planning process as a mechanism for engaging with the community on play, identifying key impediments to play and for supporting the enhancement of opportunities to play across the Borough.

The diagram overleaf provides an overview of the of broader strategic context within which the strategy was developed, highlighting relevant frameworks at a local, regional and international level.



By way of update, and with regards to the review of the Play Investment Strategy, it is acknowledged that council has subsequently agreed a new Corporate Strategy for 2021 to 2025 which incorporates recognition of the importance of play provision.

The focus on play is contained within the key strategic theme 'Healthy and Engaged Communities' which has a stated outcome of 'Citizens will have access to a range of leisure, recreational, green and play environments which support better physical and mental health and wellbeing'. Recognition of the importance of play within the Corporate Strategy is to be welcomed as an indicator of the degree of importance placed by Council on the child's right to play.

2.3 Impact of Covid-19

In reviewing progress towards delivery of the Play Investment Strategy it is acknowledged that the delivery phase was significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Between 2020 and 2022, government restrictions and lockdowns aimed at curtailing the spread of the Covid-19 virus acted to restrict a number of key strands of delivery (fixed and non-fixed), impacting on the overall impact of the investment strategy during that period.

3.0 The Importance of Play

With a view to embedding article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (The Right to Play), the Play Investment Strategy acknowledges play as a natural and fundamental aspect of children and young people's lives, supporting a broad range of developmental outcomes as well as providing opportunities for fun and enjoyment in childhood.

Within the strategy the word play is used to describe the wide range of play activities that children and young people engage in during their free time. Typically, such play includes:

- Physical activities such as running, jumping and climbing.
- Social activities which may include self-organised team games, sharing experiences or simply communicating with others during play.
- Solitary play, with the child choosing to play alone
- Creative activities such as constructing or making things, painting etc.
- Imaginative play such as making up games, dressing up, daydreaming
- Challenging play which involves the child pushing their developmental limits in order to achieve a positive outcome.

The strategy acknowledged that society often views play in restrictive terms as an activity that takes place only in certain locations, for example in an equipped playground. For children and young people however the urge to play is a constant and by their very nature, children and young people are always on the lookout for play opportunities regardless of where they find themselves.

In its General Comment 17, the UNCRC defines play as being:

"Play is any behaviour, activity or process initiated, controlled and structured by children themselves. Play happens whenever and wherever there is an opportunity to play. The key characteristics of play are fun, uncertainty, challenge, flexibility and non-productivity. These factors contribute to the enjoyment of playing and the incentive to continue playing."

Fundamentally, play is child-driven with the child determining how they will play without interference or direction from an adult. At its core the strategy recognised this, acknowledging play as a child-led activity that is different to organised activities, for example coaching sessions at a sports clubs or organised games and activities at a children's/youth club.

The need for a Play Investment Strategy was driven by research which highlighted the role of play in supporting children and young people's development in a number of key areas:



Physical Health

Play often involves children being engaged in a physical activity, for example running, jumping or climbing.

Physical play brings multiple developmental and health benefits, for example running and jumping supports the development of bone density, climbing helps to develop strength and coordination whilst running and chasing games develop fitness, stamina and agility.



Learning

Play is central to the learning process with research indicating that 75% of post-birth brain development is influenced by the range and variety of play activities children engage in.

Play has been shown to have a positive influence on language development, creativity and problem solving, enabling children to explore new ideas and concepts, testing their own abilities and learning new things about the world around them.



Risk and Challenge

Children and young people have a natural thirst for challenging play, often seeking it out regardless of whether or not safe provision has been made.

Challenge in play is important as it allows children to test the boundaries of their limitations, develop new skills to overcome the challenges they face and develop the ability to better manage risk on an individual basis.



Social Skills

Play provides children with an opportunity to develop their social and communication skills enabling them to interact and engage with others, learn to negotiate and share, deal with conflict and develop and maintain friendships.

At a wider level, play has been shown to contribute to active citizenship, supporting the development of community cohesion.



Teenagers and Play

Play is often viewed as something only younger children engage in when in reality it remains a key part of young people's lives throughout their teenage years.

As children become teenagers their social connection becomes increasingly important, with play and recreational activities often providing the central basis for such interactions.



Connections to the Natural Environment

Playing outdoor in natural spaces (parklands, fields, forests, beaches) not only benefits health and wellbeing, but help children and young people to gain a greater appreciation for, and connection to the natural environment.

3.1 Barriers to Play

Despite the many benefits associated with play, children and young people often face barriers that restrict their ability to fulfil their natural drive and urge to play.

Common barriers identified include:

Increased levels of traffic within residential areas which limit traditional street and community play opportunities due to safety concerns

A loss of accessible public, green spaces which are openly available for children to play on

A lack of understanding about the importance of play and a low level of tolerance towards children playing outdoors from adults in the community

A lack of appropriate play infrastructure (e.g. fixed play areas, open recreation spaces, playable public realm etc.) to meet the play needs of children and young people

Limited opportunities for the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities or complex needs within play spaces and environments.

Whilst acknowledging that the Play Investment Strategy on its own would not be able to address all of the barriers that exist, it was seen as providing a central point from which Council could expand its work with other stakeholders in order to alleviate and remove the barriers that continue to prevent or restrict play opportunities.

3.2 [Approaches to meeting Play need](#)

The Play Investment Strategy sought to explore and expand the range of approaches that could be utilised in order to meet play need. This included:

Fixed Play Parks

Formal play provision based around the installation of fixed play equipment within a designated play area. Typical examples of fixed play equipment range from more traditional equipment such as swings, roundabouts, climbing frames etc. to more extensive play structures such as fort style installations and activity panels.

Non-Fixed Play

Non-fixed play enables children to play in a way that meets their play needs without the formal direction of adults or the limitations of fixed play equipment. As part of the play process children are able to make use of the wider environment (natural or synthetic) and loose parts (cardboard boxes, balls, skipping ropes, art and craft materials etc.) in order to create their own play experience.

Natural Play	Natural play approaches revolve around the use of natural landscaping and natural materials in order to create a play environment which stimulates children and young people. As a Council with a diverse natural environment we are keen to explore how we can best support play within the environment as a means of not only increasing play opportunities, but as a way of enhancing children’s connections to environment.
<hr/>	
Street Play	Whilst street play opportunities have reduced, a number of approaches have been piloted in both Northern Ireland and across the UK that support children to play on the streets within their community. As a Council we are keen to explore such approaches within the lifetime of the strategy including the piloting of a number of street play schemes based around volunteer supported approaches.
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Youth Provision	Acknowledging that play/recreation space remains both relevant and important to teenagers, Council are keen to explore ways of meeting this need through the introduction of appropriate measures including youth shelters.
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3.3 [The Strategy Development Process](#)

In developing the Play Investment Strategy, a number of key actions were undertaken, aimed at providing a baseline for fixed play provision that would enable assessment of progress over time. These actions included:

- The completion of a play value audit of all existing fixed play areas across the borough to identify those offering limited play value and requiring remedial action through capital upgrade to enhance their play value.
- Completion of an overarching assessment of demographic need against settlement patterns and household location to identify potential gap areas that may require the development of fixed play provision over the duration of the strategy.
- An assessment of underlying demographic need against settlement patterns and household location in areas of existing fixed play provision to identify potentially redundant fixed play areas that are no longer required.
- Consultation and Community Engagement to gather the views of children and young people, parents, carers and wider community representatives on a range of issues including:

- The importance of play
- The types of play activities children and young people engage in
- Barriers to children and young people playing
- Views on the current standard of fixed play provision across the Borough and indications of fixed play need
- Views on how Council could enhance children's play experience.

3.4 [Play Investment Strategy Recommendations](#)

The Play Investment Strategy established a number of strategic and operational recommendations for Council across 4 key areas which aimed to enhance access to quality play opportunities over the duration of the strategy.

Fixed Play Areas

No.	Areas of Focus	Overview of Recommendation
1.1	Quality Fixed Play Development	Development of Fixed Play Area design brief to guide the future development of new play areas and play area renewals, ensuring high levels of play value through incorporation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active play elements - Open spaces - Creative play elements - Inclusive play elements - Awareness of Parental/carer needs.
1.2	Partnership Approaches	Engagement with partner agencies and community organisations to encourage adoption of Fixed Play Area design brief for future Council and non-Council funded fixed play.

1.3	Accessible and Inclusive Fixed Play Provision	<p>All designs for new play areas and those subject to renewal to give core consideration to incorporation of accessible play opportunities.</p> <p>Enhance access to accessible and inclusive play through the development of additional inclusive provision at key sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the proposed new Destination Play Area in Limavady is fully Accessible with access to suitable ancillary facilities. • Quay Road, Ballycastle play area to Accessible standard and ensure access to suitable ancillary facilities. • Review Megaw Park fixed play area and ancillary facilities to ensure it is fully accessible. • Maintain Flowerfield to its current high standard <p>Accessible/inclusive play areas will be designed to accessible play standards and will incorporate access to toilet and changing facilities within close proximity.</p>
1.4	Risk and Challenge in Play	<p>With regards to risk and challenge in play Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adopt a risk/benefit approach to the design and development of play spaces in line with accepted good practice. – Provide risk/benefit training for key staff to enhance understanding of the approach. – Engage with insurers regarding the adoption of the risk/benefit approach. – Apply the design brief (see 1.1 above) to future play area design incorporating, where appropriate more challenging play elements and features – Adopt more open play opportunities were permissible and feasible.

Meeting Identified Need in Fixed Play

No.	Areas of Focus	Overview of Recommendation
2.1	Develop new fixed play parks at sites of identified need (subject to land availability).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limavady Town (Accessible Destination Play Area – NEAP) • Waterfoot (LEAP Play Area) • Portrush (Destination Play Area) • Portrush (Play installations to stimulate play along key walkways including East and West Strands, Ramore Head etc.) • Waterside, Coleraine (NEAP Play Area) • Ballykelly (NEAP Play Area)
2.2		<p>Extend and enhance existing fixed play sites in order to meet broader demographic need in line with Play Strategy and in consultation with local communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio Park, Cloughmills (LEAP) • Quay Road, Ballycastle (Accessible Destination play area) • Rugby Avenue, Coleraine (Destination play area)
2.3		<p>Complete land exploration and community consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballymoney South • Castleroe • Bushmills • The Cuts 1 (Coleraine)

Enhance Low Play Value Fixed Play Areas

No.	Areas of Focus	Overview of Recommendation
3.1	Deliver capital renewal programme in consultation with local community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landsdowne Road (PV = 290) • Lisnagrot (PV = 300) • Alexander Road/Blackburn Path (PV = 350 & 475) • Middle Park (PV = 370) • Cottage Wood 1 and 2 (PV = 390 & 375) • Garvagh Road (PV = 385) • Swanns Bridge (PV = 380) • Dhu Varren (PV = 390) • Daneshill (PV = 390) • The Warren (PV = 410) • Anderson Park (PV = 445) • Larchfield (PV = Unavailable) Renewal subject to developments within wider Kilrea area
3.2	Deliver programme of transformation at identified low value and low demand sites (in consultation with local community).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shanes Park (PV = 255) • Islandmoore (PV = 270) • Ballyknock (PV = 290) • Glenullin (PV = 335) • Ballanagarvey (PV = 365)

Non-Fixed Play Development

No.	Areas of Focus	Overview of Recommendation
3.1	Dedicated Play Development Officer	Consider 3-year appointment of dedicated Play Development Officer within Council to oversee implementation and operationalisation of the Play Strategy including fixed and non-fixed elements.
	Partnership working	Engage pro-actively with stakeholder organisations and the wider public to highlight the importance of play, support play development etc.
	Piloting of 4 community focused volunteer play training	Consider piloting of 4 community play volunteer training programme aimed at increasing understanding of play approaches and providing practical skills to support community play sessions.
	Piloting of 4 Street Play programmes	Consider establishment of 4 pilot programmes aimed at promoting effective non-fixed play approaches to meeting play need (community play sessions, street play etc.).
	Establishment of Play Pods to promote and encourage community based non-fixed play (1 per DEA area)	Review and consider viability of community accessible mobile play resources (e.g. play pods) as a means of supporting community play sessions supported or promoted through the work of a play officer (initial 7 pods, 1 per DEA area)
	Support for National Play Day	Hold three play events as part of National Play Day (first Wednesday of each August)

4.0 Area Overview and Fixed Play Provision

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council was established under the Review of Public Administration (2015) which brought together 4 legacy councils (Ballymoney Borough Council, Coleraine Borough Council, Limavady Borough Council and Moyle District Council) to form 1 'Super Council' area.



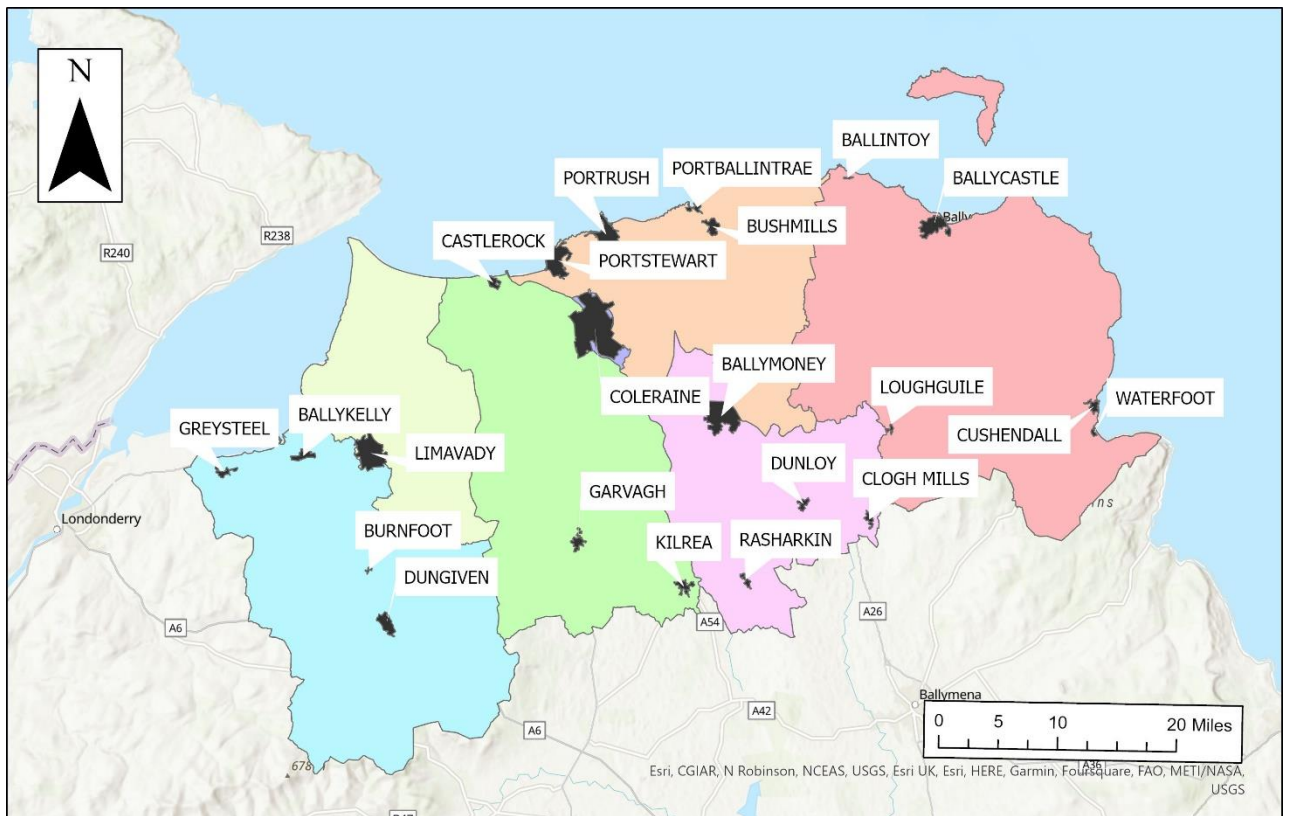
The council area is split into 7 District Electoral Areas (DEAs) which return a total of 40 elected representatives who provide political leadership and decision making. A map showing the split of the council area by DEA can be viewed below.



The council covers 693 square miles with the resident population spread primarily across a number of key settlements, small towns and villages. Key settlements and their associated residential population numbers include:

Settlement Name	Resident Population (2021)
Coleraine	24,483
Limavady	11,279
Ballymoney	11,048
Portstewart	7,854
Portrush	6,150
Ballycastle	5,628
Dungiven	3,346
Bushmills	1,247

Outside of the urban areas, the council area is predominantly rural in nature and is characterised by a dispersed household spread across the council area. A map showing key settlements across the council areas can be viewed below.



4.1 [Fixed Play Park Provision](#)

A fixed play park is defined as being a dedicated space that has been designed to provide access to a variety of fixed play equipment aimed at a range of age groups.

Examples of fixed play equipment range from traditional (for example swings, roundabouts, climbing frames etc.) to more extensive and modern play structures such as fort style installations and activity panels.

Fixed play areas can be tailored towards the needs of specific age groups, for example for younger children and toddlers (swings, low level climbing frames, slides etc.) through to more challenging play equipment for older children e.g. complex climbing structures, aerial zip lines etc.

Fixed play areas are typically fenced off for both safety and security purposes and are often closed at set times of the day limiting access opportunities to designated timeframes. Play areas may also incorporate within their environments provision for older teens, for example through the provision of a covered hang-out or seated area.

Whilst the overarching strategy is based on a recognition that for children play can, and does take place at multiple locations, council acknowledge the value and importance of fixed play provision in providing more formal environments for play. For that reason, the development and maintenance of high play value fixed play parks is a core component of the Play Strategy.

4.2 [Fixed Play in Causeway Coast and Glen Borough Council](#)

There are within the Council area a total of 108 fixed play areas divided into 3 designations which define their type, form and focus. These typically consist of a range of fixed play equipment including swings, roundabouts, climbing units etc, located within a designated, often fenced off area.

Fixed play parks vary in size and scope, generally dependent on their location and the number of households they are designed to provide for. Play parks are classified according to the Field in Trust 'Accessibility Benchmark Standards' (also known as the 'Six Acre Standards') which are used to determine the level of geographical area served by a fixed play park.

The table below outlines the classifications contained within the 'Accessibility Benchmark Standards' alongside their associated radial catchment area which defines the level of geographical coverage associated with each classification.

Play Park Classification	Radial Area (m)
Local Area for Play: Small scale play spaces play opportunities primarily for younger children (aged under 5 years).	100
Local Equipped Area for Play: Covering a wider radial catchment, play parks are larger in size and scale, offering a greater variety and number of fixed play equipment pieces.	400
Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play: Offer a wide variety of fixed play opportunities alongside non-fixed play through grassed areas. District play areas will typically incorporate support facilities, for example dedicated car-parking, toilets, picnic areas etc.	1,000

The majority of the play parks within Causeway Coast and Glens area (104) are classified as Local Equipped Areas for play. Such play parks have been designed to meet the play needs of the resident population falling within an approximate 400m radial emanating from the play park location.

There are currently 4 Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play – sometimes referred to as destination play parks – located at:

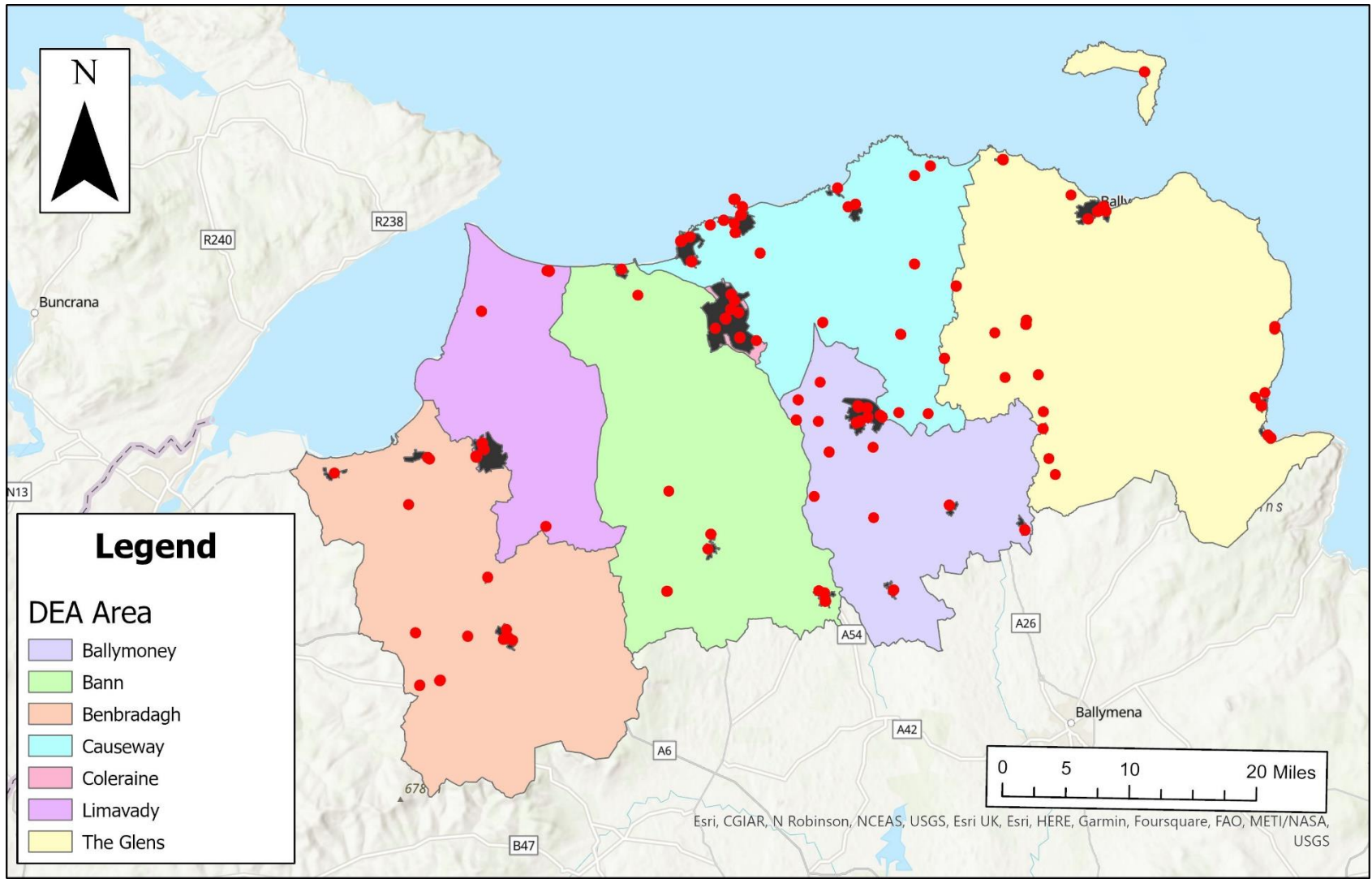
- Flowerfield
- Megaw Park
- Ramore Head
- Limavady

This represents an increase from the 2 that were in-situ at the start of the play investment strategy. It should be noted that a further District level play park is in development at Ballycastle.

District play parks offer an enhanced outdoor play experience, typically containing a wider range of play equipment that meets the needs of a broader age range (including early teens) and incorporating a range of accessible and inclusive play opportunities.

District play parks also offer non-fixed play opportunities, for example green spaces that facilitate active play, ball play areas/spaces and natural environmental play opportunities. District level play parks also provide access to support services such as toilets to Changing Places standard, car parking, refreshment outlets etc, that facilitate longer term family stays.

A map showing the location of play parks across the area can be viewed overleaf.



4.3 Demography

The demographic information used within the mid-point review of the Play Strategy is taken from the most recent census of the population which took place on 21st March 2021.

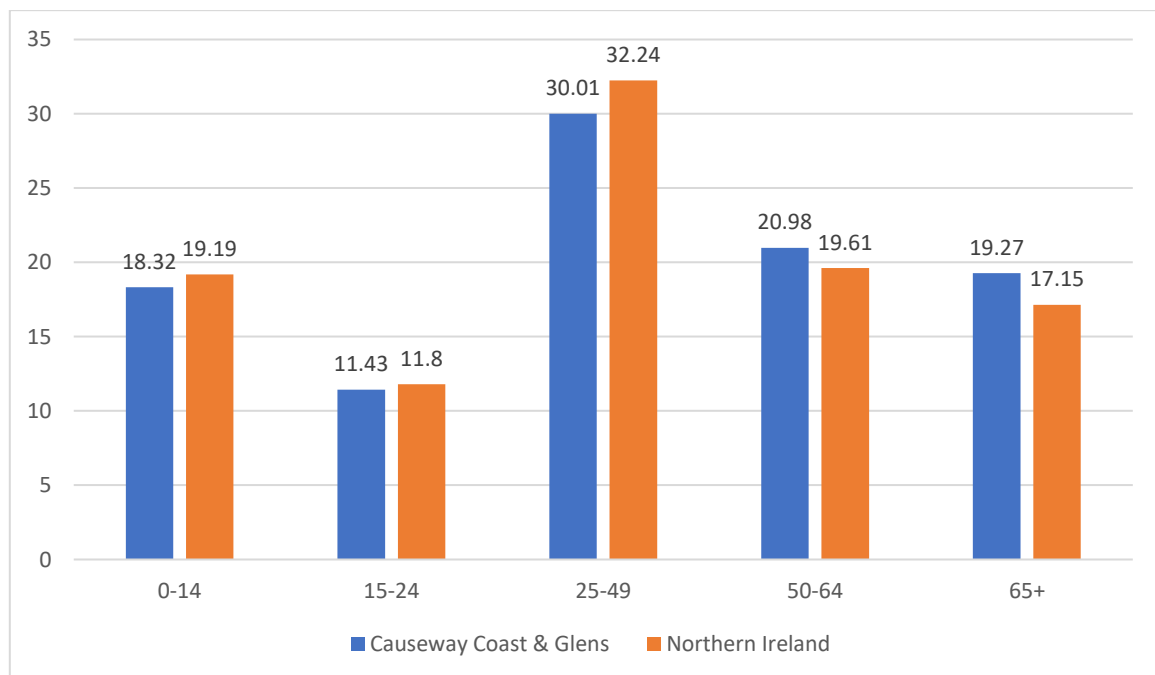
On Census Day 2021 the overall population of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council was 141,746 residing within 57,576 households. This represents an increase of 869 from the previous census (2011) when the overall population of the Borough was found to be 140,877.

4.4 Age Profile

From a play delivery perspective, the age profile of the Borough is of importance as it provides an indication of both existing potential demand for play services as well as providing a future growth indicator.

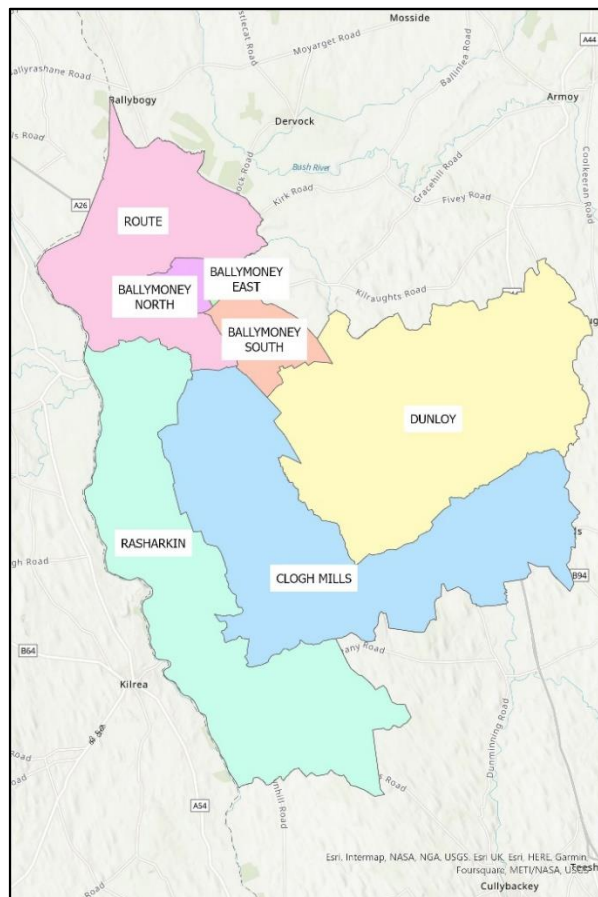
On Census Day 2021, the 0 to 14 age group accounted for 25,964 individuals equating to 18.3% of the Borough's population, representing a decrease of 907 from the 2011 census when the number of 0 to 14's was 26,871.

In percentage terms, the 2021 census figures place the Borough below the Northern Ireland average for 0 to 14 years olds which stood at 19.19%.



5.0 Ballymoney DEA – Gap Analysis

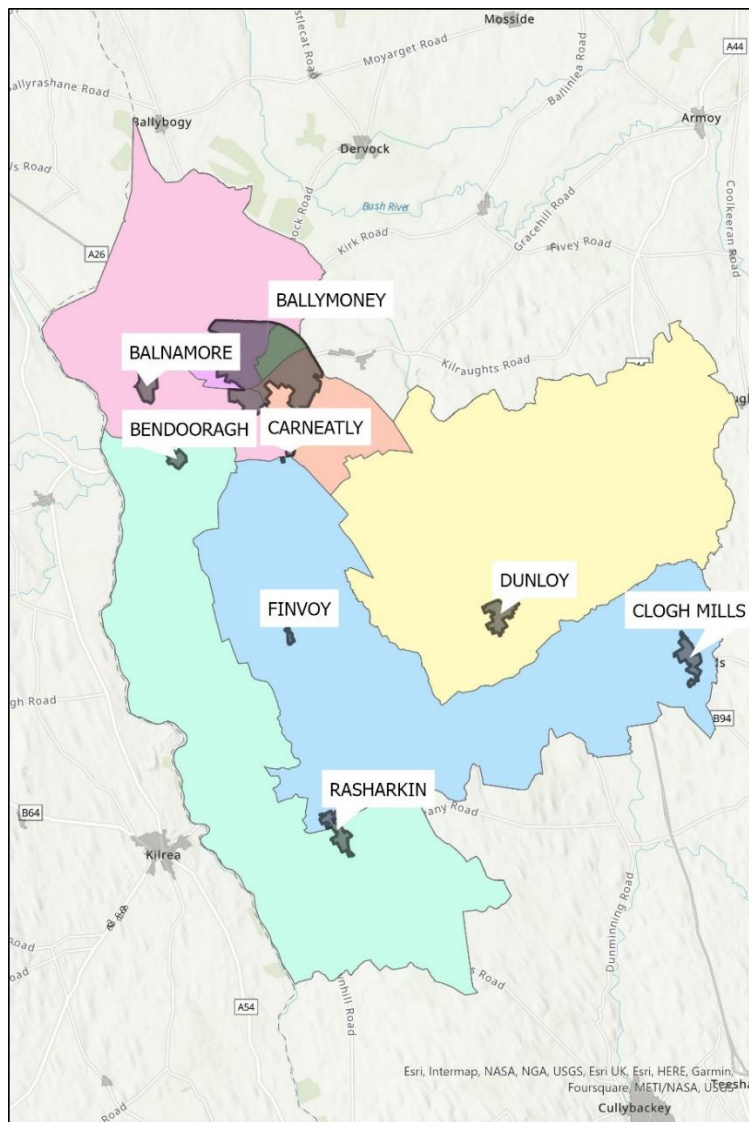
Ballymoney District Electoral Area (DEA) is located to the South of the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area and comprises 7 wards – Ballymoney East, Ballymoney North, Ballymoney South, Clogh Mills, Dunloy, Rasharkin and Route.



Recognised settlements within the DEA include:

- Ballymoney
- Balnamore
- Bendooragh
- Carneatly
- Clogh Mills
- Dunloy
- Finvoy
- Rasharkin

A settlement location map can be viewed below.



In assessing the level of coverage afforded by existing fixed play areas, and in order to identify potential areas of need for new fixed play provision three key pieces of data have been analysed:

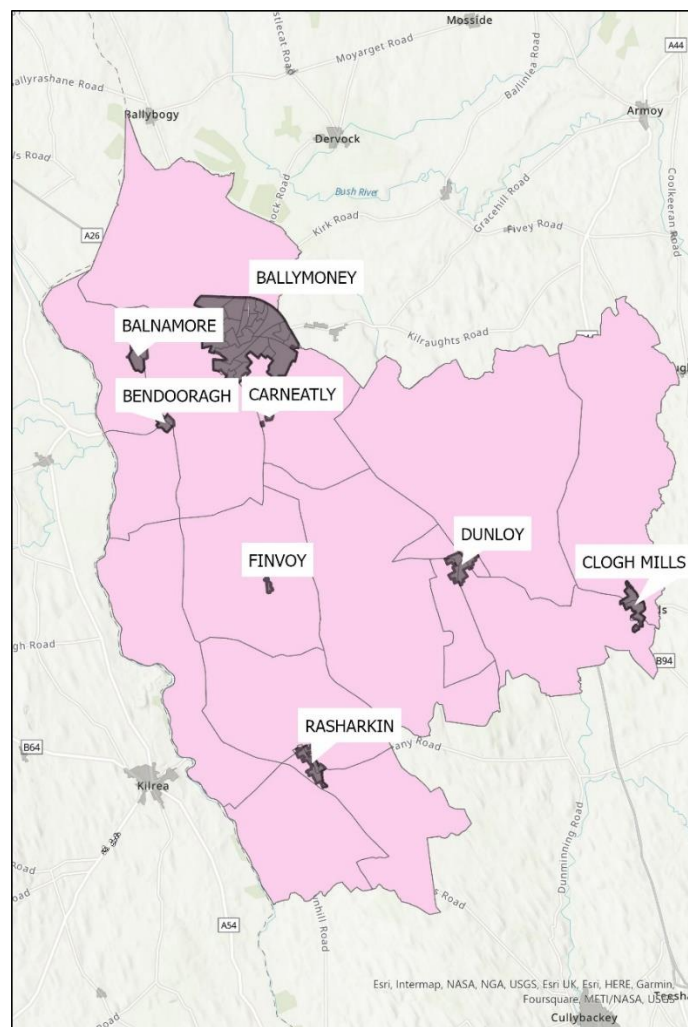
1. Population data from the 2021 census data highlighting the number of 0- to 12-year-olds resident within NISRA defined data zone areas; and
2. Household location data
3. The current location of fixed play areas across the DEA.

By combining data sources an assessment can be undertaken of the level of potential demand for fixed play within a location based on population and household spread.

Data Zones

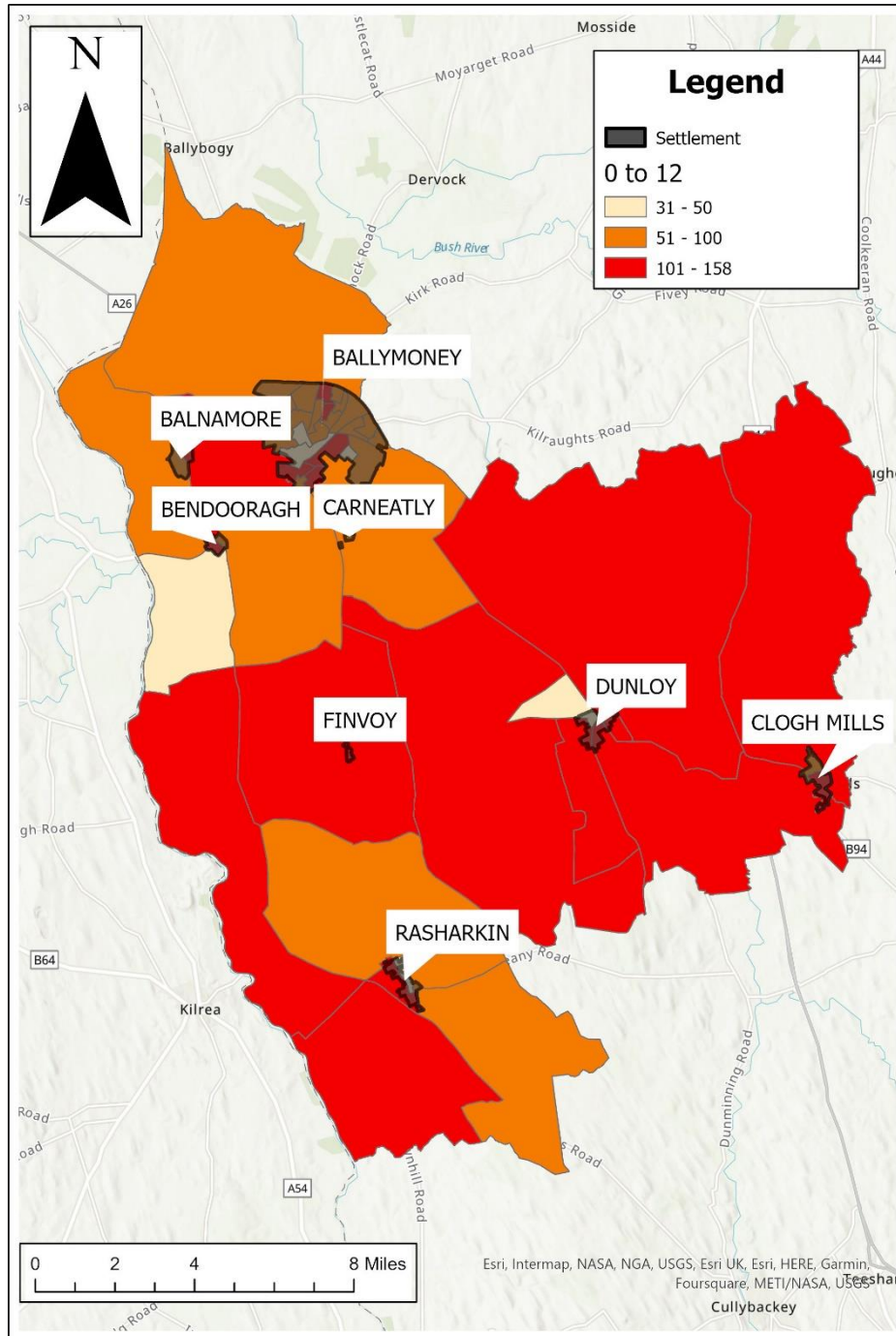
Data zones have been introduced by NISRA to support the analysis of demographic population statistics emerging from the 2021 census. Data zones represent the most localised level of data available, with 3,780 Data Zones nesting within 850 Super Data Zones which in turn nest within DEA areas and overarching local government districts.

A map showing the Data Zone classification areas for the DEA can be viewed below.



Demographic Overview

The map below shows population statistics (mapped by data zone) for children aged 0 to 12 years (the primary focus group for fixed play parks), resident on the day of the 2021 census of the population.

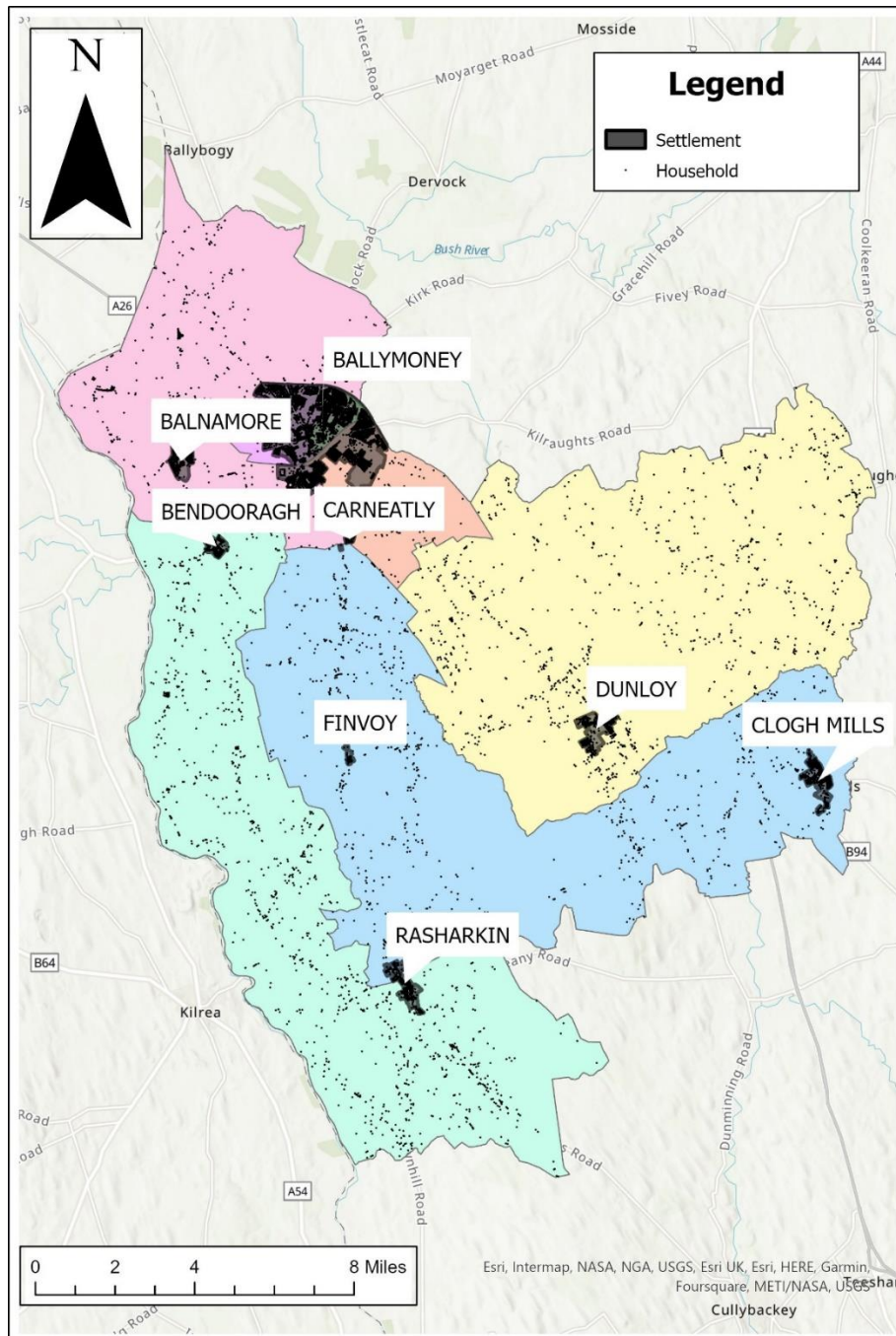


Under the agreed criteria, to be eligible for consideration for new fixed play development or upgrade the number of resident children and young people (0 to 12) within an urban defined area should be 150 or more. In the case of rural areas, in recognition of lower population density levels and household spread this has been reduced to 50 children or young people (aged 0 to 12 years).

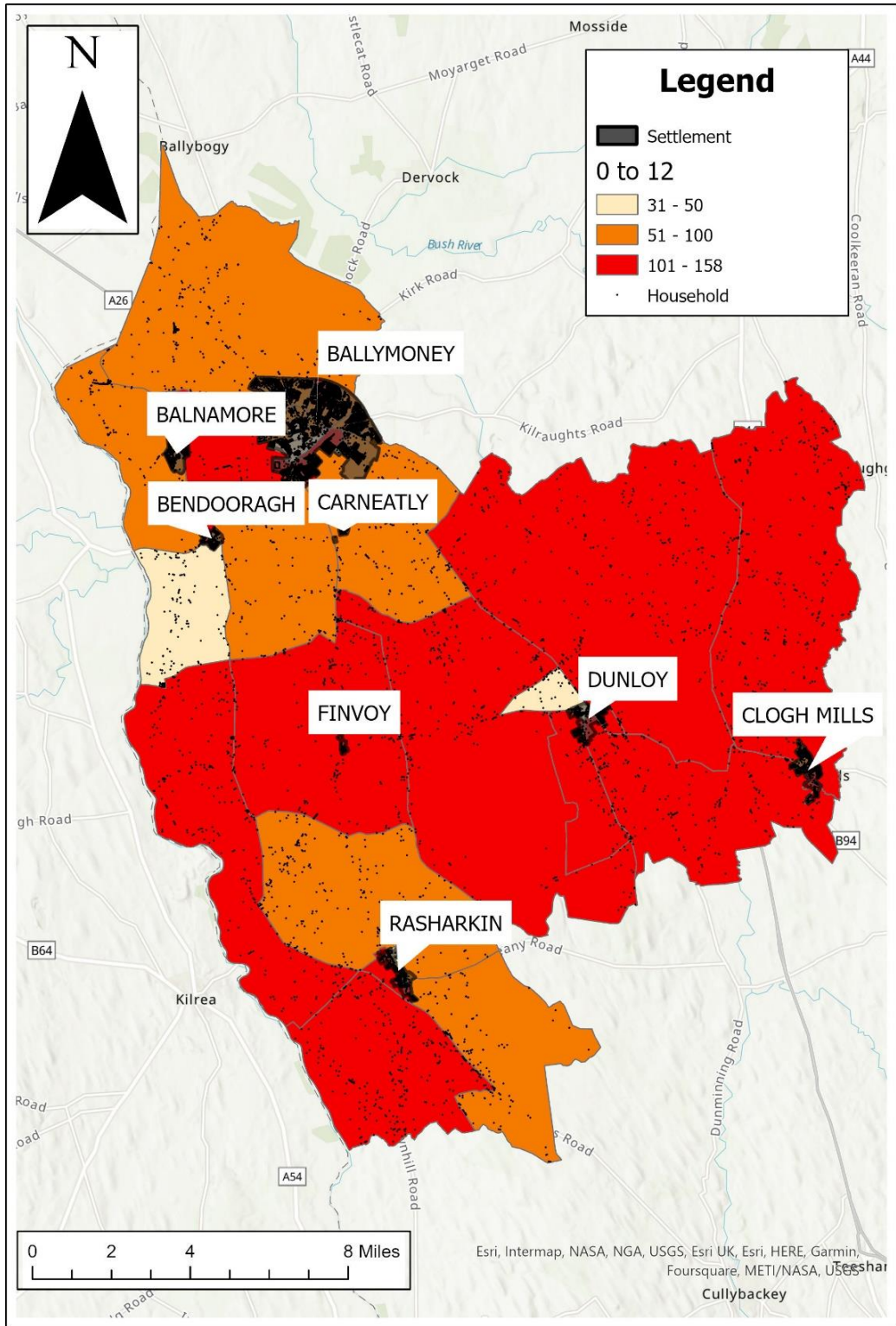
Household Distribution

As a largely rural area, household distribution within the DEA tends to be centred around key settlements or along main roadways; outside of settlement areas, household distribution tends to be of a dispersed nature.

The map below shows the location of individual households across the DEA by ward.



The map overleaf shows the demographic data for 0- to 12-year-olds mapped against the household distribution pattern for the DEA.



Current Play Provision

Play Parks are designated according to the Fields in Trust 'Accessibility Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Play' (often known as the ABS). The ABS classifies play parks according to the level of play provision offered by the site and establishes a radial catchment area to identify the resident population whose needs are served by a play park based on its designation:

Designation of Play Park	Walking Distance
Local Areas for Play (LAPs) are specifically designated and laid out for very young children (<5 years) with the express purpose of providing somewhere to play close to where they live.	100
Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) are areas of open space designated and laid out with features and equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently (5 to 12 years) close to where they live.	400
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP) are areas of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children (including 12+) but with play opportunities for younger children as well.	1000

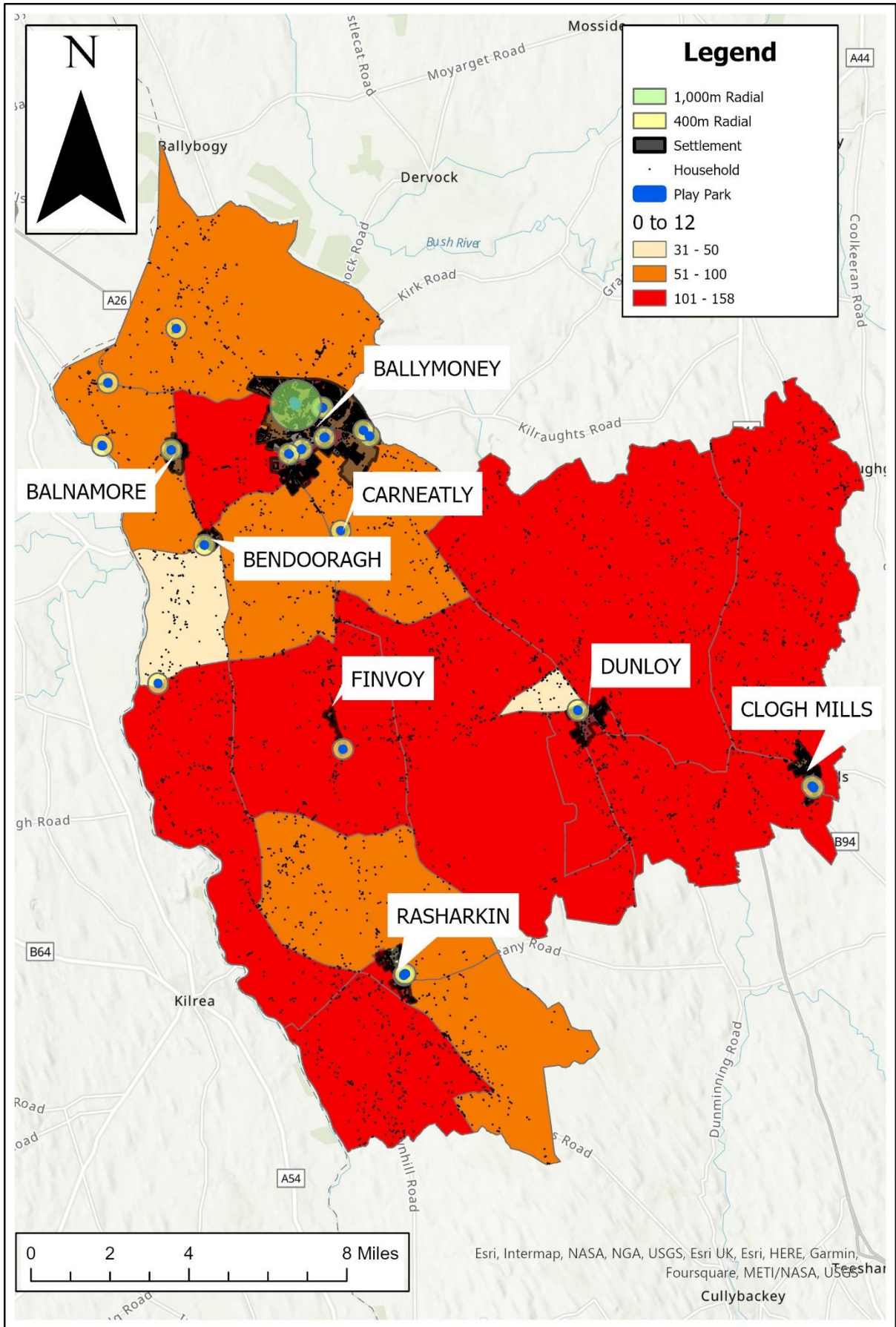
There are at present 20 fixed play parks located across the DEA, one of which is designated as a Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP) or destination play parks, Megaw Park. In line with the ABS, Megaw Park as a NEAP designated site has been given an associated coverage radial of 1,000m.

The map overleaf shows the location of play parks mapped against settlements and household location with radials introduced in line with the Accessibility Benchmark Standards.

Gap Analysis

In the majority of cases, play parks are located at the point of greatest population need i.e. within or in close proximity to a settlement. Based on population and household review, two areas have been identified as potential gap areas for fixed play and have been subject to further review:

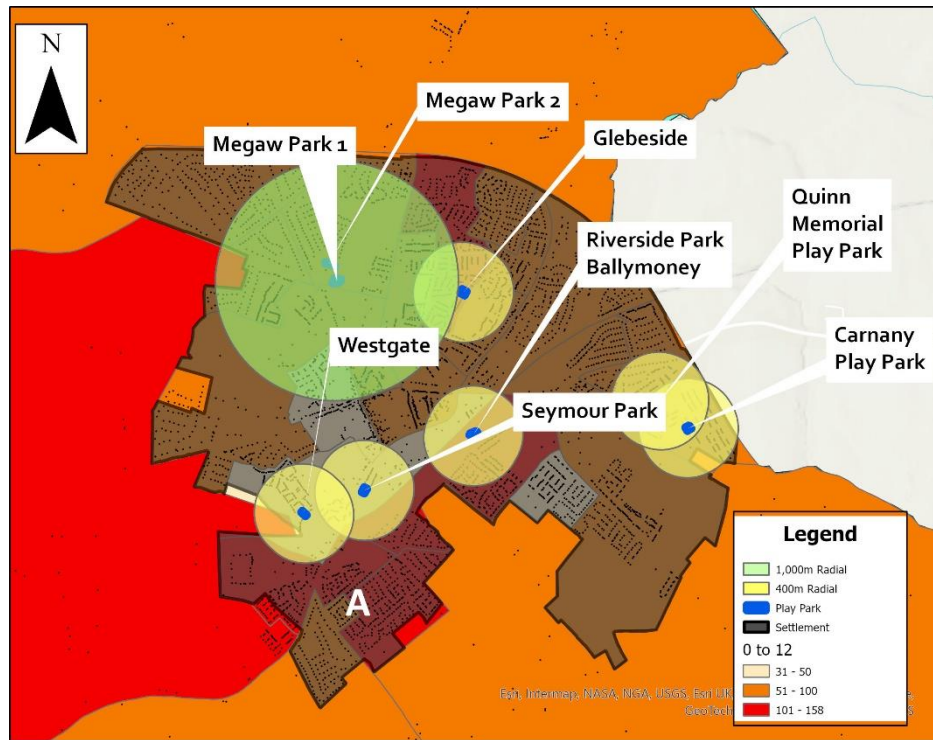
1. Ballymoney South
2. Cloughmills (North)



Potential Gap Area 1 – Ballymoney South

Ballymoney is generally well catered for in terms of fixed play area coverage with 7 play areas including 1 NEAP (destination) play area at Megaw Park.

Based on population and household review, a potential gap (denoted A on the map below) has been identified to the south of Ballymoney, an area which includes housing at Cambourne Park/Drive, Millgrange and Bannview.

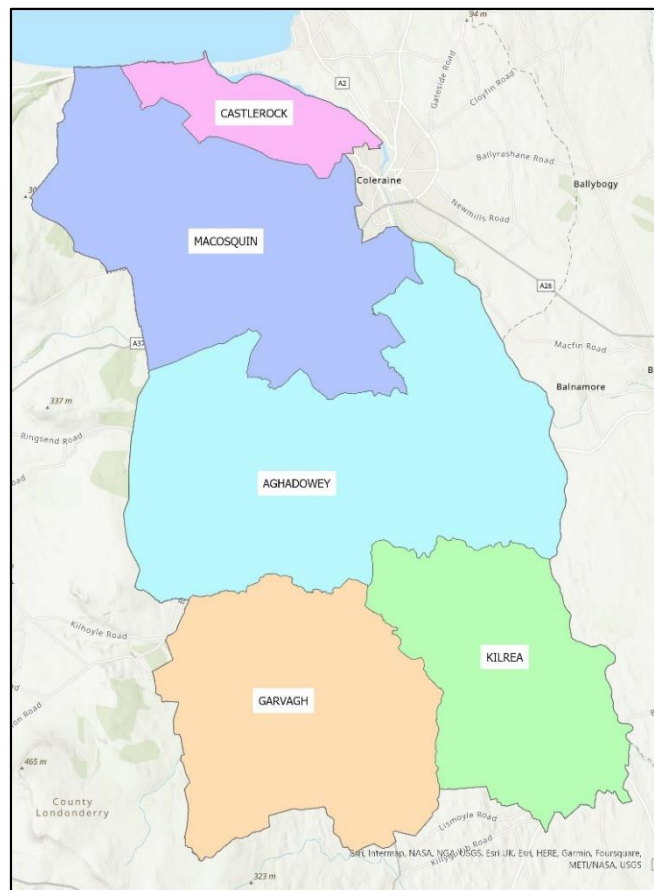
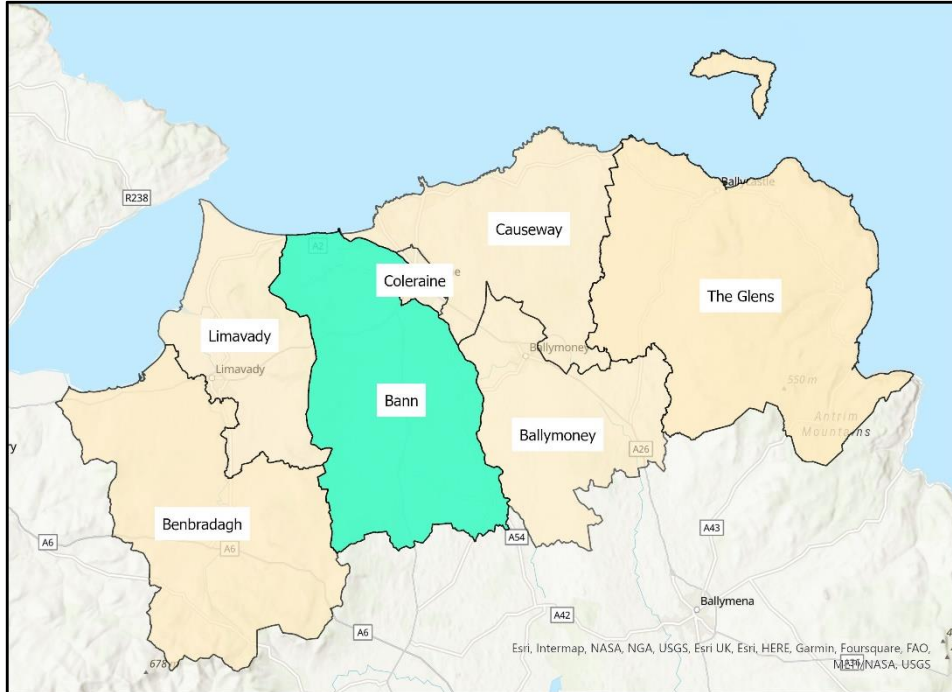


It is noted that the area of interest has been subject to private housing development indicating that, despite a level of play demand, land may not be available to facilitate development.

Council should review land availability and, if development land is identified, should proceed to local community consultation. Should land be unavailable, Council should consider the possible expansion of existing neighbouring fixed play areas to better meet need by extending area coverage.

6.0 Bann DEA – Gap Analysis

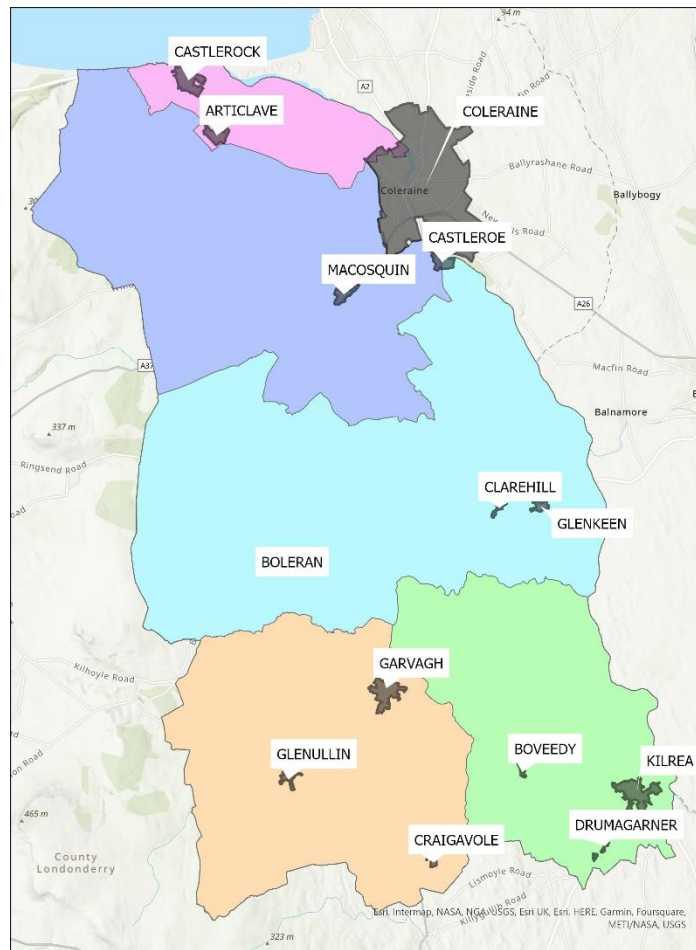
Bann District Electoral Area (DEA) is located to the West of the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area and comprises 5 wards – Aghadowey, Castlerock, Garvagh, Kilrea and Macosquin.



Recognised settlements within the DEA include:

- Articlave
- Boleran
- Boveedy
- Castlerock
- Castleroe
- Clarehill
- Craigavole
- Drumgarner
- Garvagh
- Glenkeen
- Glenullin
- Kilrea
- Macosquin

A settlement location map can be viewed below.



In assessing the level of coverage afforded by existing fixed play areas, and in order to identify potential areas of need for new fixed play provision three key pieces of data have been analysed:

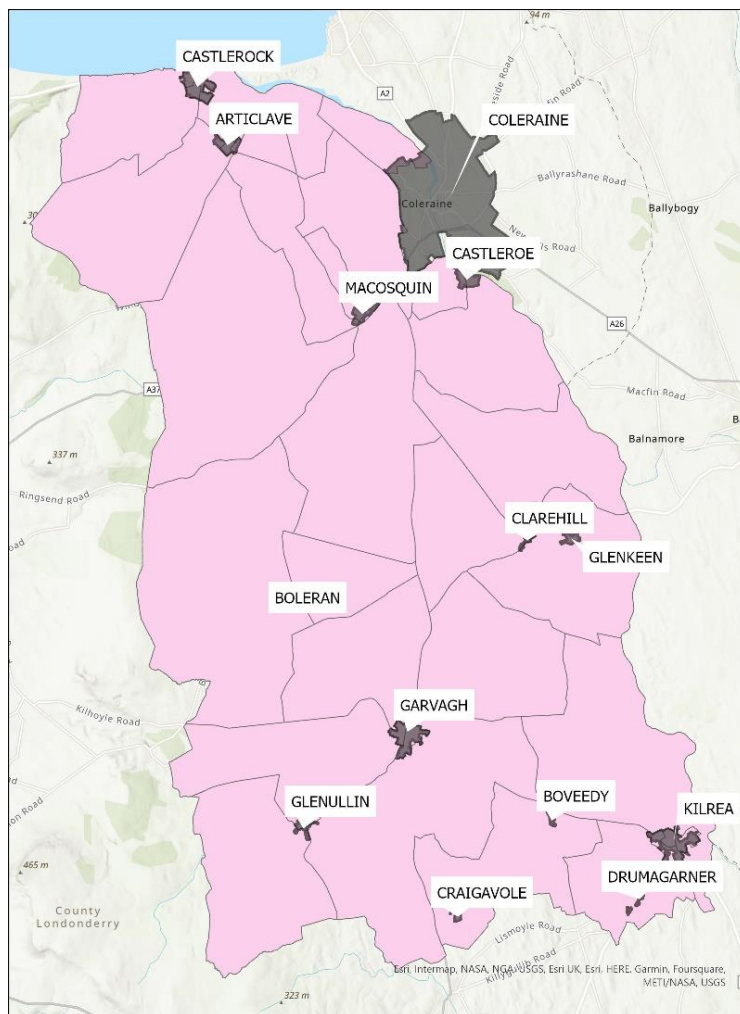
1. Population data from the 2021 census data highlighting the number of 0- to 12-year-olds resident within NISRA defined data zone areas; and
2. Household location data
3. The current location of fixed play area across the DEA

By combining data sources an assessment can be undertaken of the level of potential demand for fixed play within a location based on population and household spread.

Data Zones

Data zones have been introduced by NISRA to support the analysis of demographic population statistics emerging from the 2021 census. Data zones represent the most localised level of data available, with 3,780 Data Zones nesting within 850 Super Data Zones which in turn nest within DEA areas and overarching local government districts.

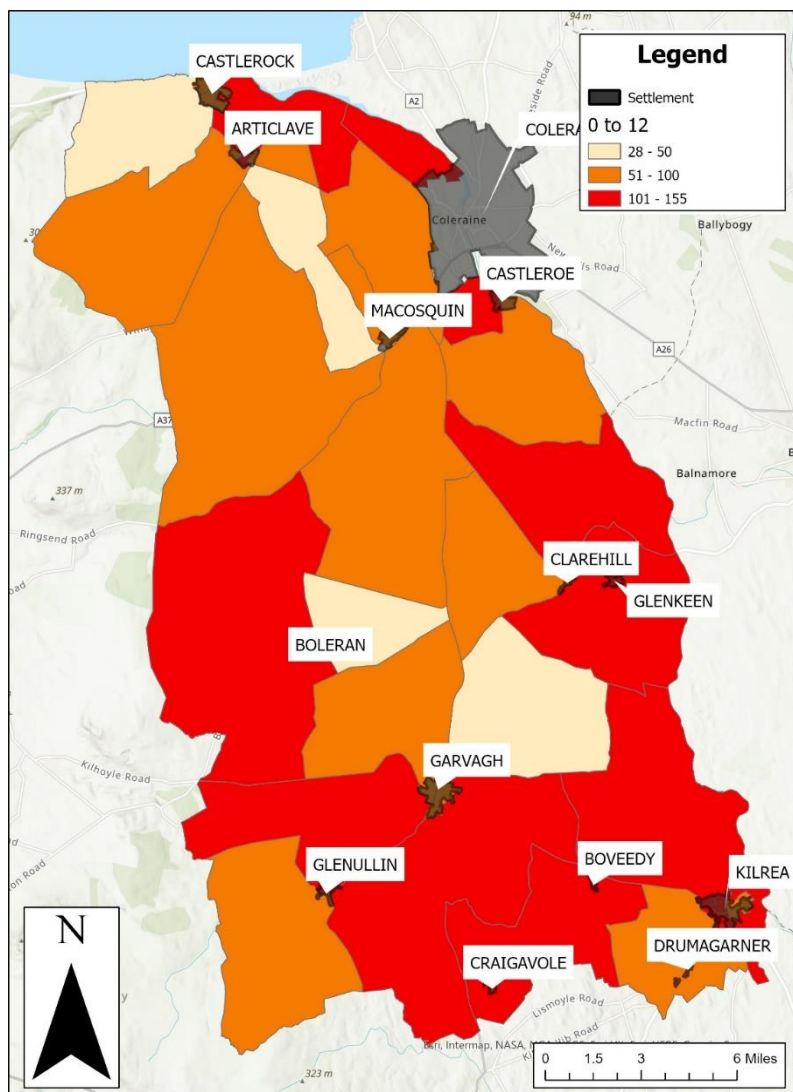
A map showing the Data Zone classification areas for Bann DEA can be viewed below.



In reviewing population data mapped by data zone, it is important to recognise their size and geographical spread, particularly within rural areas. The size, shape and form of data zone areas have been designed to ensure that each has a broadly similar population size, is socially similar in terms of housing characteristics and has a compact, regular shape. Given lower population levels and more dispersed household distribution patterns, rural data zones tend to cover a larger geographical area.

Demographic Overview

The map below shows population statistics, mapped by data zone, for children aged 0 to 12 years (the primary focus group for fixed play parks), resident on the day of the 2021 census of the population.

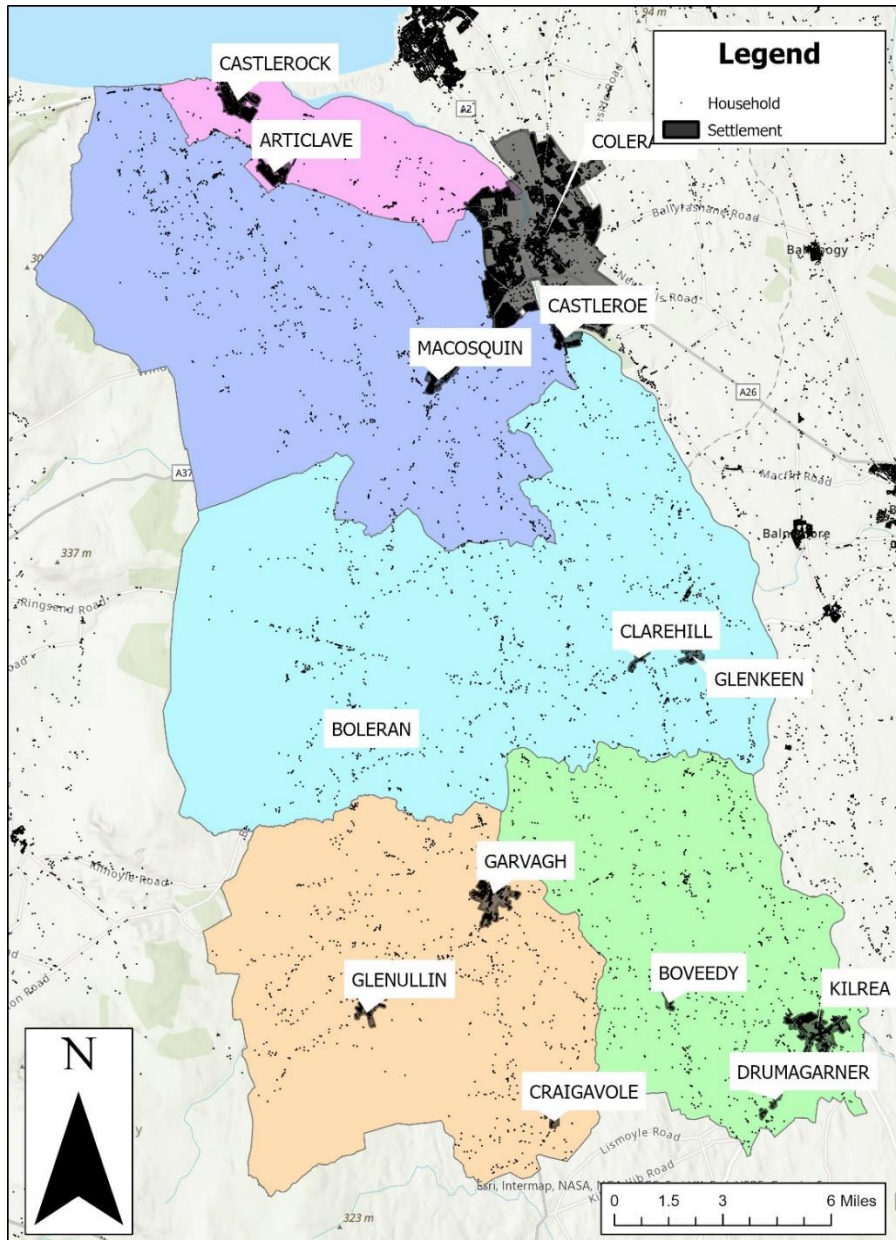


Under the agreed criteria, to be eligible for consideration for new fixed play development or upgrade the number of resident children and young people (0 to 12) within an urban defined area should be 150 or more. In the case of rural areas, in recognition of lower population density levels and household spread this has been reduced to 50 children or young people (aged 0 to 12 years).

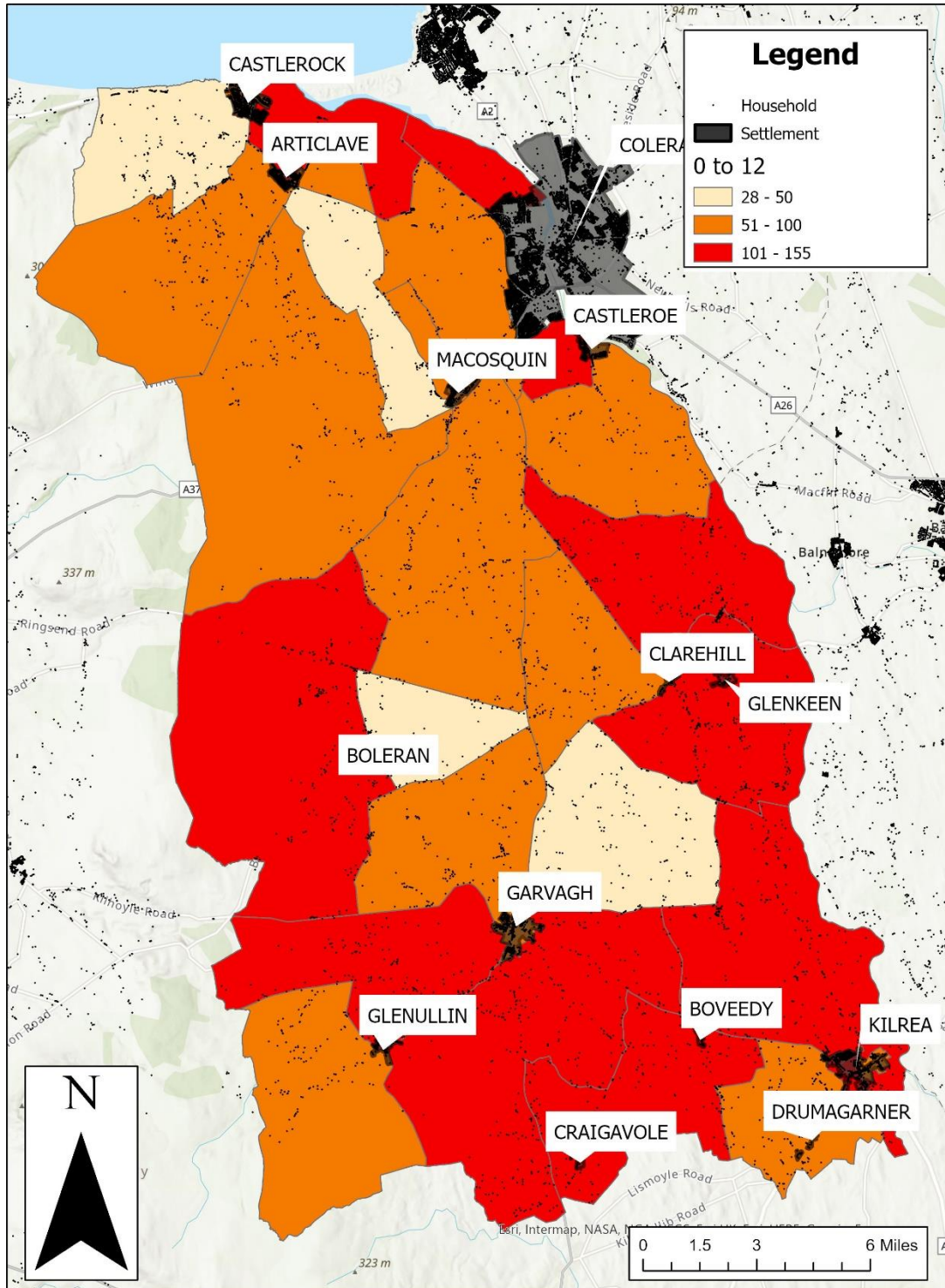
Household Distribution

As a largely rural area, household distribution within the DEA tends to be centred around key settlements or along main roadways; outside of settlement areas, household distribution tends to be of a dispersed nature.

The map below shows the location of individual households across the DEA by ward alongside those within neighbouring DEA's.



The map overleaf shows the demographic data for 0- to 12-year-olds mapped against the household distribution pattern for the DEA.



Current Play Provision

Play Parks are designated according to the Fields in Trust 'Accessibility Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Play' (often known as the ABS). The ABS classifies play parks according to the level of play provision offered by the site and establishes a radial catchment area to identify the resident population whose needs are served by a play park based on its designation:

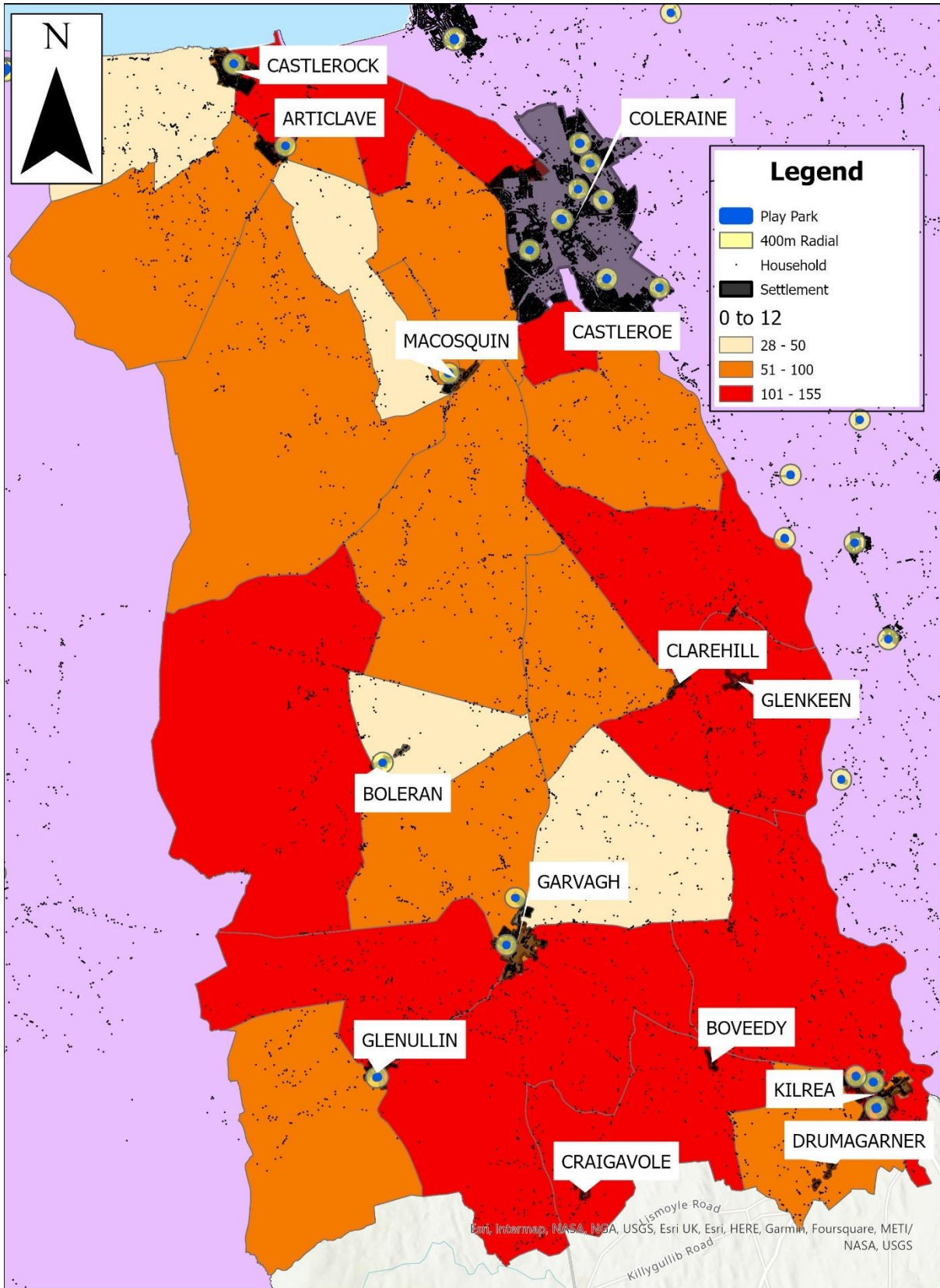
Designation of Play Park	Walking Distance
Local Areas for Play (LAPs) are specifically designated and laid out for very young children (<5 years) with the express purpose of providing somewhere to play close to where they live.	100
Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) are areas of open space designated and laid out with features and equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently (5 to 12 years) close to where they live.	400
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP) are areas of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children (including 12+) but with play opportunities for younger children as well.	1000

There are at present 10 fixed play parks located across the DEA, all designated as Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPS).

The map overleaf shows the location of play parks mapped against settlements and household location with a 400m radial introduced in line with the Accessibility Benchmark Standards.

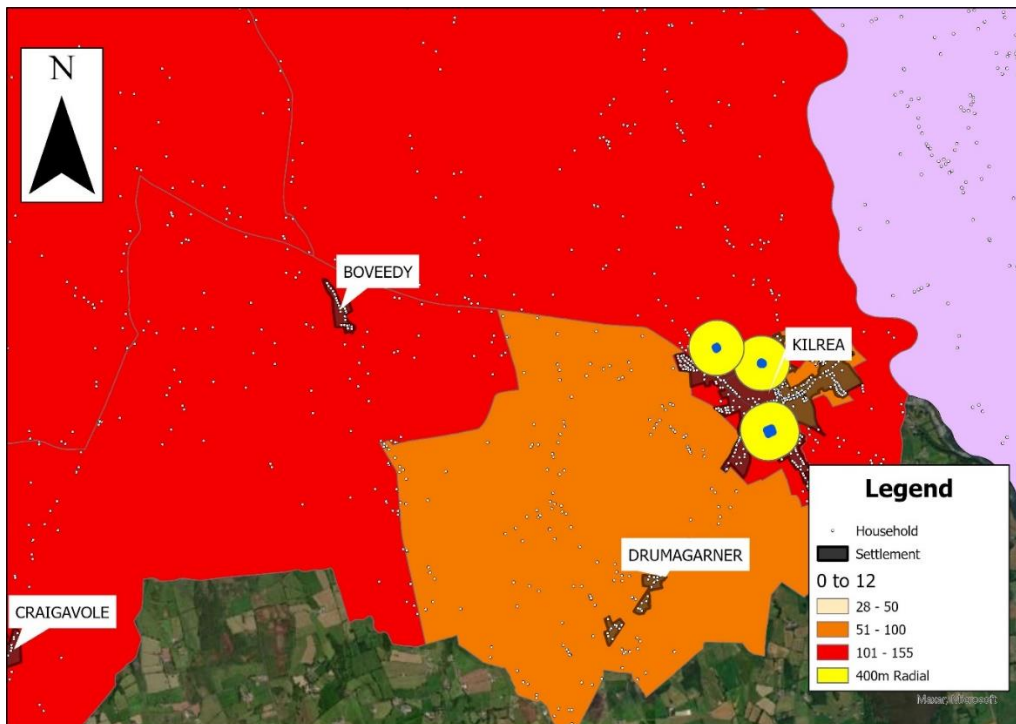
In the majority of cases, play parks are located at the point of greatest population need i.e. within or in close proximity to a settlement. Based on population and household review, six areas have been identified as potential gap areas for fixed play and have been subject to further review:

1. Boveedy
2. Castleroe
3. Clarehill
4. Craigavole
5. Drumagarner
6. Glenkeen



Potential Gap Area 1 – Boveedy

Boveedy is a small hamlet located approximately 3 miles West of Kilrea.

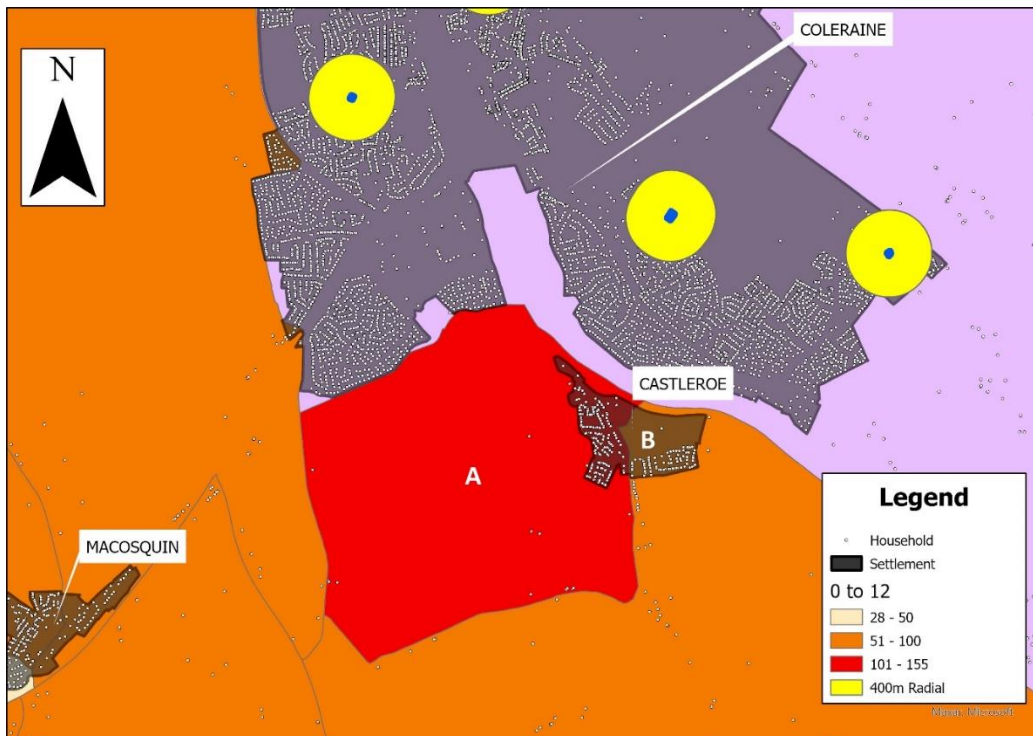


The data zone in which Boveedy is located, based on 2021 census figures, has a resident 0-to-12 population of 117, however it must be noted that the datazone incorporates an extensive rural area including housing to the South-West located at Craigavole.

The number of households within Boveedy is 39, placing it below the agreed household criteria. At present Boveedy does not therefore meet the criteria for new fixed play park development.

Potential Gap Area 2 – Castleroe

Located to the South of Coleraine and separated from the main town by the River Bann, Castleroe is largely residential in nature.

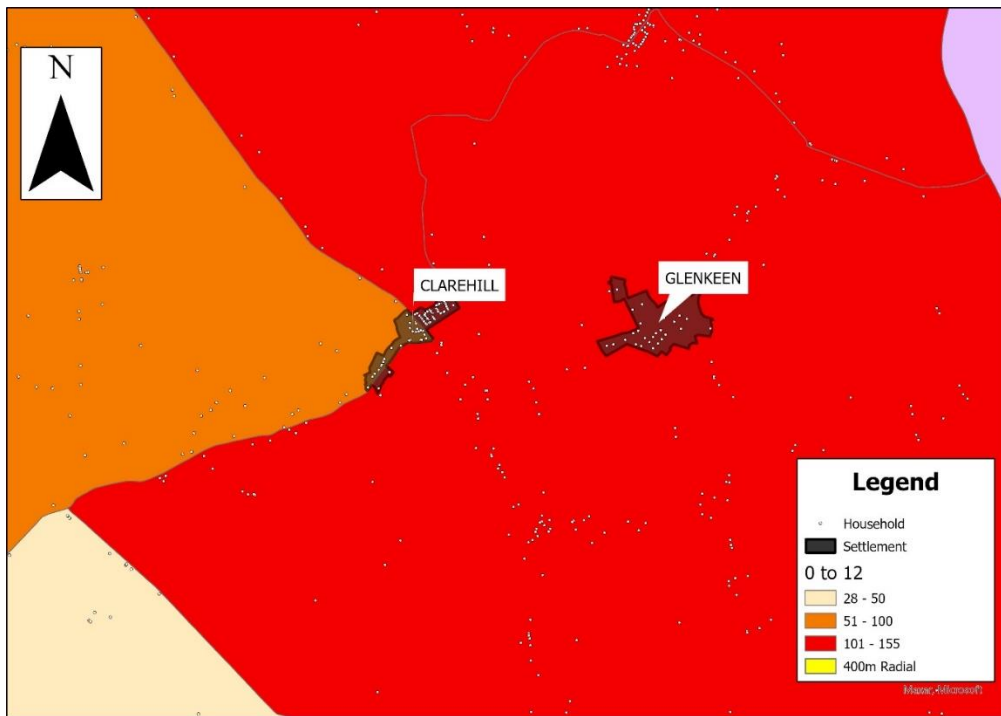


Based on the 2021 census, the 2 data zones within which Castleroe is located had a resident population aged 0-to-12 of 116 (Area A above) and 53 (Area B above), totalling 169. The number of households within the settlement boundary totals 311, placing it above both set criteria for new play development.

Council should undertake a review of land options and, pending availability of land engage with the local community to confirm the need for play development within the area.

Potential Gap Area 3 – Clarehill

Clarehill is a small hamlet located to the South of the DEA and West of the hamlet of Glenkeen.

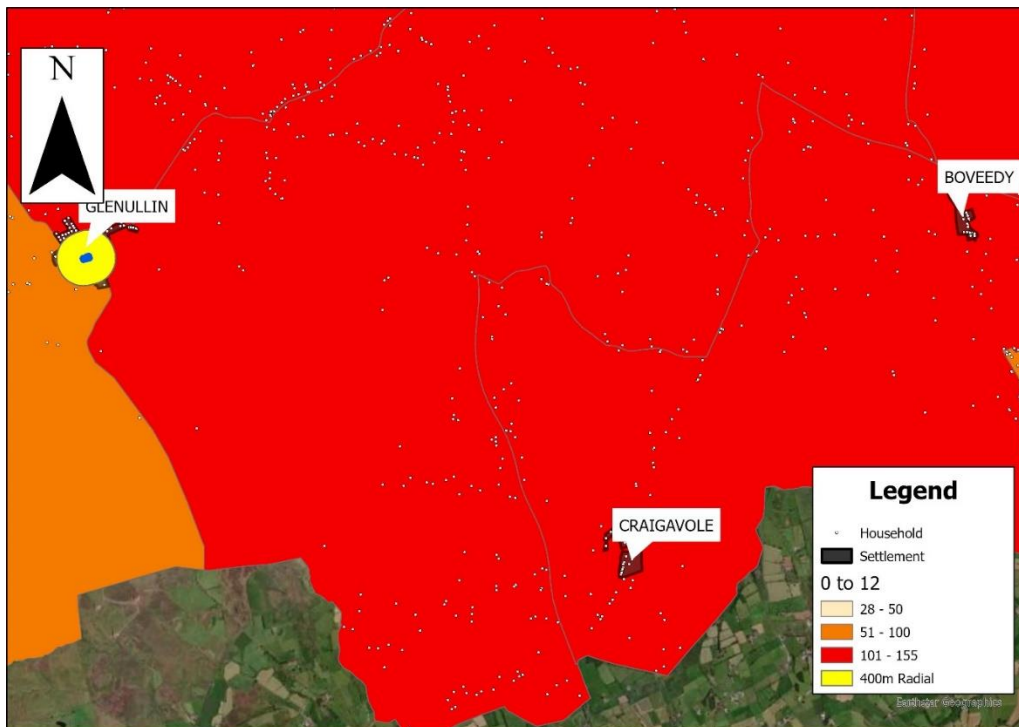


In January 2021, Council approved the development of a new play park at Culcrow Primary School with car parking to LEAP standard with an indicative budget of £100k.

The new play park is being developed in partnership with Education Authority with planning permission given in June 2022. Proposals are currently subject to internal EA approvals in relation to acquisition of additional lands and the securing of funding. The proposed community use facility will also be subject to agreements between EA and Council being in place.

Potential Gap Area 4 – Craigavole

Craigavole is a small hamlet located to the South of the DEA.

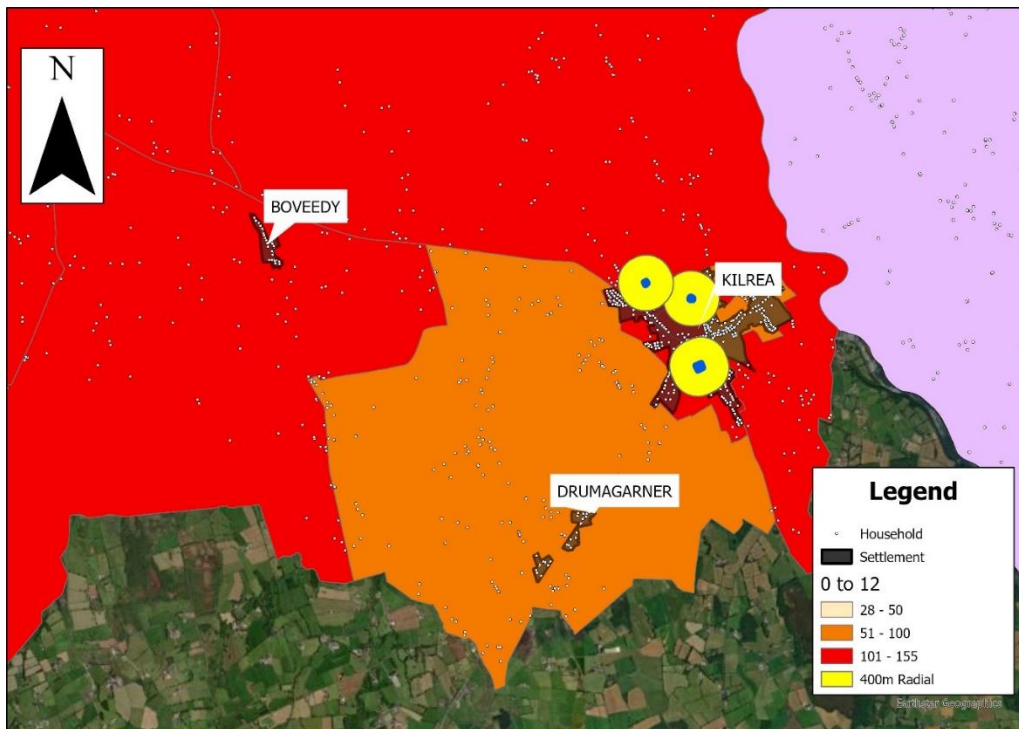


Based on 2021 census figures, the data zone has a resident 0-to-12 population of 117, however it must be noted that the data zone incorporates a large rural area with a dispersed household pattern and include the hamlet of Boveedy. The population indicator does not therefore relate solely to Craigavole.

The number of households within Craigavole is 29, placing it below the agreed household criteria. At present Craigavole does not therefore meet the criteria for new fixed play park development.

Potential Gap Area 5 – Drumagarner

Drumagarner is a small hamlet located approximately 2 miles to the south of Kilrea.

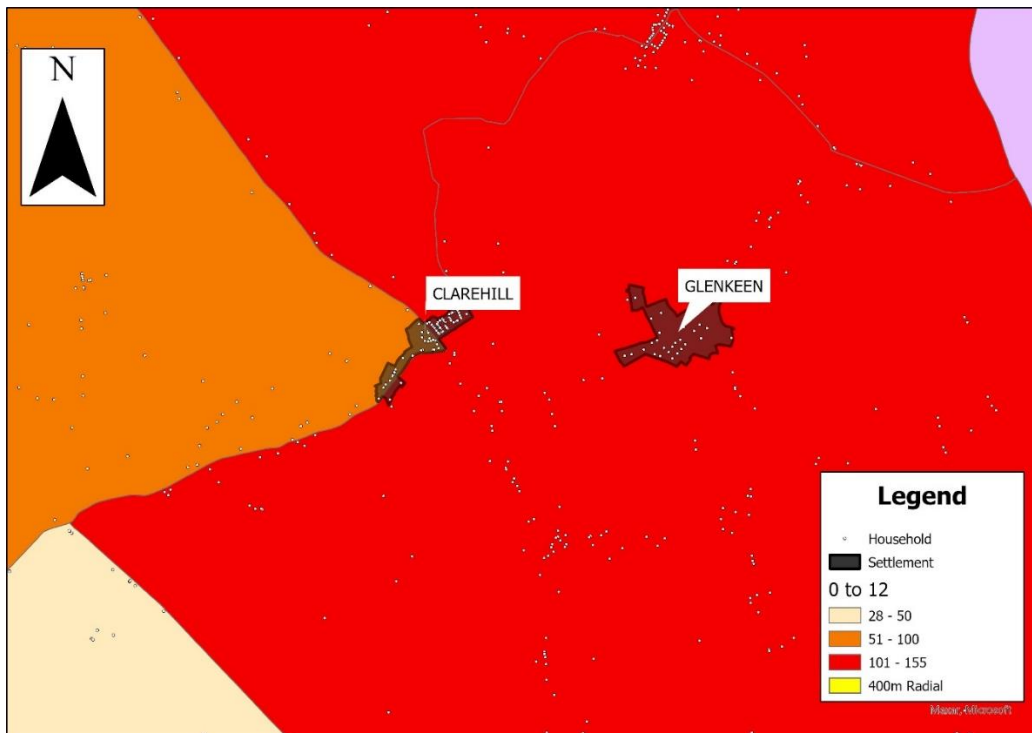


The data zone in which Drumagarner is located, based on 2021 census figures, has a resident 0-to-12 population of 99 however it must be noted that the datazone incorporates a large rural area with a dispersed household pattern. The population indicator does not therefore relate solely to Drumagarner.

The number of households within Drumagarner is 31, placing it below the agreed household criteria. At present Drumagarner does not therefore meet the criteria for new fixed play park development.

Potential Gap Area 6 – Glenkeen

Glenkeen is a small hamlet located to the South of the DEA and East of Clarehill.

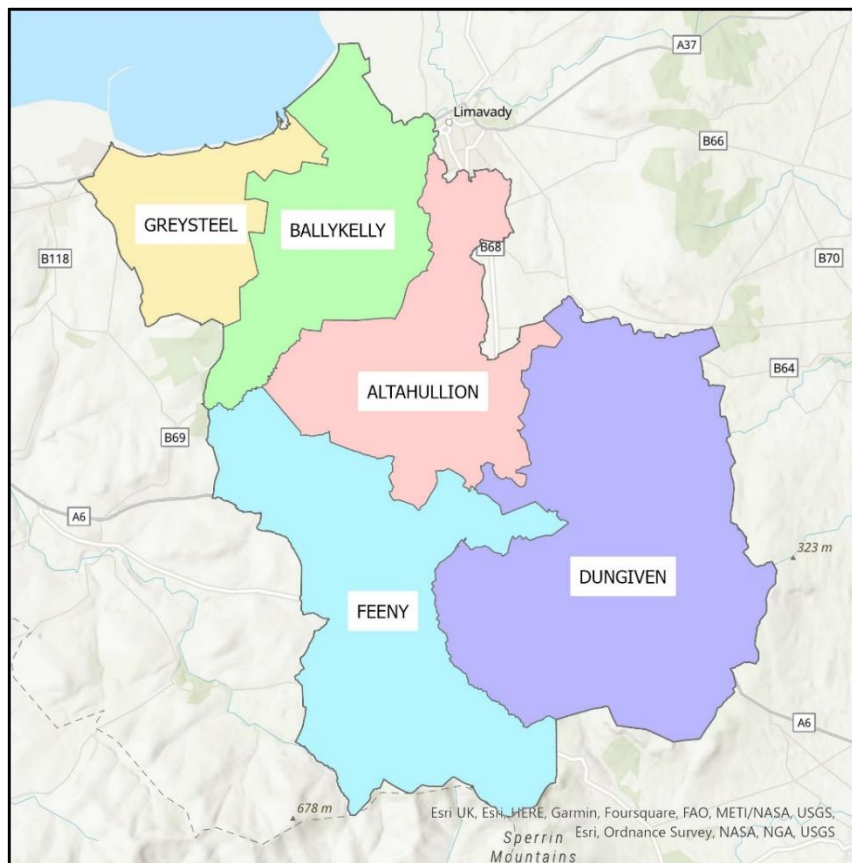
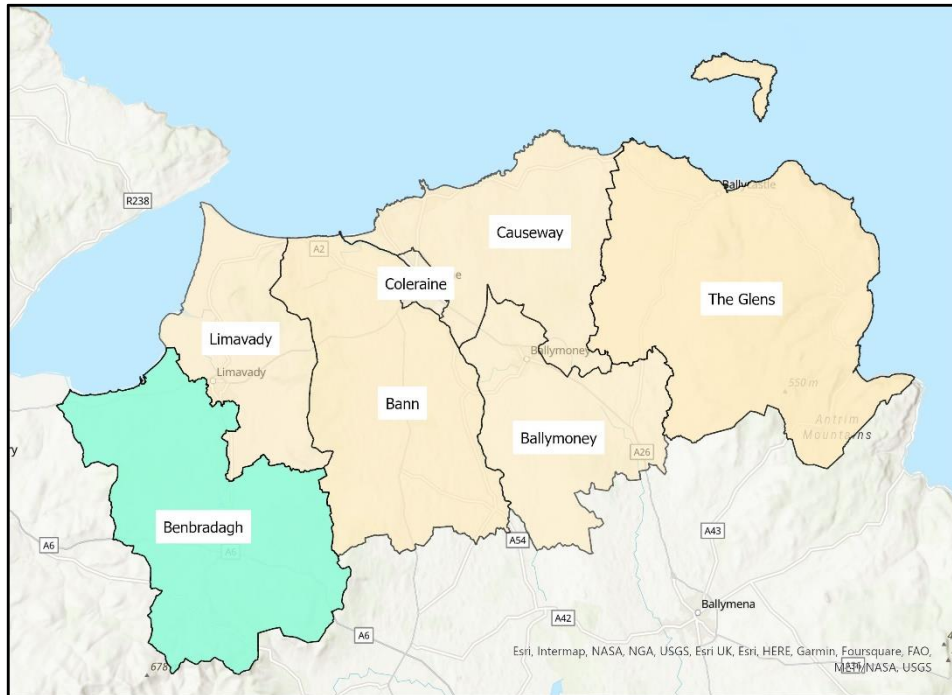


The data zone in which Glenkeen is located, based on 2021 census figures, has a resident 0-to-12 population of 113 however it must be noted that the datazone incorporates a large rural area with a dispersed household pattern and includes housing at Clarehill. The population indicator does not therefore relate solely to Glenkeen.

The number of households within Glenkeen is 33, placing it below the agreed household criteria. At present Glenkeen does not meet the criteria for new fixed play park development.

7.0 Benbradagh DEA – Gap Analysis

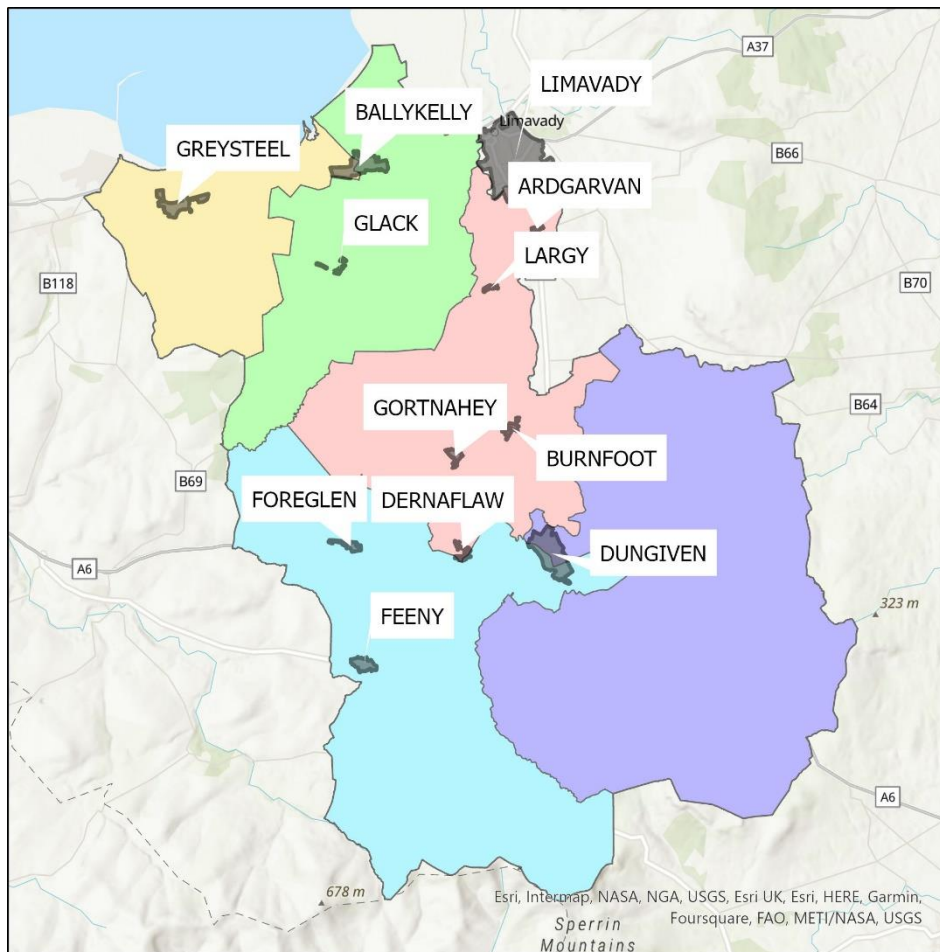
Benbradagh District Electoral Area (DEA) is located to the West of the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area and comprises 5 wards – Greysteel, Ballykelly, Altahullion, Feeny and Dungiven.



Recognised settlements within the DEA include:

- Ardgarvan
- Ballykelly
- Burnfoot
- Dernaflaw
- Dungiven
- Feeny
- Foreglen
- Glack
- Gortnahey
- Greysteel
- Largy
- Limavady

A settlement location map can be viewed below.



In assessing the level of coverage afforded by existing fixed play areas, and in order to identify potential areas of need for new fixed play provision three key pieces of data have been analysed:

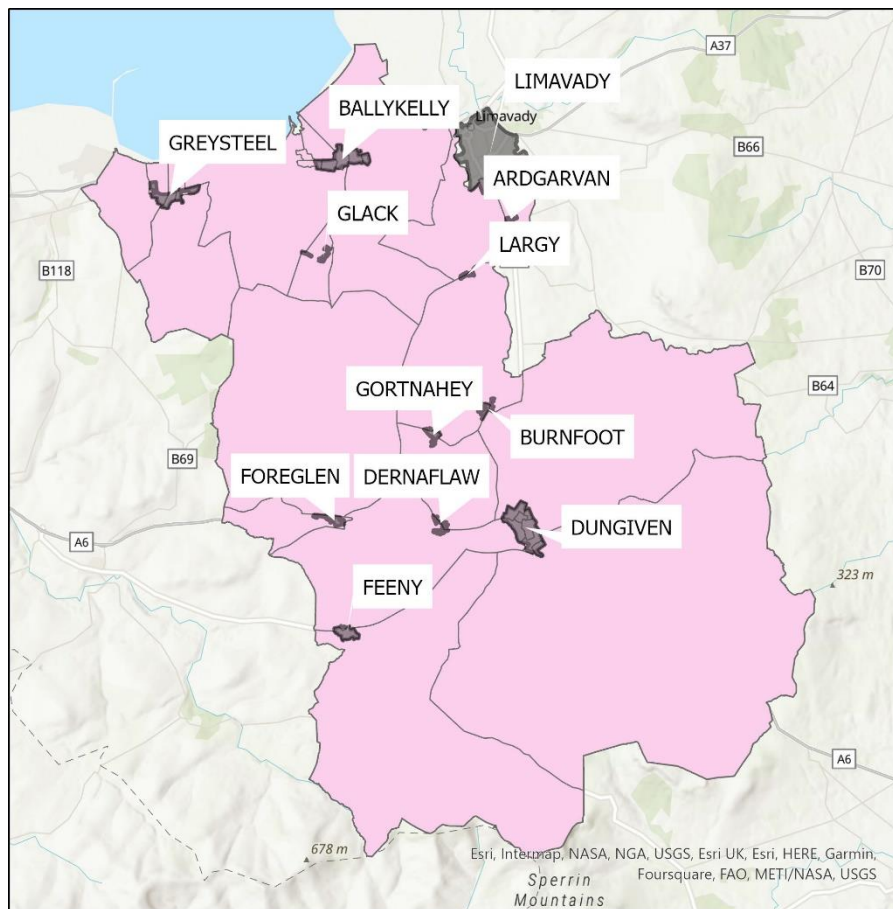
1. Population data from the 2021 census data highlighting the number of 0- to 12-year-olds resident within NISRA defined data zone areas; and
2. Household location data
3. The current location of fixed play area across the DEA

By combining data sources an assessment can be undertaken of the level of potential demand for fixed play within a location based on population and household spread.

Data Zones

Data zones have been introduced by NISRA to support the analysis of demographic population statistics emerging from the 2021 census. Data zones represent the most localised level of data available, with 3,780 Data Zones nesting within 850 Super Data Zones which in turn nest within DEA areas and overarching local government districts.

A map showing the Data Zone classification areas for the DEA can be viewed below.

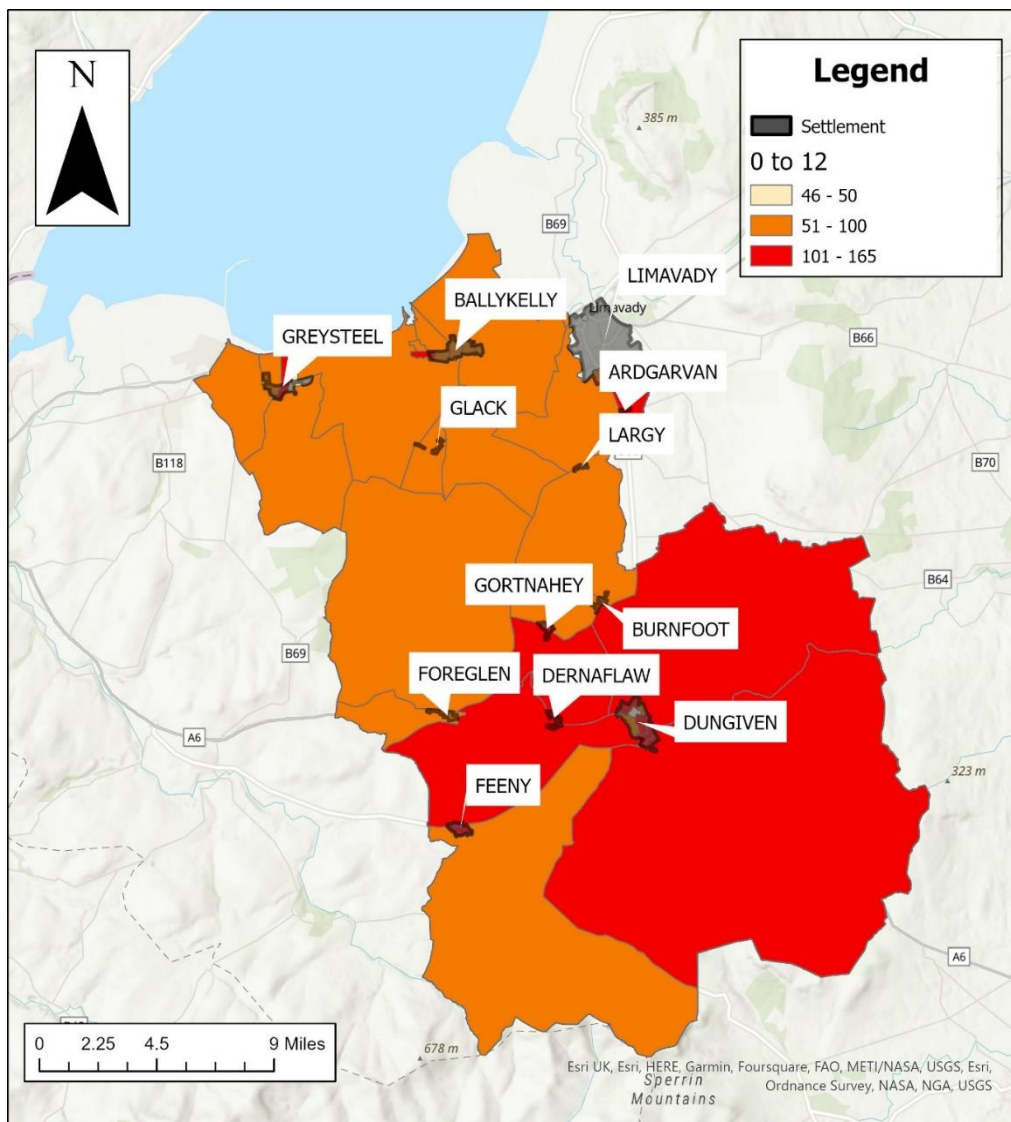


In reviewing population data mapped by data zone, it is important to recognise their size and geographical spread, particularly within rural areas.

The size, shape and form of data zone areas have been designed to ensure that each has a broadly similar population size, is socially similar in terms of housing characteristics and has a compact, regular shape. Given lower population levels and more dispersed household distribution patterns, rural data zones tend to cover a larger geographical area.

Demographic Overview

The map below shows population statistics, mapped by data zone, for children aged 0 to 12 years (the primary focus group for fixed play parks), resident on the day of the 2021 census of the population.

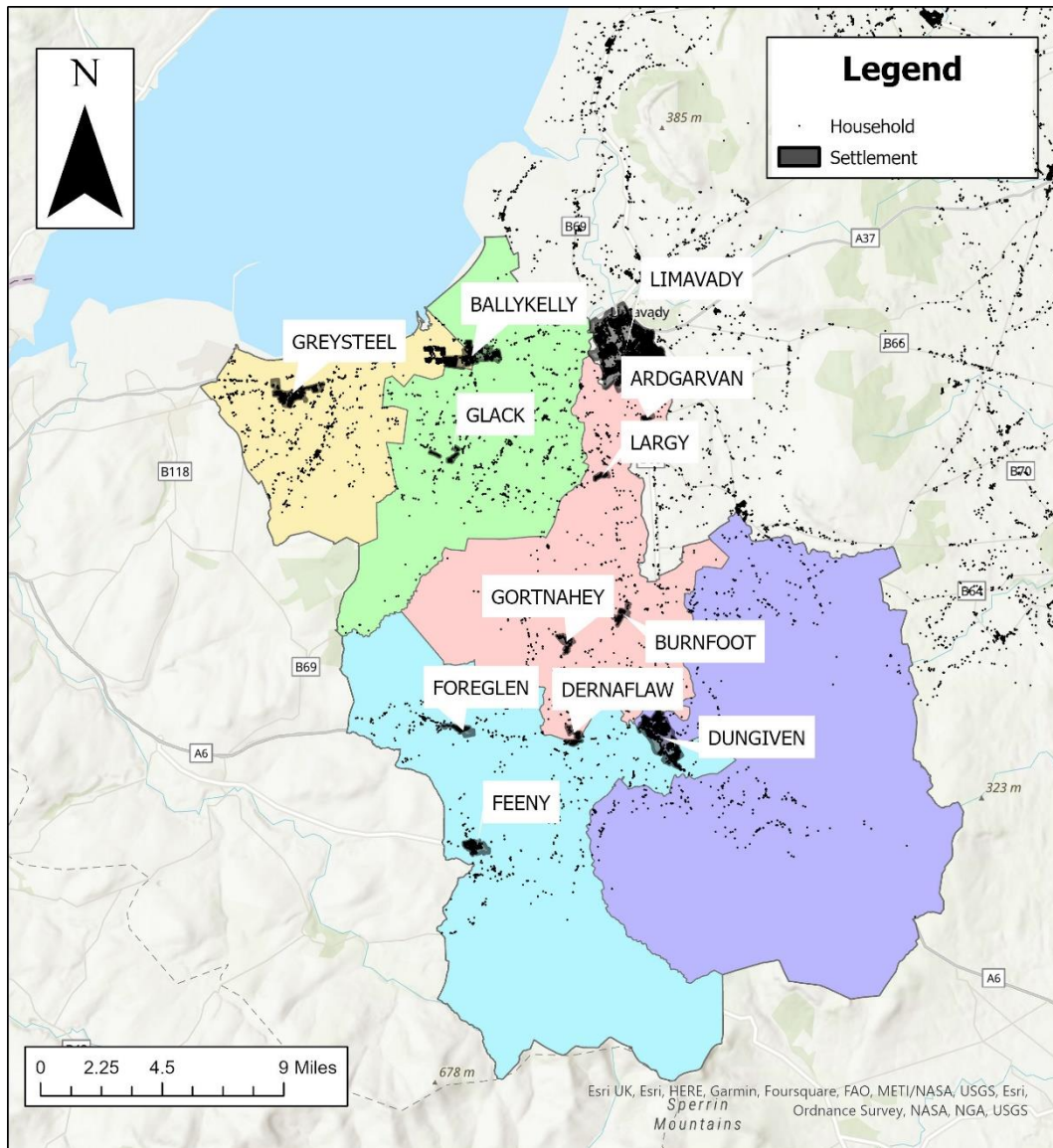


Under the agreed criteria, to be eligible for consideration for new fixed play development or upgrade the number of resident children and young people (0 to 12) within an urban defined area should be 150 or more. In the case of rural areas, in recognition of lower population density levels and household spread this has been reduced to 50 children or young people (aged 0 to 12 years).

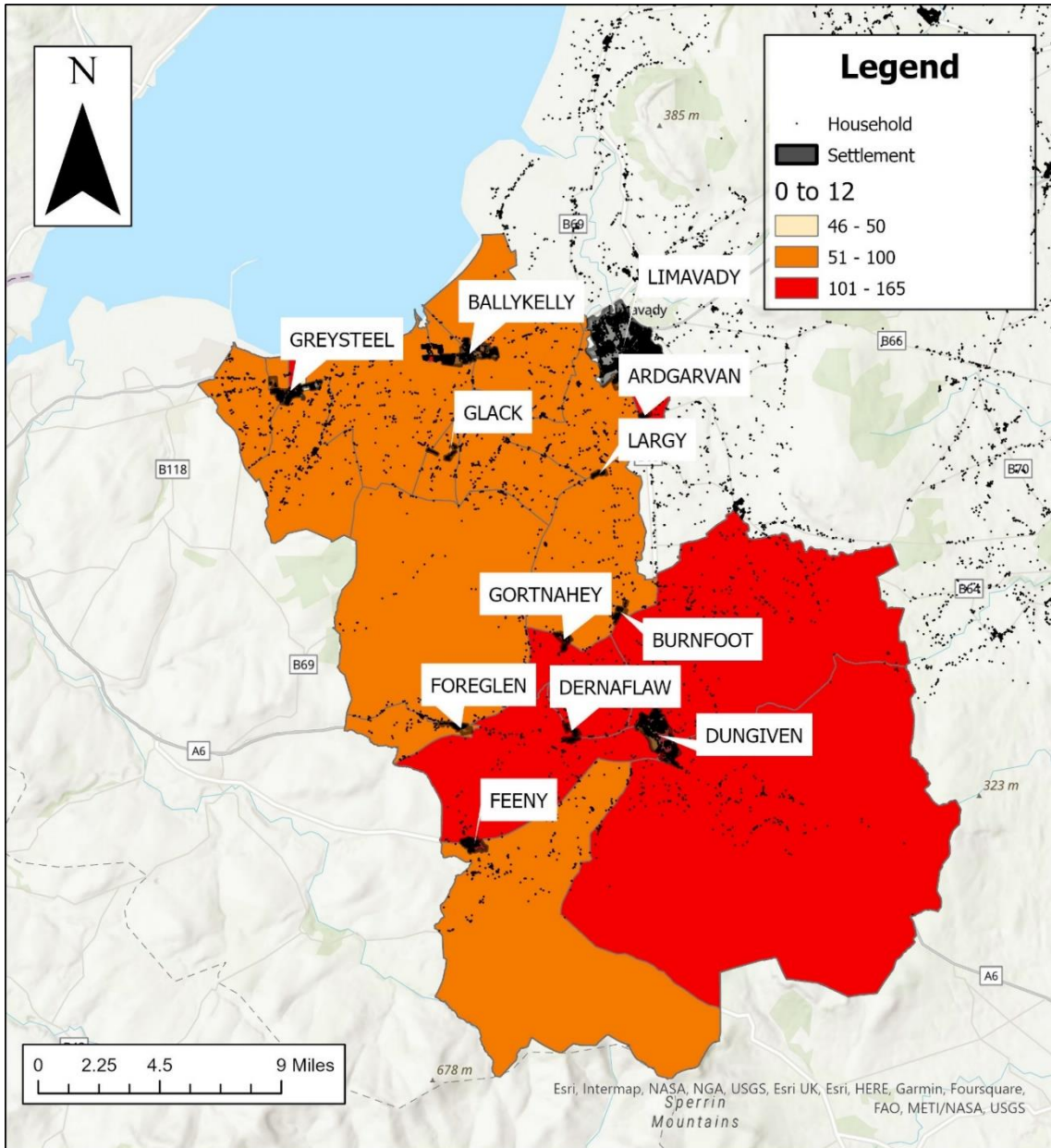
Household Distribution

As a largely rural area, household distribution within the DEA tends to be centred around key settlements or along main roadways; outside of settlement areas, household distribution tends to be of a dispersed nature.

The map below shows the location of individual households across the DEA by ward alongside those within neighbouring DEA's.



The map overleaf shows the demographic data for 0- to 12-year-olds mapped against the household distribution pattern for the DEA.



Current Play Provision

Play Parks are designated according to the Fields in Trust 'Accessibility Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Play' (often known as the ABS). The ABS classifies play parks according to the level of play provision offered by the site and establishes a radial catchment area to identify the resident population whose needs are served by a play park based on its designation:

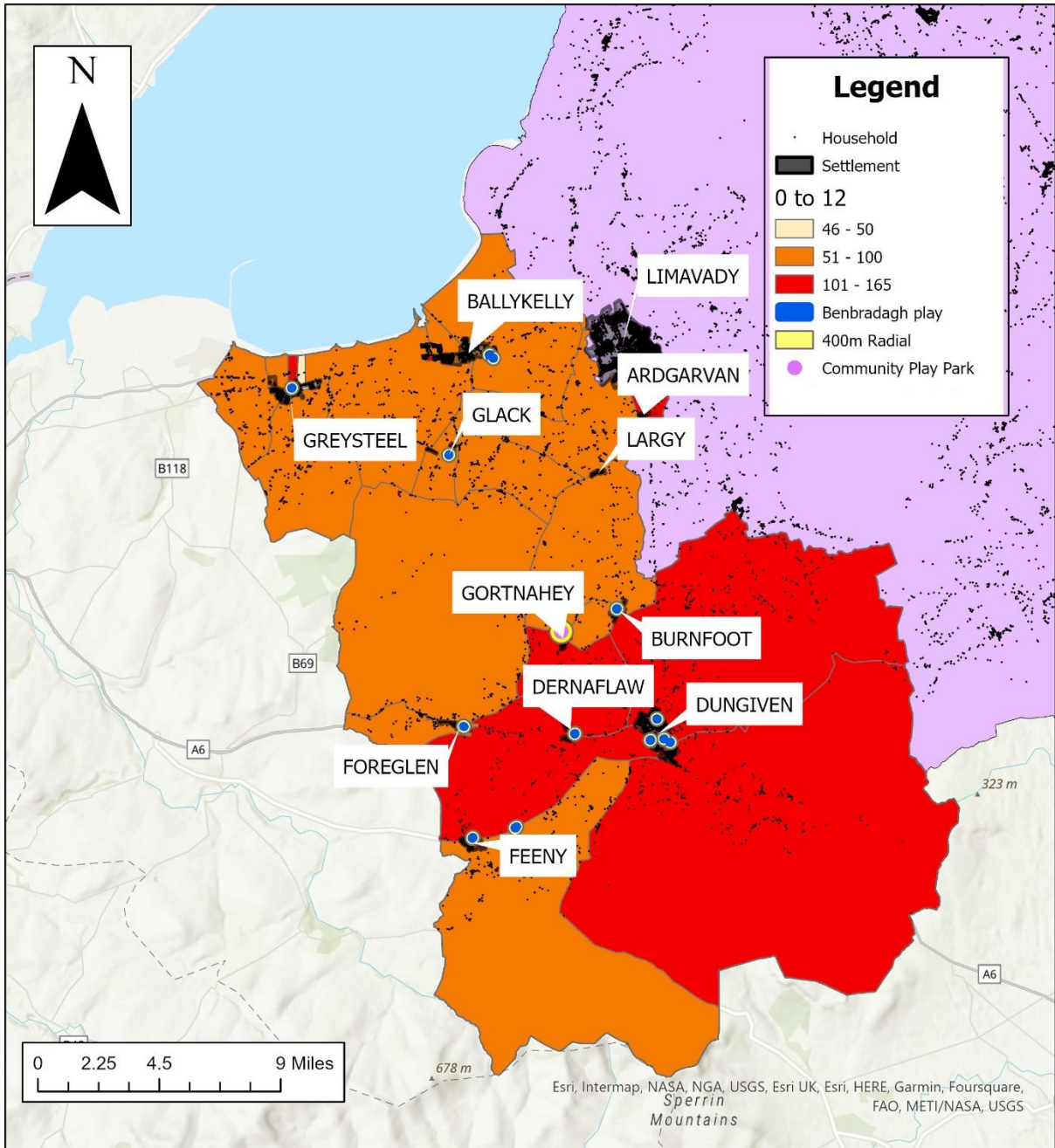
Designation of Play Park	Walking Distance
Local Areas for Play (LAPs) are specifically designated and laid out for very young children (<5 years) with the express purpose of providing somewhere to play close to where they live.	100
Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) are areas of open space designated and laid out with features and equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently (5 to 12 years) close to where they live.	400
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP) are areas of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children (including 12+) but with play opportunities for younger children as well.	1000

There are at present 12 fixed play parks located across the DEA alongside 1 outdoor gym located Dungiven Environmental Park. All of the play parks are designated as Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPS). It should be noted that in addition to council owned play parks, there is also a community operated fixed play park located in the village of Gortnahey.

The map overleaf shows the location of play parks mapped against settlements and household location with a 400m radial introduced in line with the Accessibility Benchmark Standards.

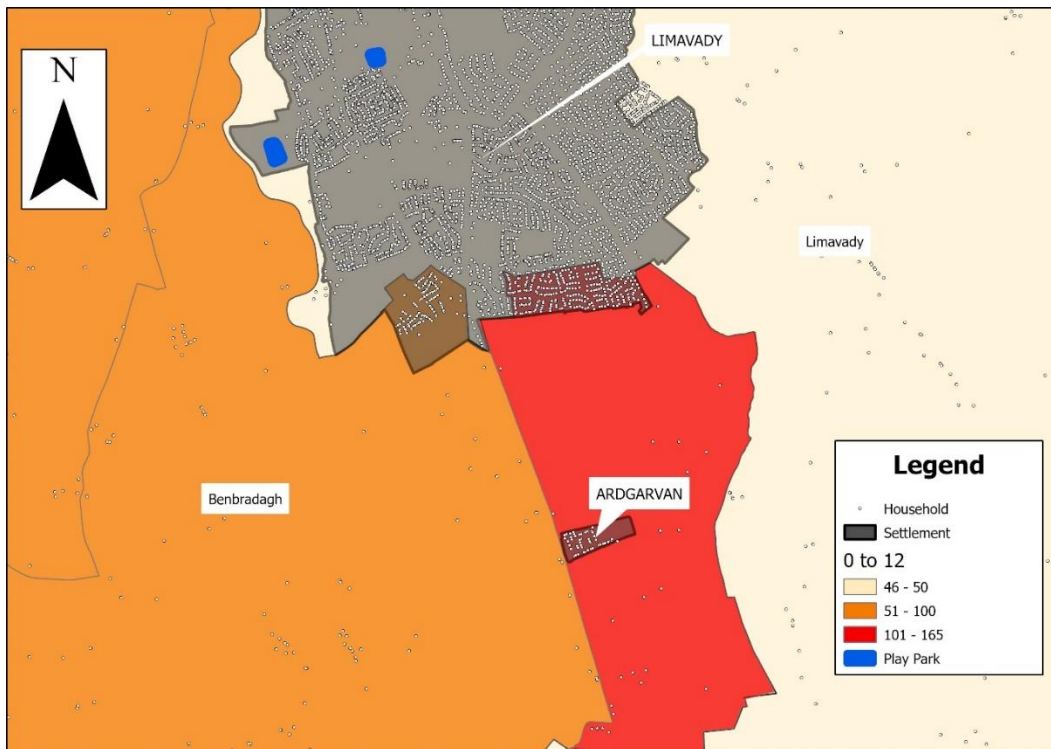
In the majority of cases, play parks are located at the point of greatest population need i.e. within or in close proximity to a settlement. Based on population and household review, three areas have been identified as potential gap areas for fixed play and have been subject to further review:

1. Ardgarvan
2. Ballykelly
3. Largy



Potential Gap Area 1 – Ardgarvan

Ardgarvan is a small hamlet located approximately 2.5 miles to the south of Limavady.



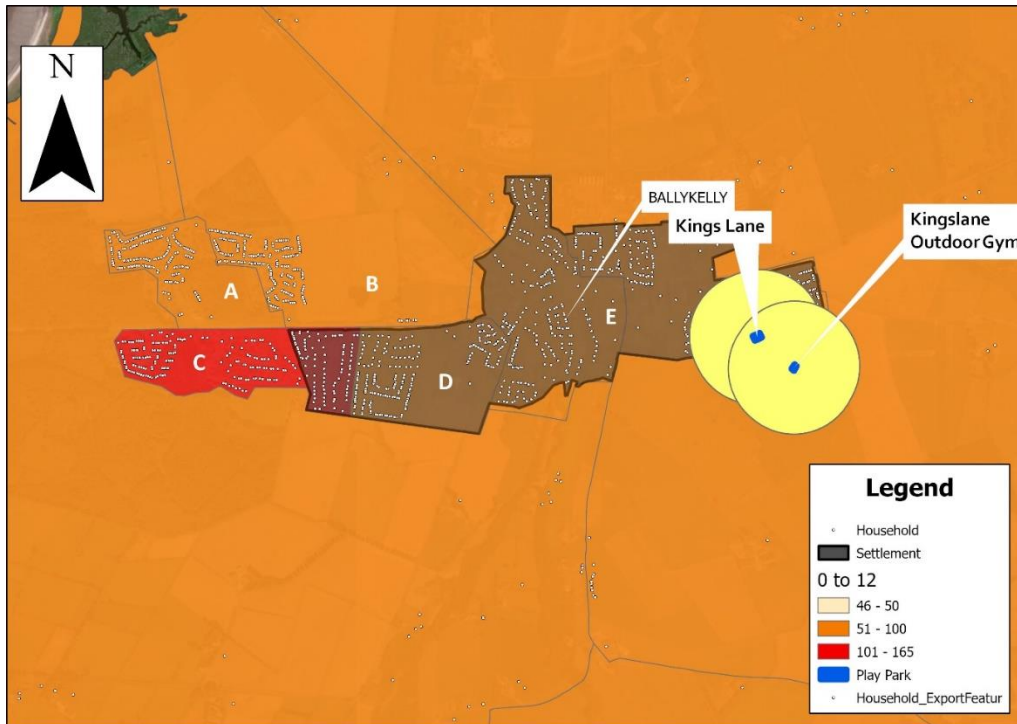
The data zone in which Ardgarvan is located, based on 2021 census figures, has a resident 0-to-12 population of 114 however it must be noted that the datazone incorporates housing to the south of Limavady urban area and does not relate specifically to Ardgarvan.

The number of households within Ardgarvan is 57, placing it below the agreed household criteria. At present Ardgarvan does not therefore meet the criteria for new fixed play park development.

Potential Gap Area 2 – Ballykelly

Ballykelly is a designated large village located approximately 3 miles West of Limavady.

The village currently has 1 fixed play park with an adjoining outdoor gym (as denoted on the map below).



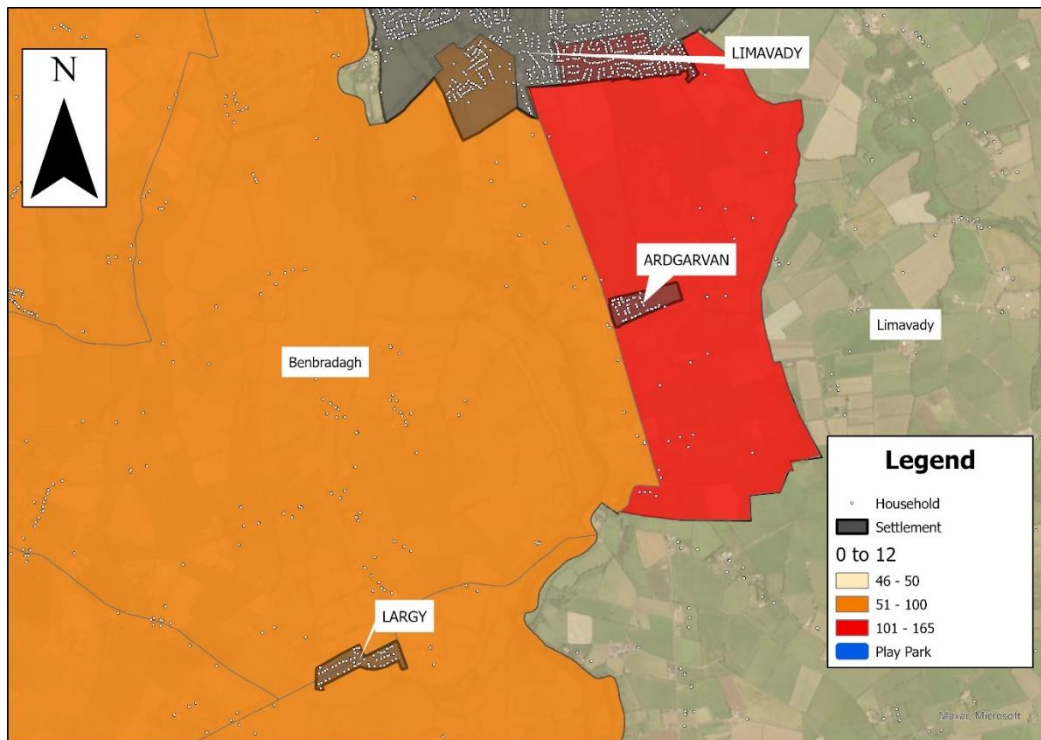
Based on the 2021 census, the data zones areas noted on the map above (A through to E) have a resident population aged 0-to-12 of 557, denoting a high level of play need. The number of households falling outside of the radial coverage area is approximately 1,333.

Analysis of both household numbers and underlying demographics indicates a need for additional fixed play provision within Ballykelly. It is noted that the demand for play has in part been due to private residential development which may limit land options for play development.

With regards to future residential development, council should ensure that developers adhere to PPS 7 and 8 regarding the provision of play and recreation space.

Potential Gap Area 3 – Largy

Largy is a small hamlet located approximately 4.5 miles to the south of Limavady.

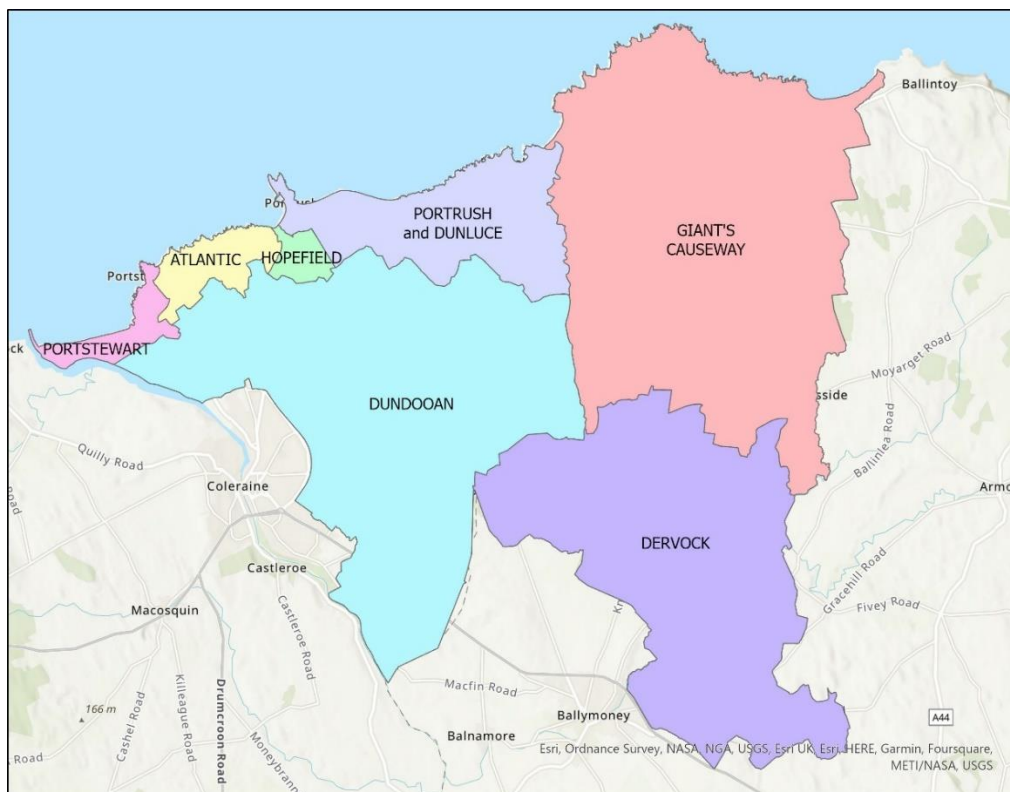
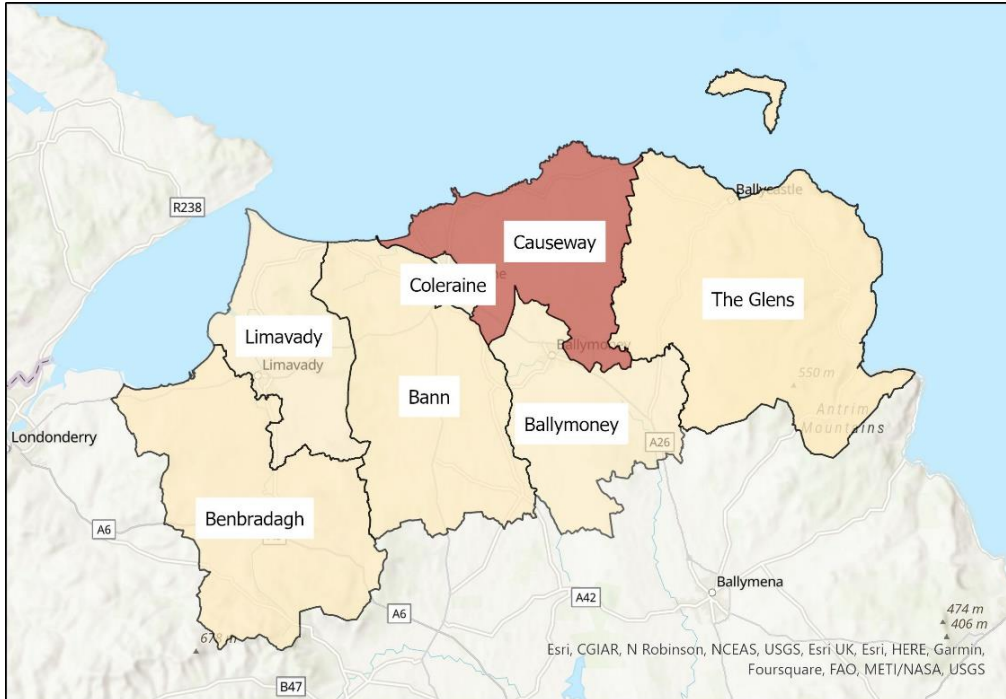


The data zone in which Largy is located, based on 2021 census figures, has a resident 0-to-12 population of 90 however it must be noted that the datazone incorporates a large rural area with a dispersed household pattern. The population indicator does not therefore relate solely to Largy.

The number of households within Largy is 56, placing it below the agreed household criteria. At present Largy does not therefore meet the criteria for new fixed play park development.

8.0 Causeway DEA – Gap Analysis

Causeway District Electoral Area (DEA) is located to the North of Causeway Coast and Glens Council area and comprises 7 wards – Atlantic, Dundoonan, Hopefield, Giants Causeway, Portrush and Dunluce, Portstewart and Dercock.



In assessing the level of coverage afforded by existing fixed play areas, and in order to identify potential areas of need for new fixed play provision three key pieces of data have been analysed:

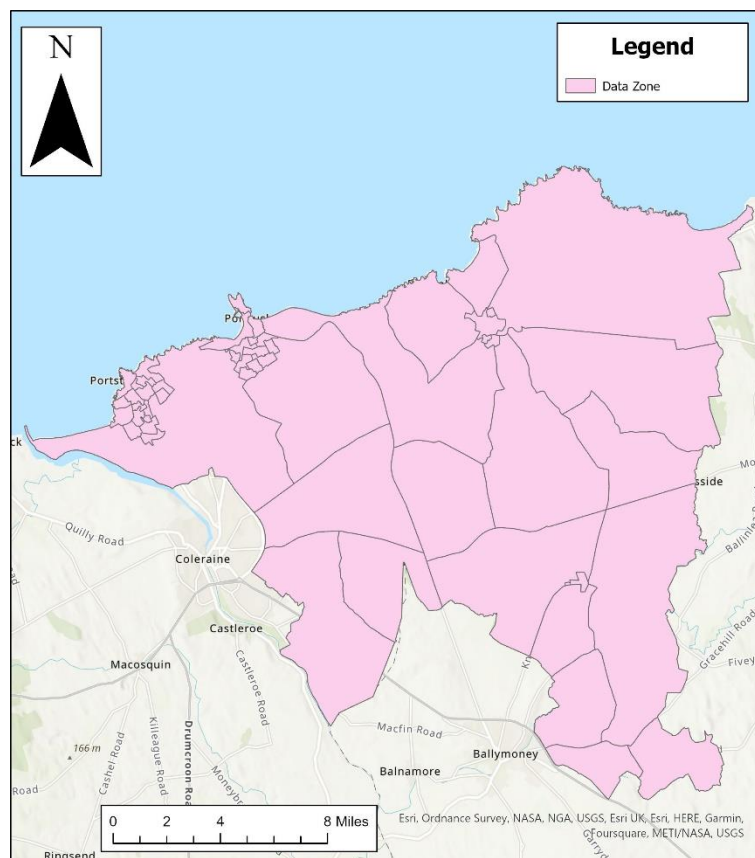
1. Population data from the 2021 census data highlighting the number of 0- to 12-year-olds resident within NISRA defined data zone areas; and
2. Household location data
3. The current location of fixed play area across the DEA

By combining data sources an assessment can be undertaken of the level of potential demand for fixed play within a location based on population and household spread.

Data Zones

Data zones have been introduced by NISRA to support the analysis of demographic population statistics emerging from the 2021 census. Data zones represent the most localised level of data available, with 3,780 Data Zones nesting within 850 Super Data Zones which in turn nest within DEA areas and overarching local government districts.

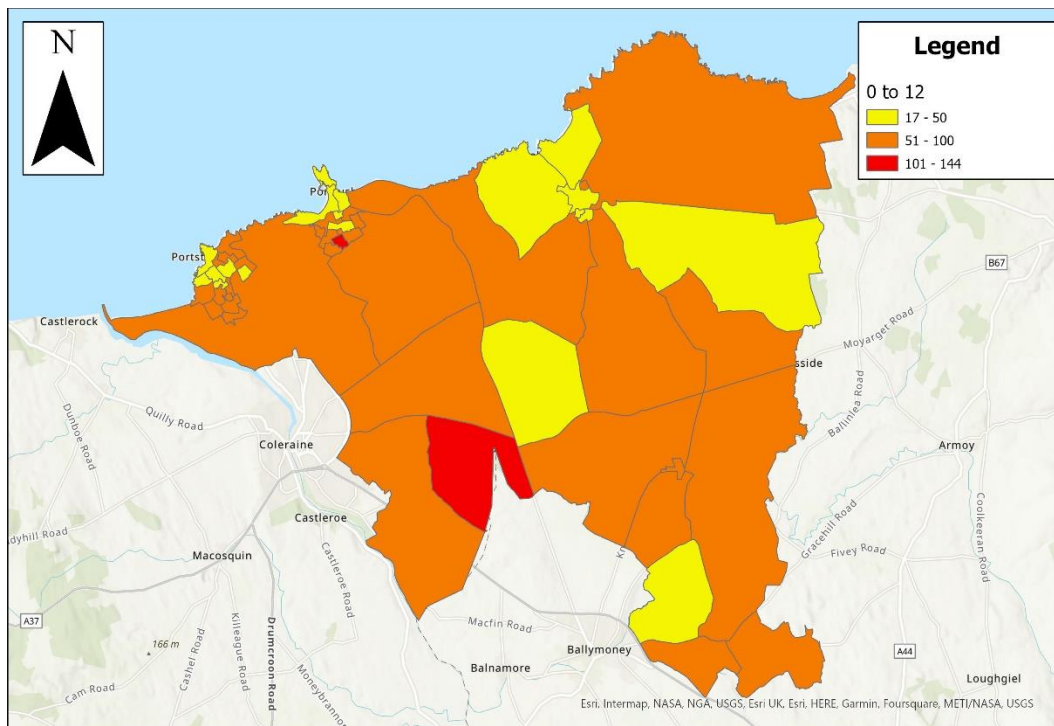
A map showing the Data Zone classification areas for the DEA can be viewed below.



In reviewing population data mapped by data zone, it is important to recognise their size and geographical spread, particularly within rural areas. The size, shape and form of data zone areas have been designed to ensure that each has a broadly similar population size, is socially similar in terms of housing characteristics and has a compact, regular shape. Given lower population levels and more dispersed household distribution patterns, rural data zones tend to cover a larger geographical area.

Demographic Overview

The map below shows population statistics, mapped by data zone, for children aged 0 to 12 years (the primary focus group for fixed play parks), resident on the day of the 2021 census of the population.

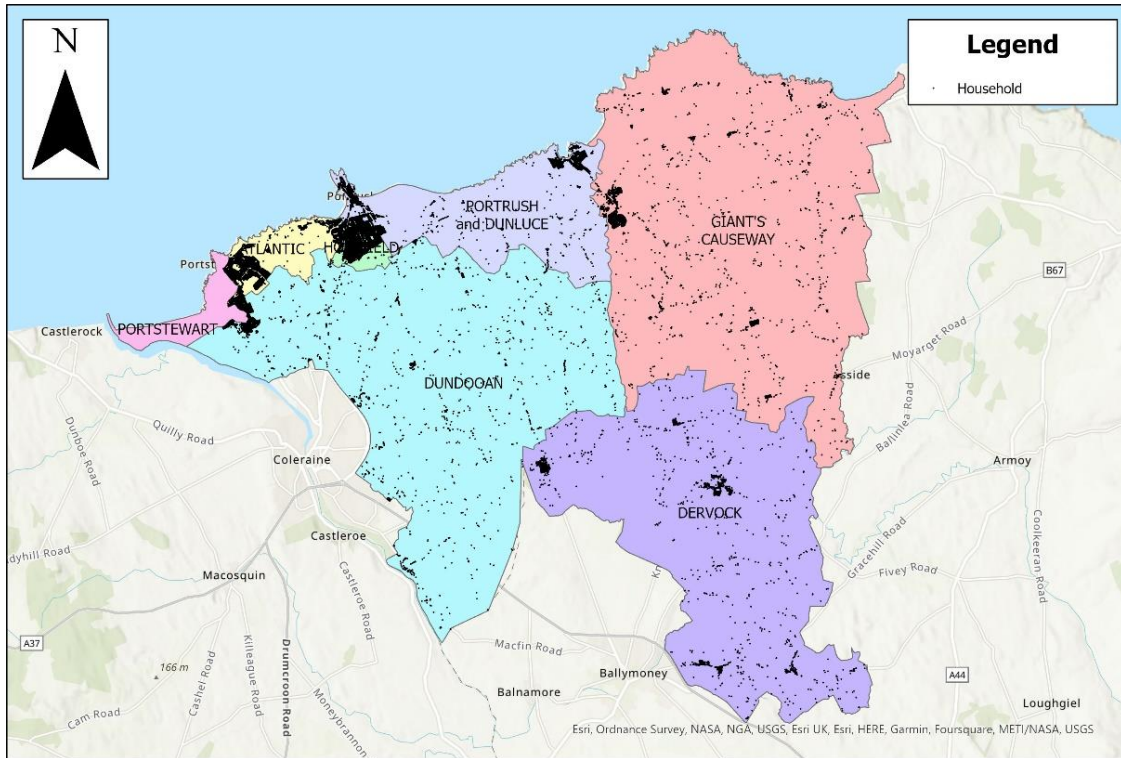


Under the agreed criteria, to be eligible for consideration for new fixed play development or upgrade the number of resident children and young people (0 to 12) within an urban defined area should be 150 or more. In the case of rural areas, in recognition of lower population density levels and household spread this has been reduced to 50 children or young people (aged 0 to 12 years).

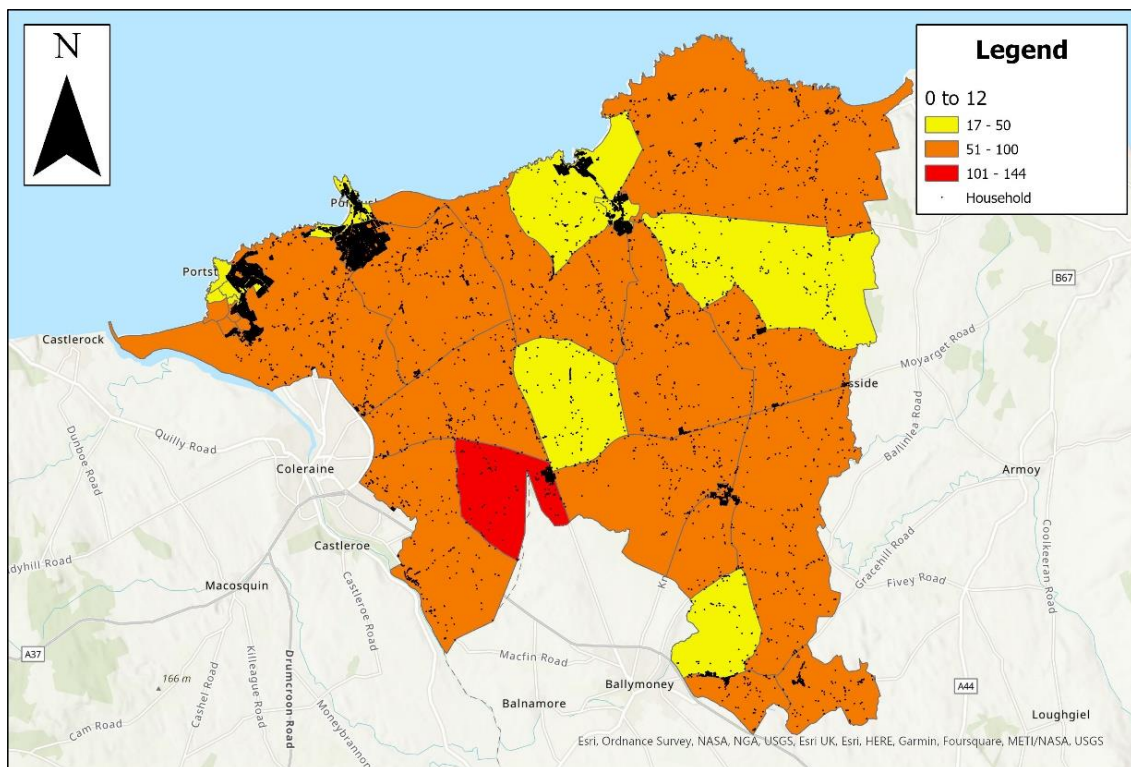
Household Distribution

As a largely rural area, household distribution within the DEA tends to be centred around key settlements or along main roadways; outside of settlement areas, household distribution tends to be of a dispersed nature.

The map overleaf shows the location of individual households across the DEA.



The map below shows the demographic data for 0- to 12-year-olds mapped against the household distribution pattern for the DEA.



Current Play Provision

Play Parks are designated according to the Fields in Trust 'Accessibility Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Play' (often known as the ABS). The ABS classifies play parks according to the level of play provision offered by the site and establishes a radial catchment area to identify the resident population whose needs are served by a play park based on its designation:

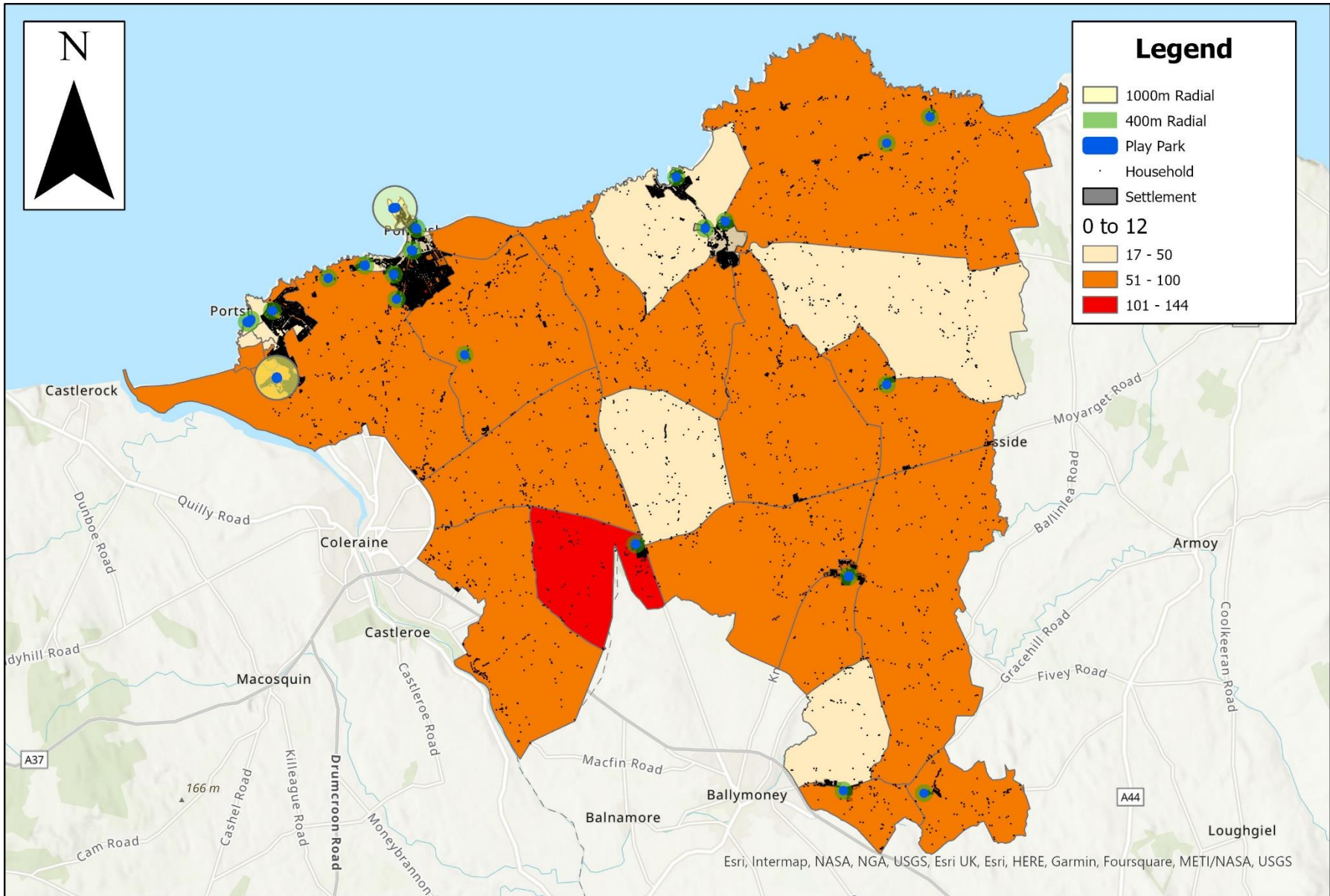
Designation of Play Park	Walking Distance
Local Areas for Play (LAPs) are specifically designated and laid out for very young children (<5 years) with the express purpose of providing somewhere to play close to where they live.	100
Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) are areas of open space designated and laid out with features and equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently (5 to 12 years) close to where they live.	400
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP) are areas of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children (including 12+) but with play opportunities for younger children as well.	1000

There are at present 21 fixed play parks located across the DEA, including 2 NEAP standard sites, one located at Flowerfield in Portstewart and a new NEAP standard play park located at Ramore Recreation Grounds in Portrush.

The map overleaf shows the location of play parks mapped against settlements and household location, with a 400m catchment radial for LEAP and a 1,000m radial for NEAP play parks.

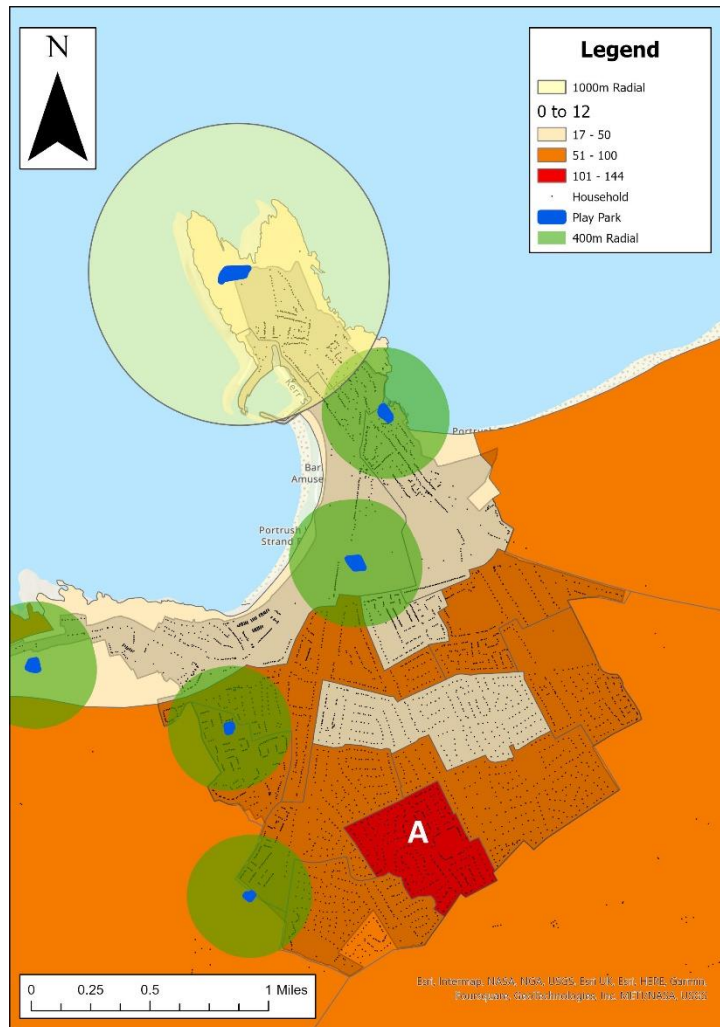
Two areas have been identified as potential gap areas for fixed play and have been subject to further review:

1. Portrush (South)
2. Bushmills



Potential Gap Area A – Portrush South

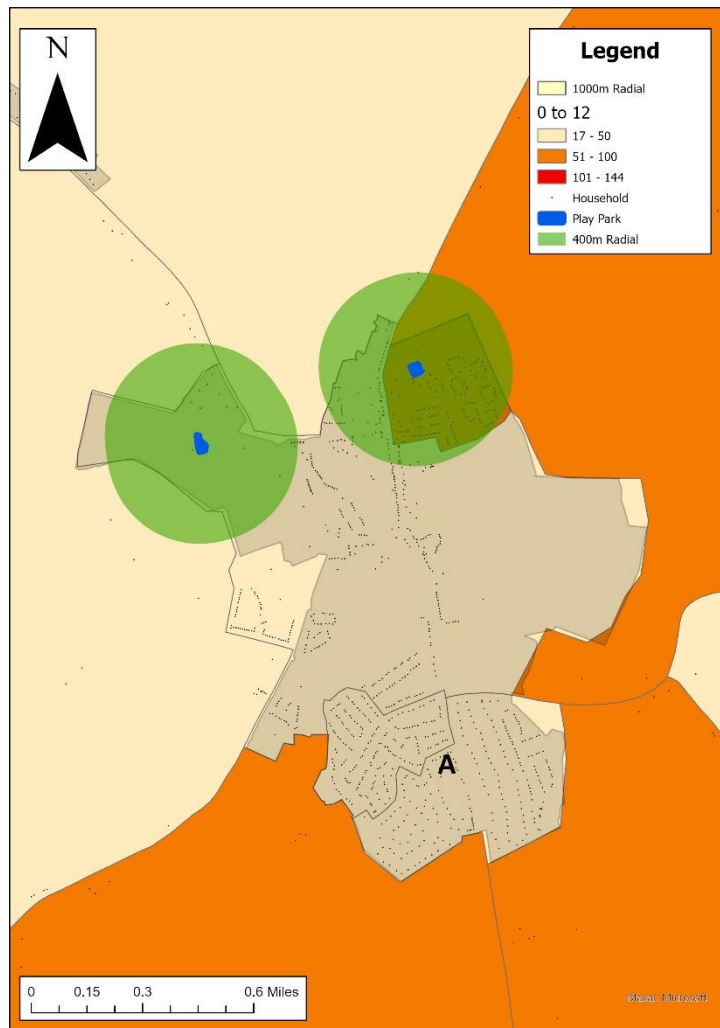
A potential gap has been noted within Portrush South (datazone denoted A below). The identified red datazone has a total of 144 resident children aged 0 to 12, whilst adjacent datazones total a further 196 indicating that there is a need for additional fixed play provision within the area.



It is recognised that the area identified is primarily residential in nature, making the availability of suitable land to support play development a potential issue. Council should undertake a review of land options within the area to determine whether future fixed play development is viable.

Potential Gap Area B – Bushmills (South)

A potential gap was noted within Bushmills, as denoted (area A) on the map below.

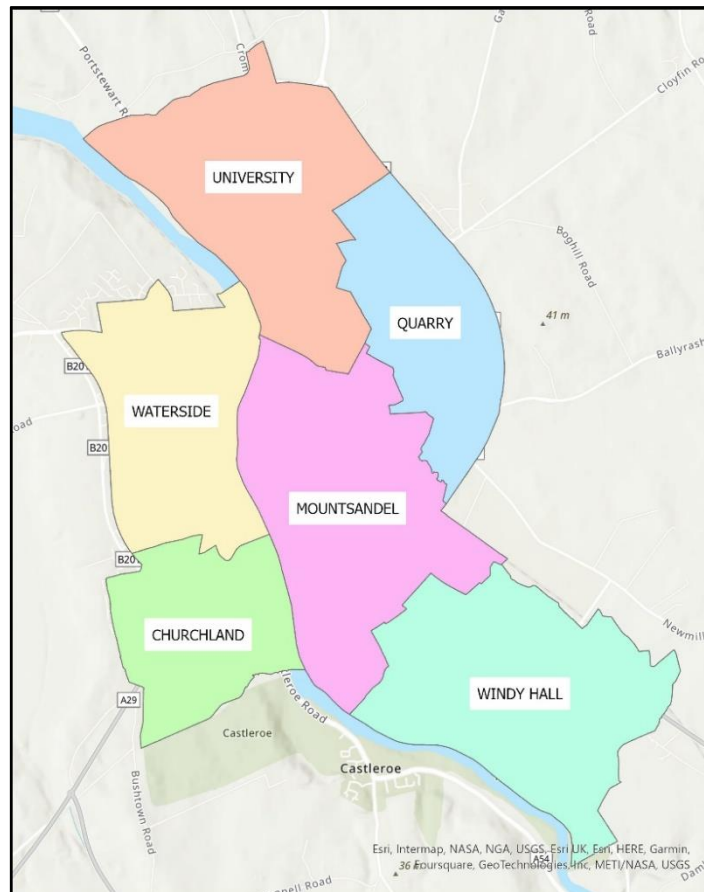


Whilst household density suggests a potential need for fixed play, analysis of underlying demographics indicates that the number of children aged 0 to 12 falls under the criteria set for urban settlements (86 resident children).

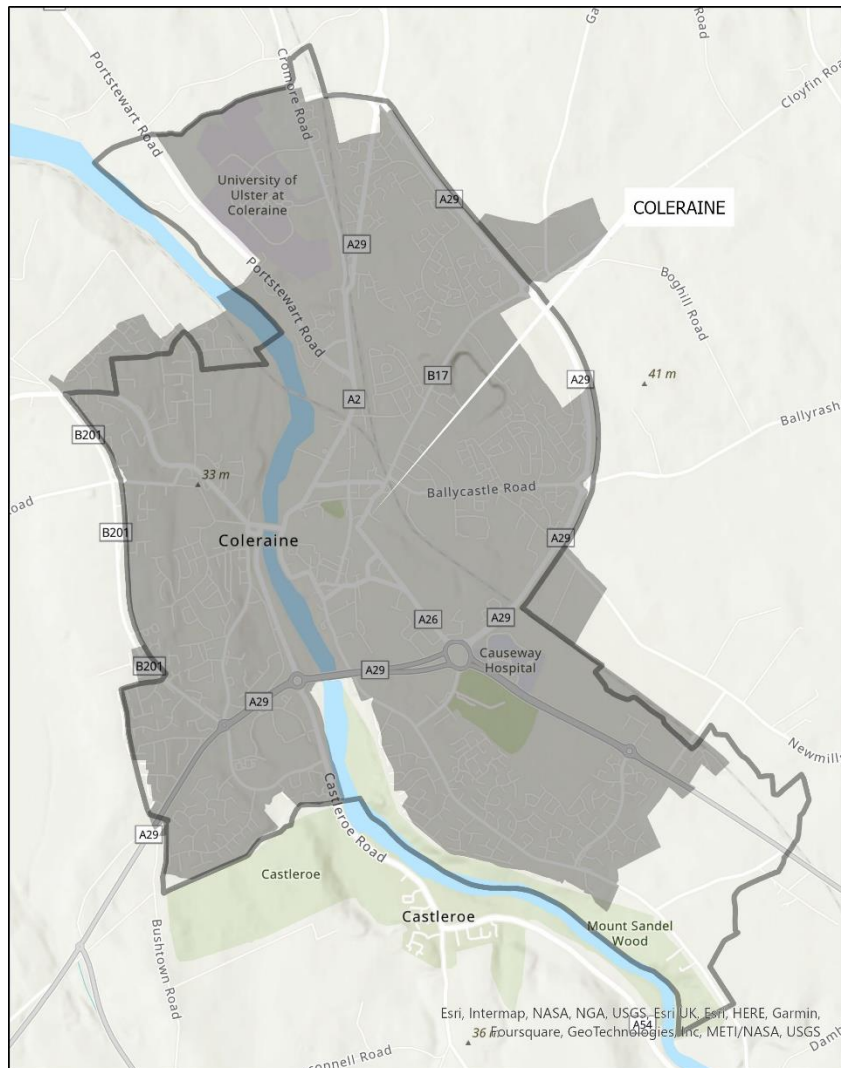
It is recommended that council continue to review underlying demographics within the area as part of the ongoing assessment of play need.

9.0 Coleraine DEA – Gap Analysis

Coleraine District Electoral Area (DEA) is located to the centre of Causeway Coast and Glens Council area and comprises 6 wards – Churchland, Mountsandel, Quarry, University, Waterside and Windy Hall.



The DEA is primarily taken up by Coleraine Town urban area as shown in the map below.



In assessing the level of coverage afforded by existing fixed play areas, and in order to identify potential areas of need for new fixed play provision three key pieces of data have been analysed:

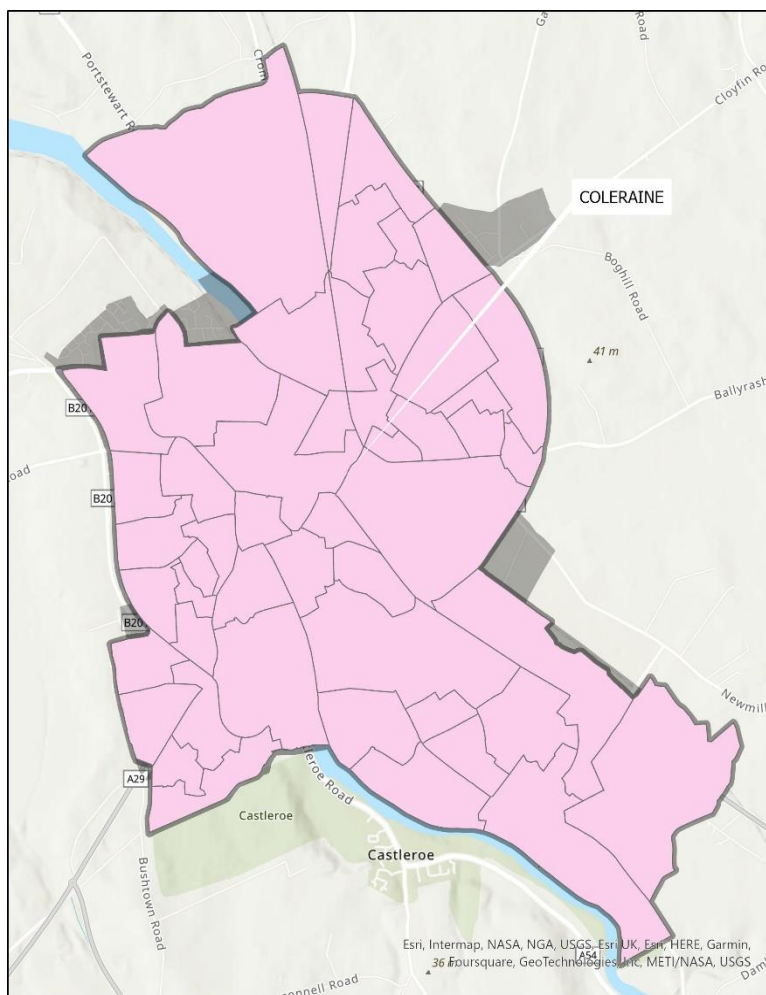
4. Population data from the 2021 census data highlighting the number of 0- to 12-year-olds resident within NISRA defined data zone areas; and
5. Household location data
6. The current location of fixed play area across the DEA

By combining data sources an assessment can be undertaken of the level of potential demand for fixed play within a location based on population and household spread.

Data Zones

Data zones have been introduced by NISRA to support the analysis of demographic population statistics emerging from the 2021 census. Data zones represent the most localised level of data available, with 3,780 Data Zones nesting within 850 Super Data Zones which in turn nest within DEA areas and overarching local government districts.

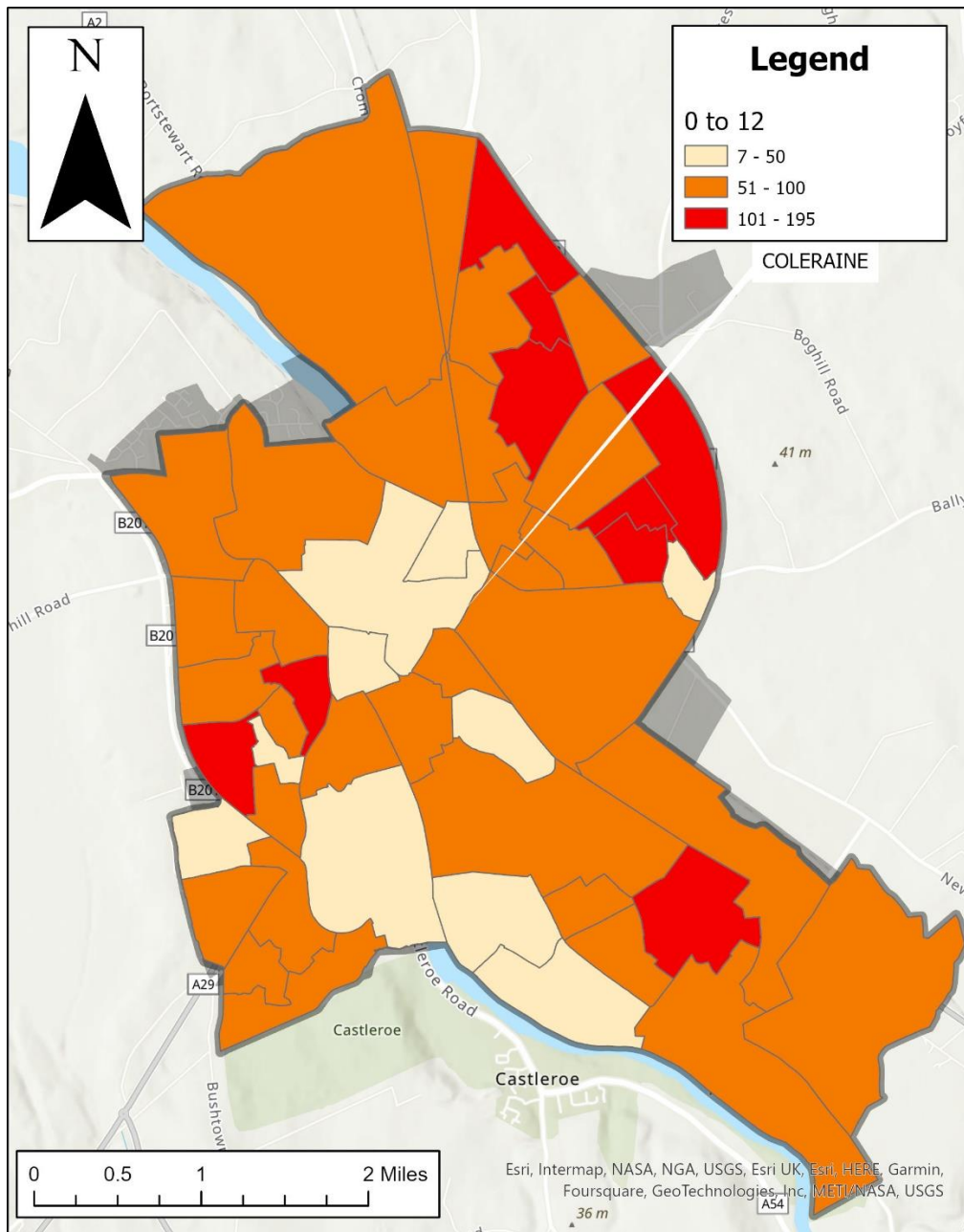
A map showing the Data Zone classification areas for the DEA can be viewed below.



In reviewing population data mapped by data zone, it is important to recognise their size and geographical spread, particularly within rural areas. The size, shape and form of data zone areas have been designed to ensure that each has a broadly similar population size, is socially similar in terms of housing characteristics and has a compact, regular shape. Given lower population levels and more dispersed household distribution patterns, rural data zones tend to cover a larger geographical area.

Demographic Overview

The map below shows population statistics, mapped by data zone, for children aged 0 to 12 years (the primary focus group for fixed play parks), resident on the day of the 2021 census of the population.

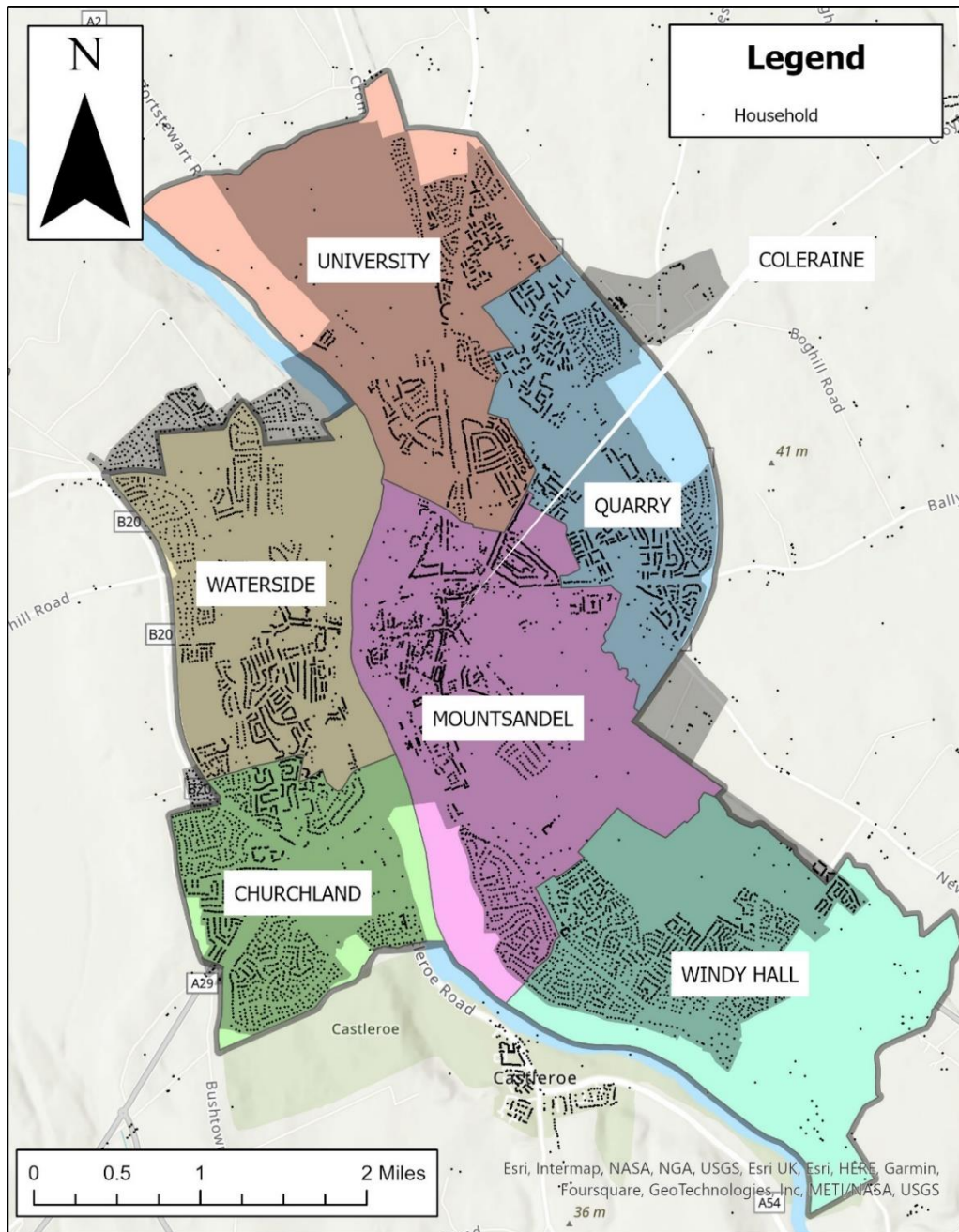


Under the agreed criteria, to be eligible for consideration for new fixed play development or upgrade the number of resident children and young people (0 to 12) within an urban defined area should be 150 or more. In the case of rural areas, in recognition of lower population density levels and household spread this has been reduced to 50 children or young people (aged 0 to 12 years).

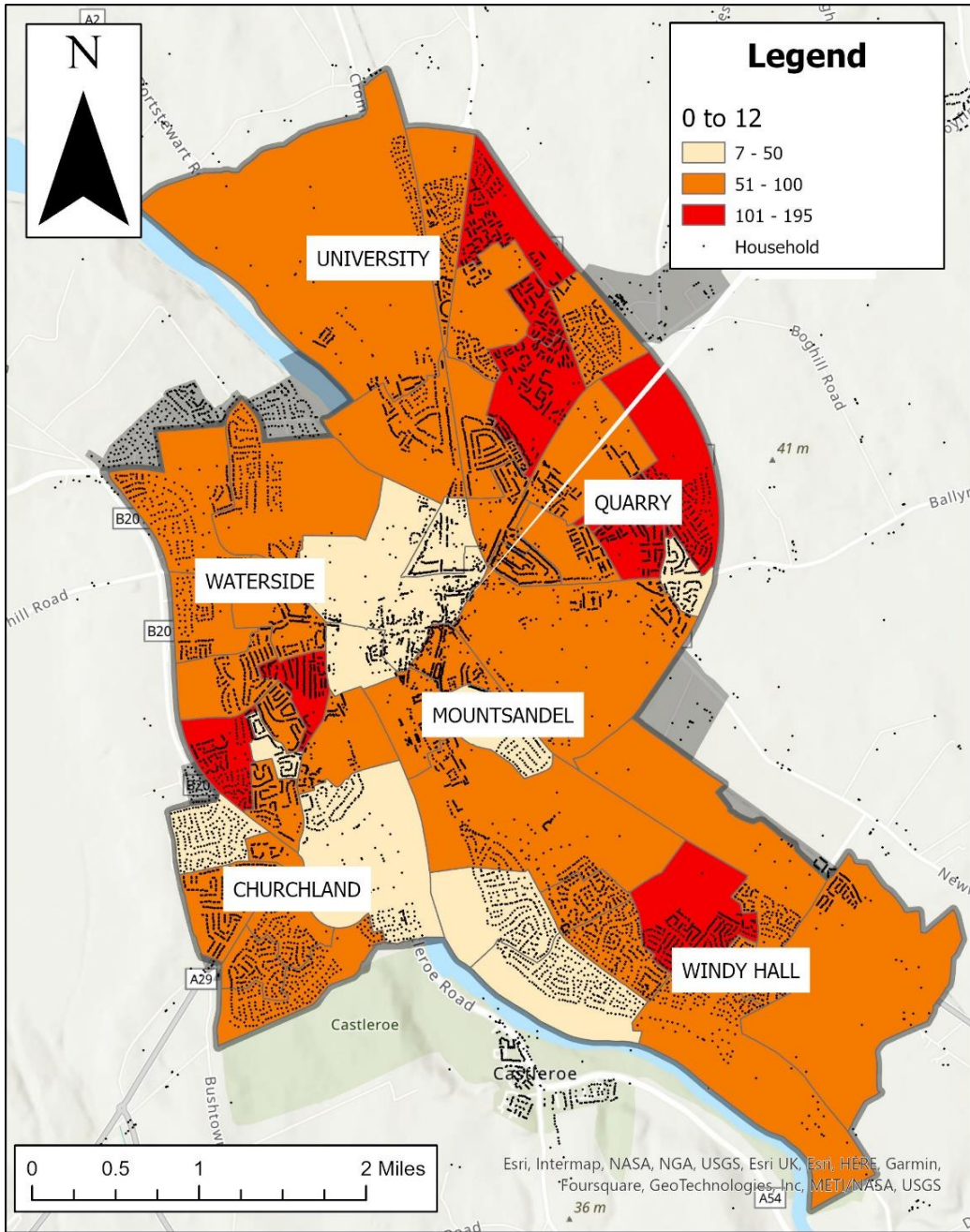
Household Distribution

As a largely urban area, household distribution is primarily within the Coleraine settlement boundary.

The map below shows the location of individual households across the DEA.



The map overleaf shows the demographic data for 0- to 12-year-olds mapped against the household distribution pattern for the DEA.



Current Play Provision

Play Parks are designated according to the Fields in Trust 'Accessibility Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Play' (often known as the ABS). The ABS classifies play parks according to the level of play provision offered by the site and establishes a radial catchment area to identify the resident population whose needs are served by a play park based on its designation:

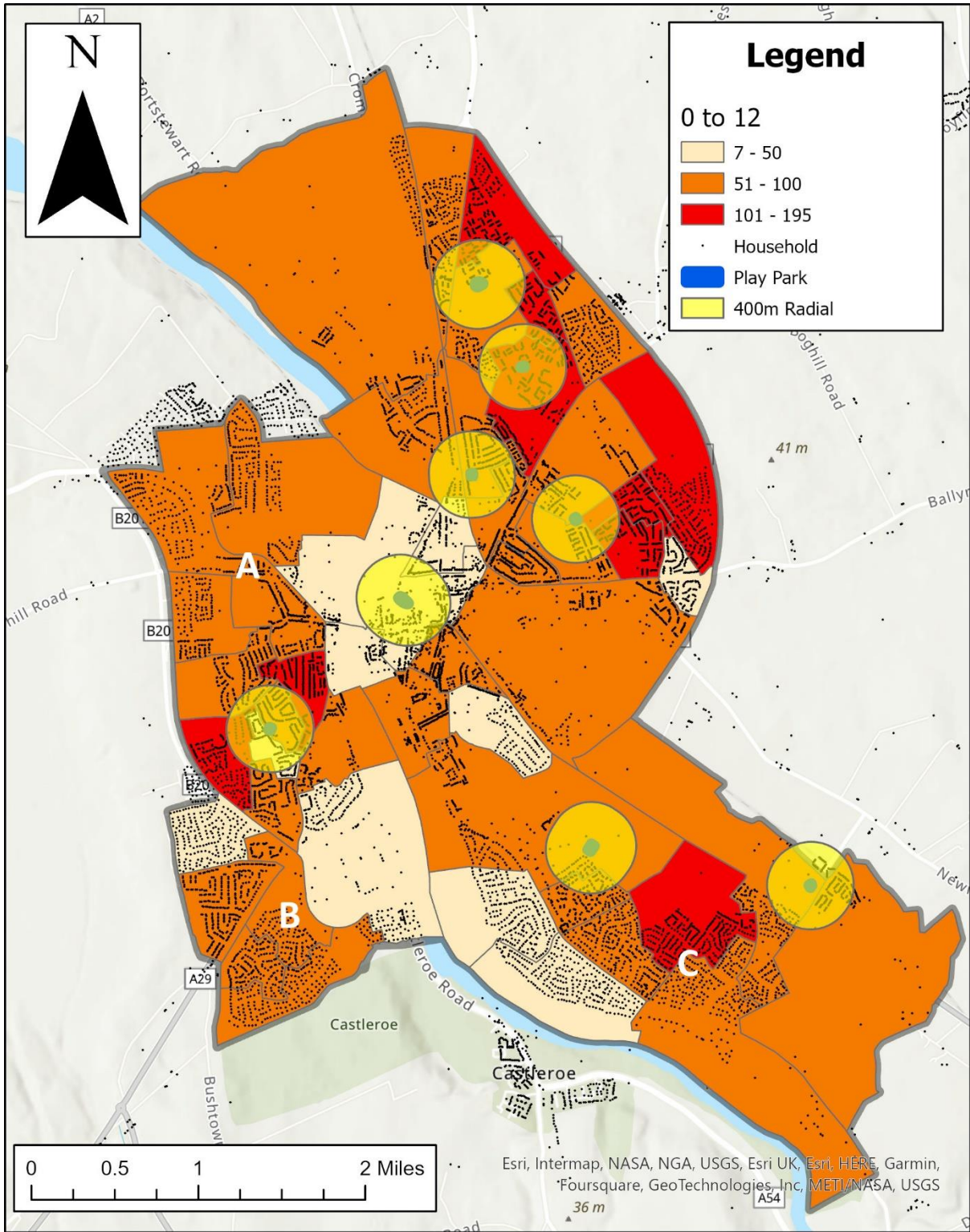
Designation of Play Park	Walking Distance
Local Areas for Play (LAPs) are specifically designated and laid out for very young children (<5 years) with the express purpose of providing somewhere to play close to where they live.	100
Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) are areas of open space designated and laid out with features and equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently (5 to 12 years) close to where they live.	400
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP) are areas of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children (including 12+) but with play opportunities for younger children as well.	1000

There are at present 8 fixed play parks located across the DEA.

The map overleaf shows the location of play parks mapped against settlements and household location with a 400m radial introduced in line with the Accessibility Benchmark Standards.

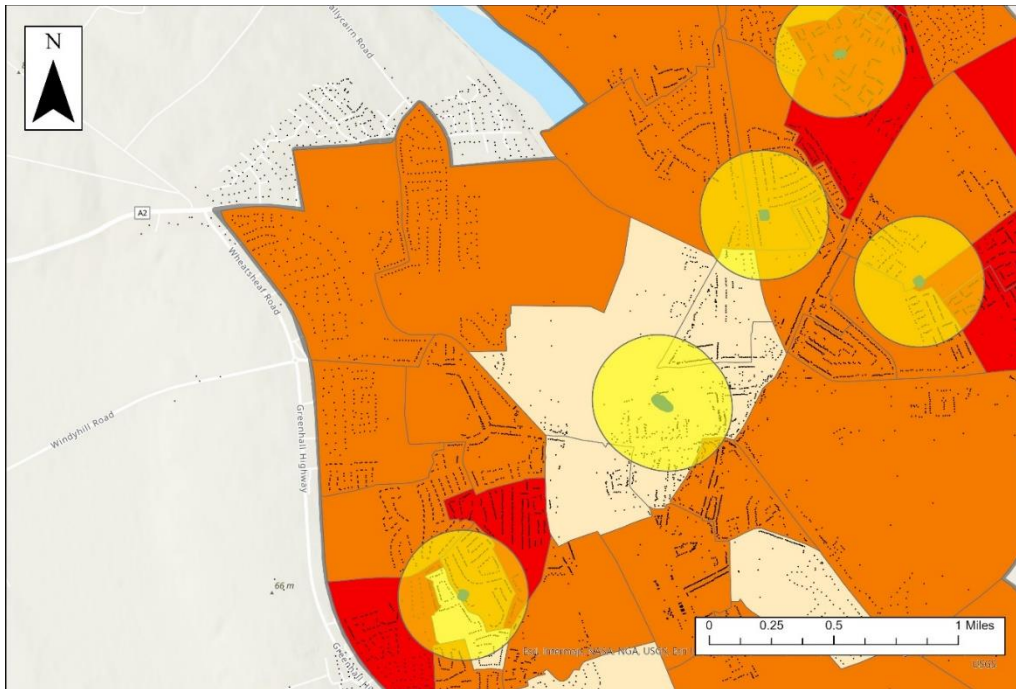
Three areas have been identified as potential gap areas for fixed play and have been subject to further review:

1. Waterside Ward
2. Churchland Ward
3. Windy Hall Ward



Potential Gap Area A – Waterside Ward

A potential gap was noted within Waterside Ward in the original play investment strategy. A review of the most recent demographic data alongside household location and density data indicates that there remains a need for additional fixed play provision within the area.

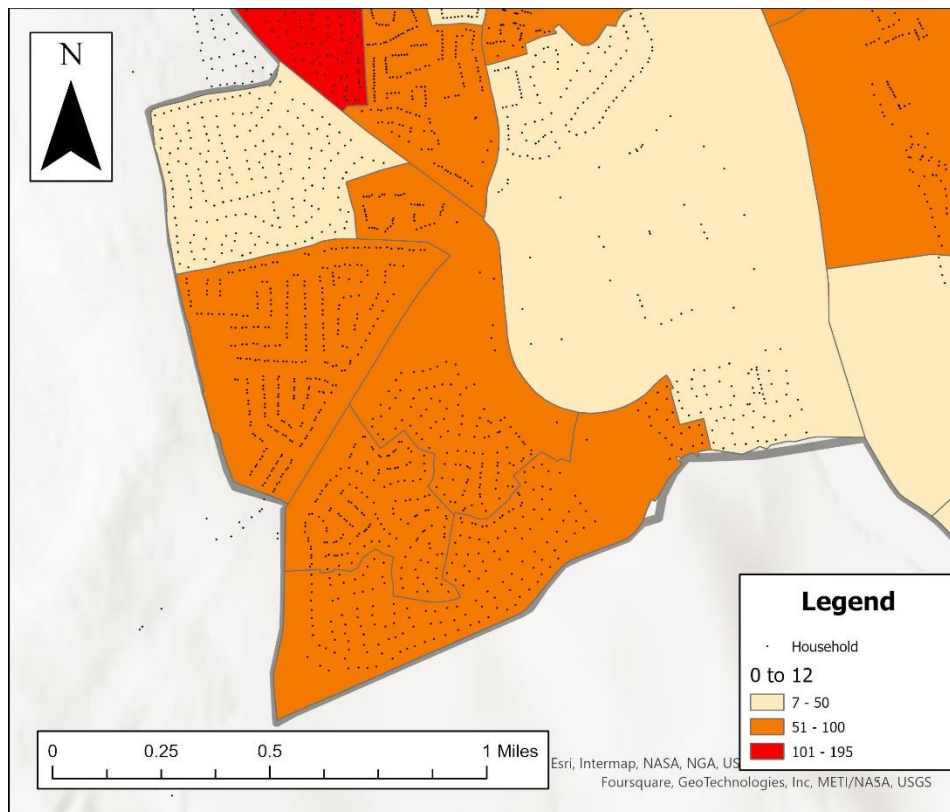


It is recognised that the area identified is primarily residential in nature, making the availability of suitable land to support play development a potential issue.

It is noted that there are primary (D H Christie Memorial PS) and secondary schools (Coleraine Grammar School, Loreto College and Coleraine College) within the wider location which could potentially facilitate dual access fixed play development. Council should explore possible partnership development with a view to facilitating fixed play development on a partnership basis. Should this not be possible Council should give consideration to other land access/acquisition options.

Potential Gap Area B – Churchland Ward

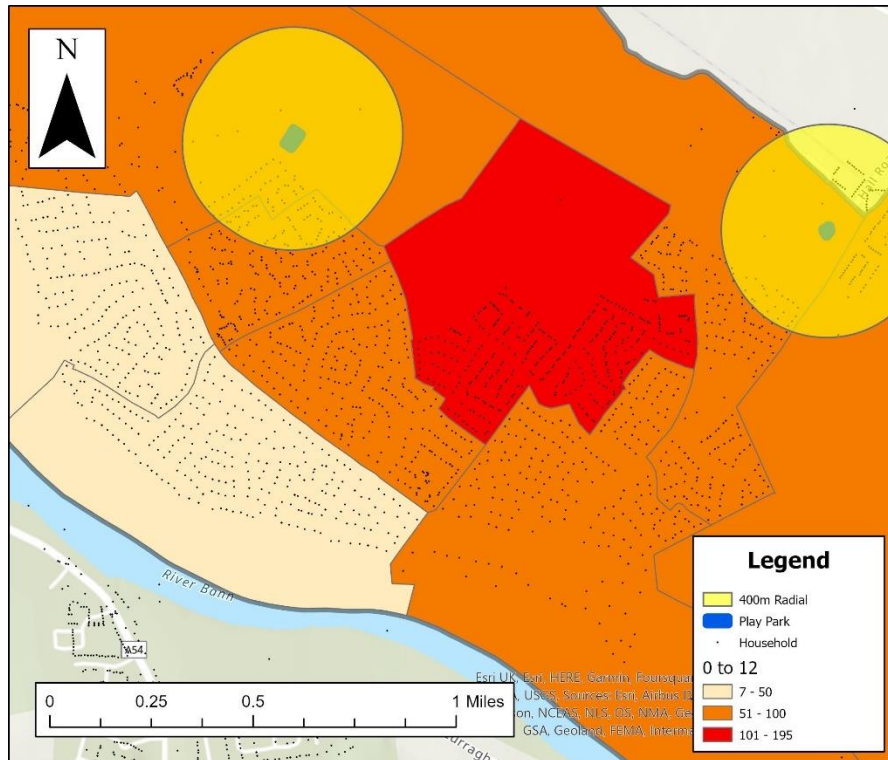
A potential gap was noted within Churchland Ward in the original play investment strategy. A review of the most recent demographic data alongside household location and density data indicates that there remains a need for additional fixed play provision within the area.



It is recognised that the area identified is primarily residential in nature, making the availability of suitable land to support play development a potential issue. Council should review land options in order to determine whether an opportunity exists to meet need through the development of a new fixed play park.

Potential Gap Area C – Windy Hall Ward

A potential gap was noted within Windy Hall Ward in the original play investment strategy. A review of the most recent demographic data alongside household location and density data indicates that there remains a need for additional fixed play provision within the area.

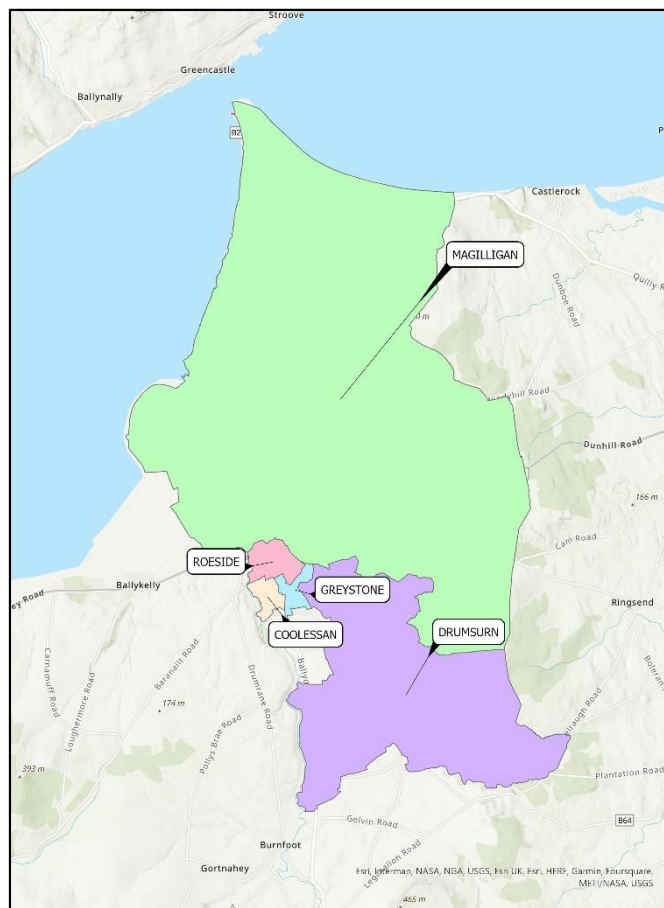


It is recognised that the area identified is primarily residential in nature, making the availability of suitable land to support play development a potential issue.

It is noted that there is potential for the redevelopment of the play area located at Rugby Avenue, which given its wider recreational function has scope for the development of a NEAP level (destination play) site. This would go some way to meeting play need by expanding the associated area coverage radial and providing an accessible high value play park.

10.0 Limavady DEA – Gap Analysis

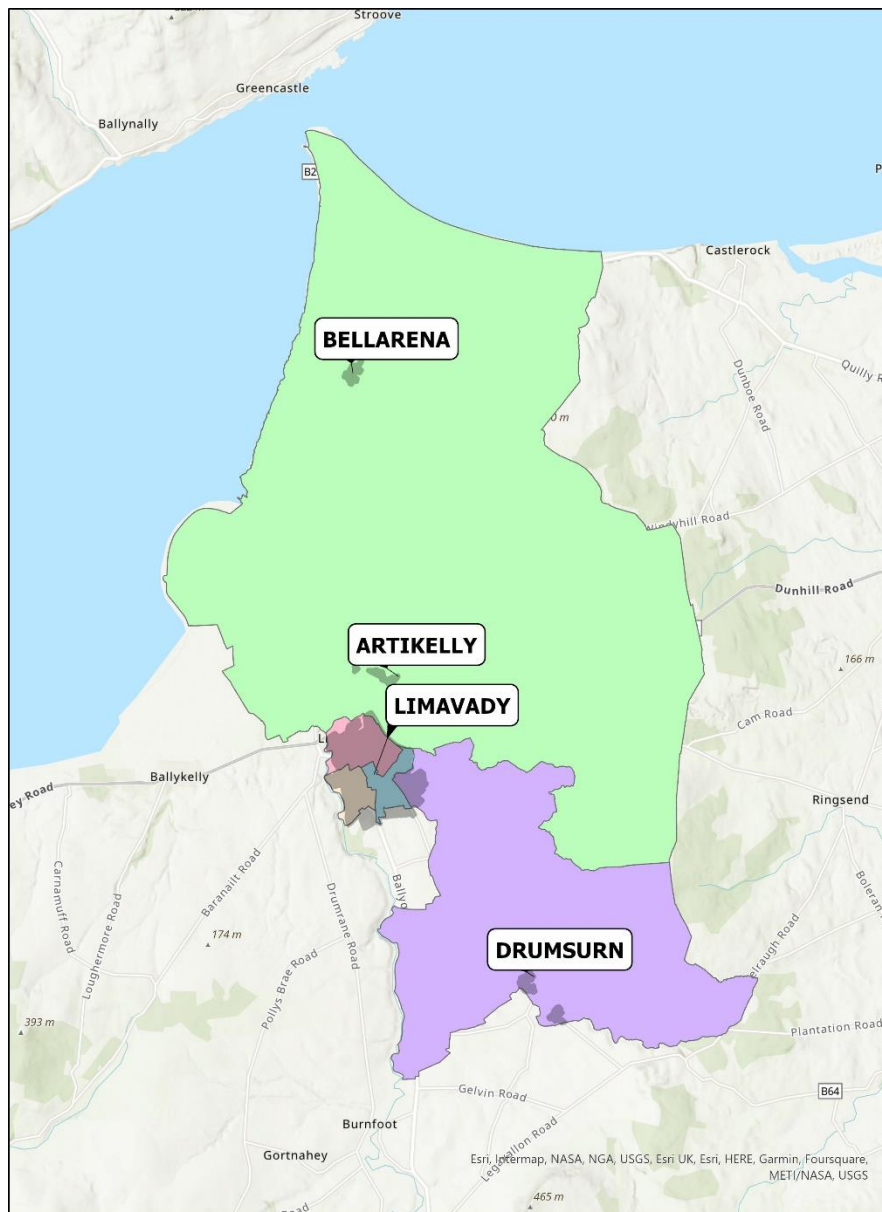
Limavady District Electoral Area (DEA) is located to the West of Causeway Coast and Glens Council area and comprises 5 wards – Coolessan, Drumsurn, Greystone, Magilligan and Roaside.



Recognised settlements within the DEA include:

- Artikelly
- Bellarena
- Drumsurn
- Limavady

A settlement location map can be viewed below.



In assessing the level of coverage afforded by existing fixed play areas, and in order to identify potential areas of need for new fixed play provision three key pieces of data have been analysed:

1. Population data from the 2021 census data highlighting the number of 0- to 12-year-olds resident within NISRA defined data zone areas; and

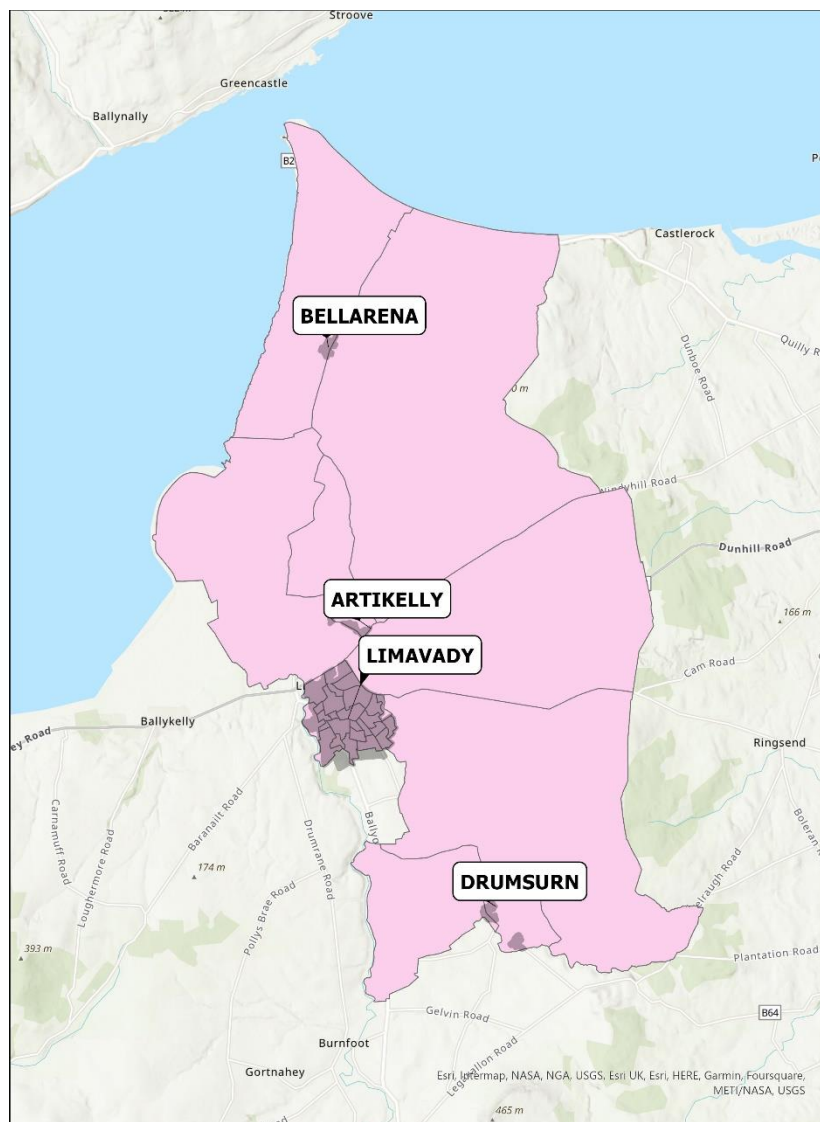
2. Household location data
3. The current location of fixed play area across the DEA

By combining data sources an assessment can be undertaken of the level of potential demand for fixed play within a location based on population and household spread.

Data Zones

Data zones have been introduced by NISRA to support the analysis of demographic population statistics emerging from the 2021 census. Data zones represent the most localised level of data available, with 3,780 Data Zones nesting within 850 Super Data Zones which in turn nest within DEA areas and overarching local government districts.

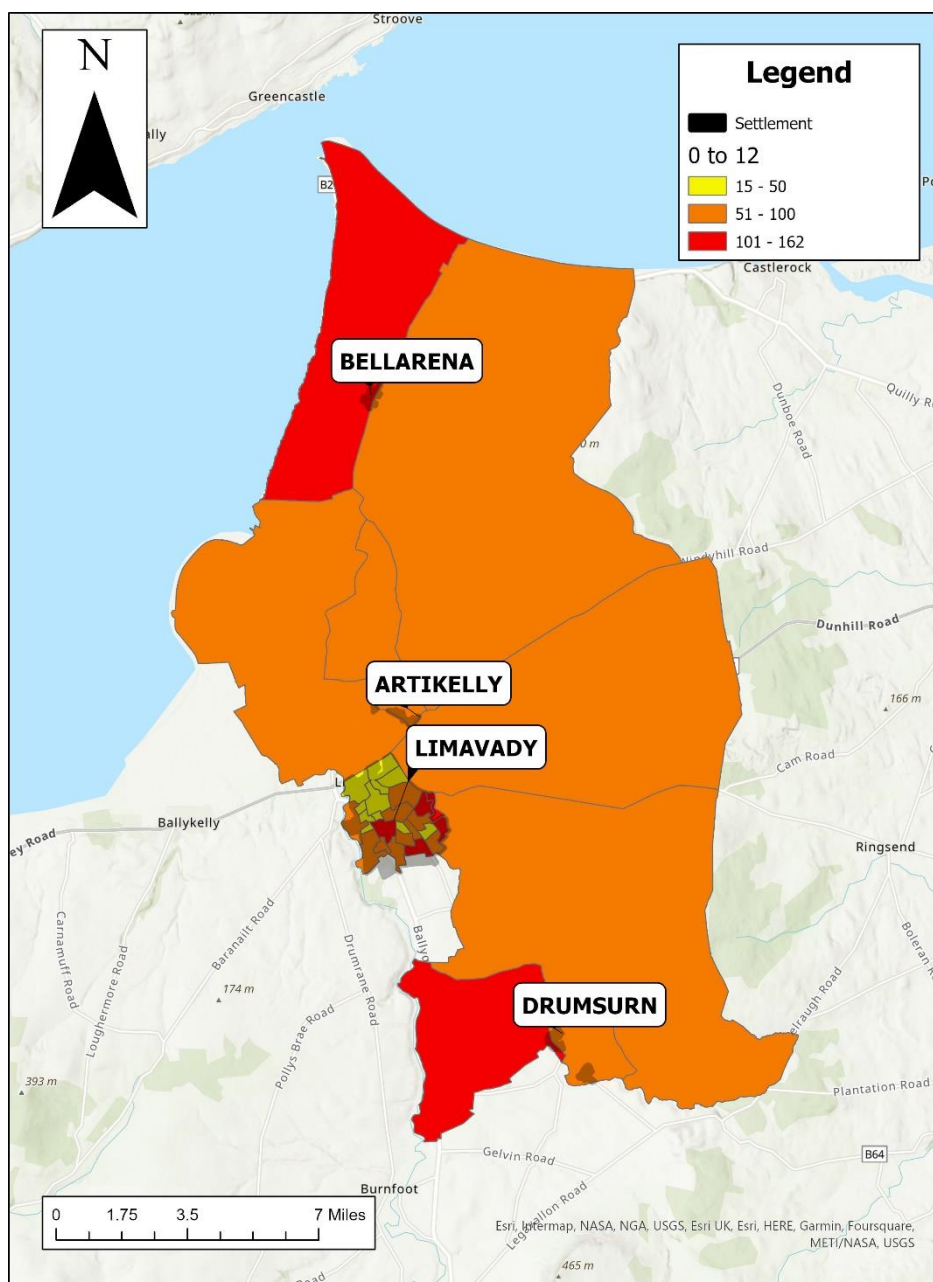
A map showing the Data Zone classification areas for Limavady DEA can be viewed below.



In reviewing population data mapped by data zone, it is important to recognise their size and geographical spread, particularly within rural areas. The size, shape and form of data zone areas have been designed to ensure that each has a broadly similar population size, is socially similar in terms of housing characteristics and has a compact, regular shape. Given lower population levels and more dispersed household distribution patterns, rural data zones tend to cover a larger geographical area.

Demographic Overview

The map below shows population statistics, mapped by data zone, for children aged 0 to 12 years (the primary focus group for fixed play parks), resident on the day of the 2021 census of the population.

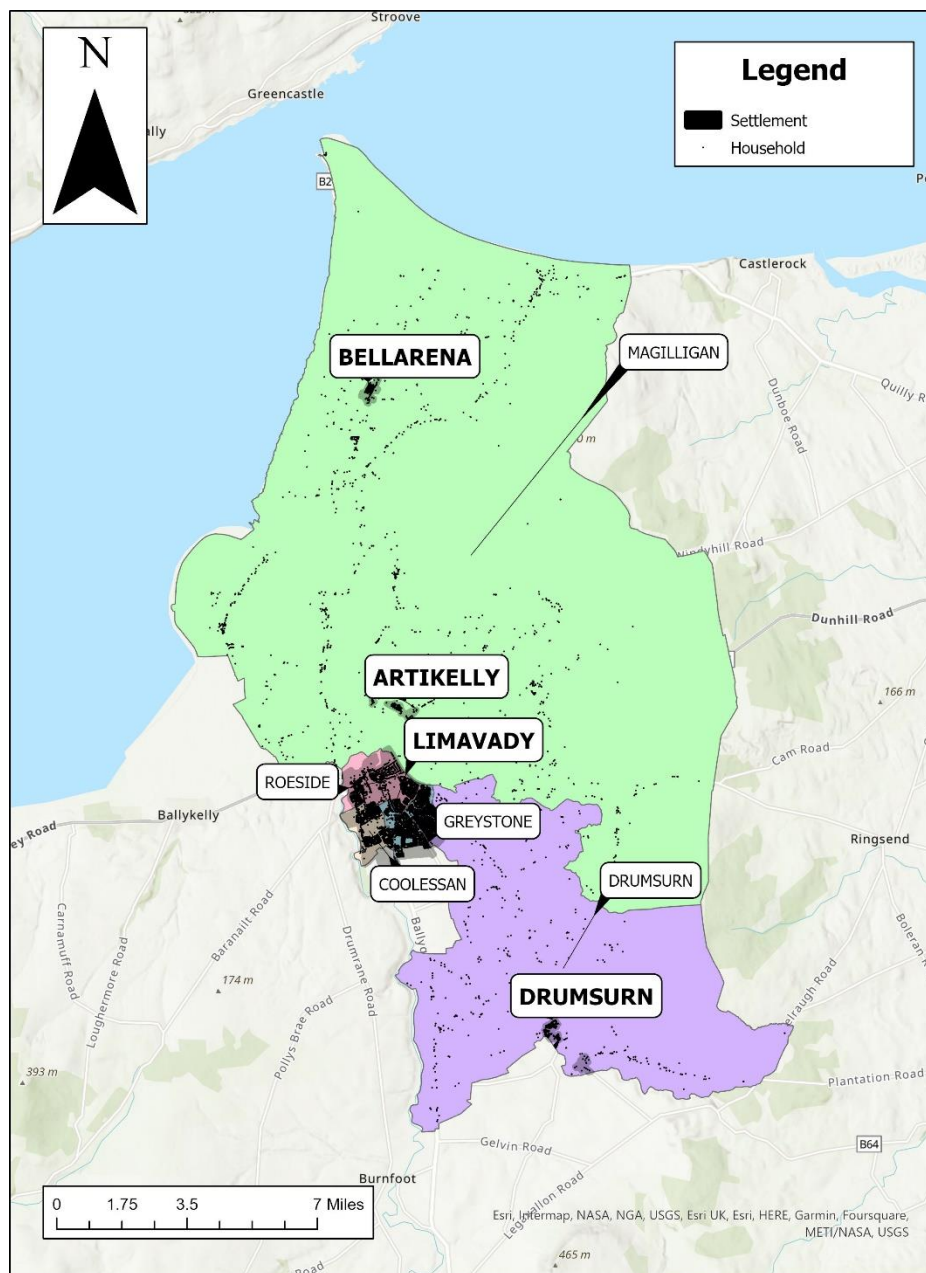


Under the agreed criteria, to be eligible for consideration for new fixed play development or upgrade the number of resident children and young people (0 to 12) within an urban defined area should be 150 or more. In the case of rural areas, in recognition of lower population density levels and household spread this has been reduced to 50 children or young people (aged 0 to 12 years).

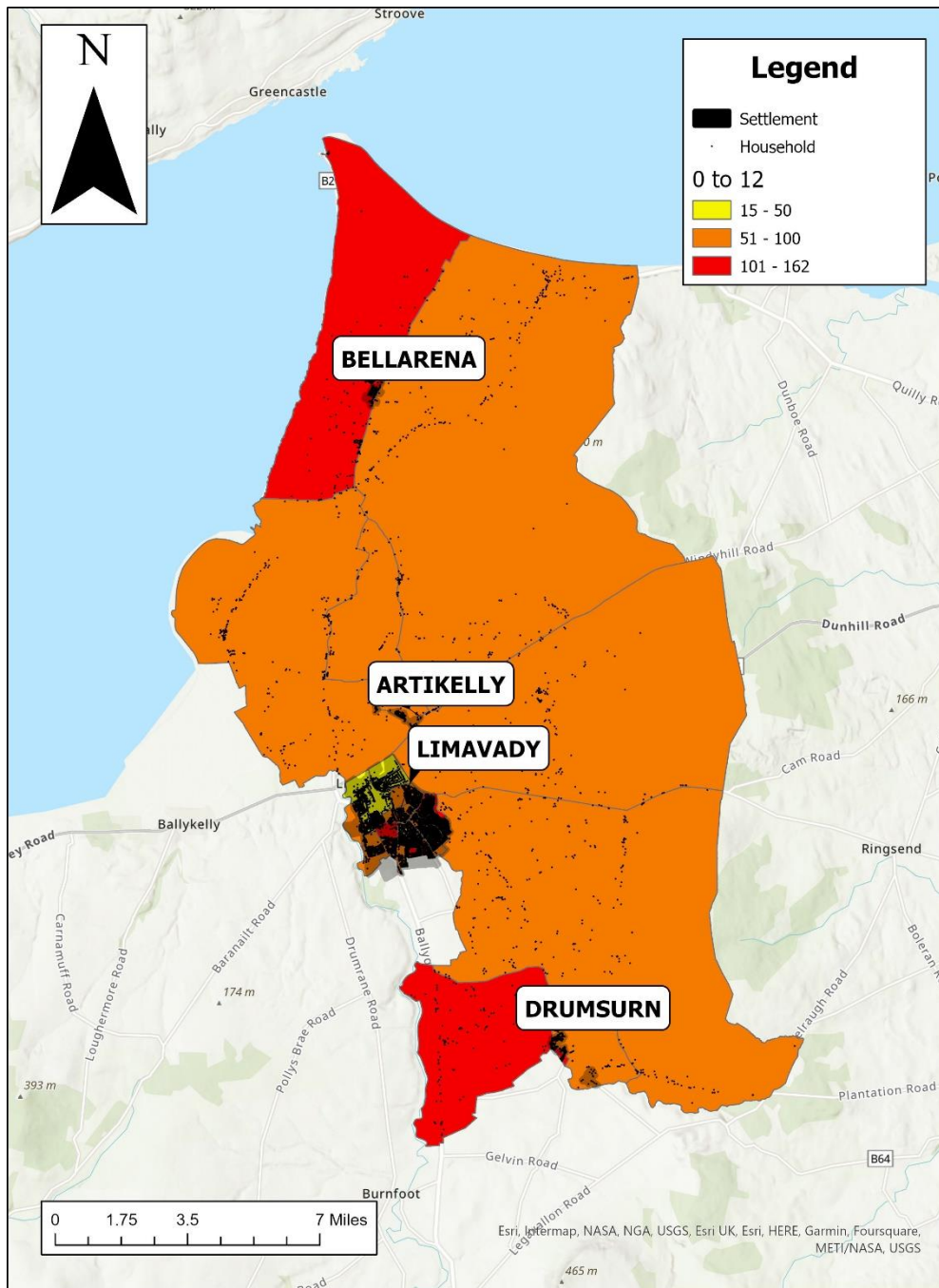
Household Distribution

As a largely rural area, household distribution within the DEA tends to be centred around key settlements or along main roadways; outside of settlement areas, household distribution tends to be of a dispersed nature.

The map below shows the location of individual households across the DEA.



The map below shows the demographic data for 0- to 12-year-olds mapped against the household distribution pattern for the DEA.



Current Play Provision

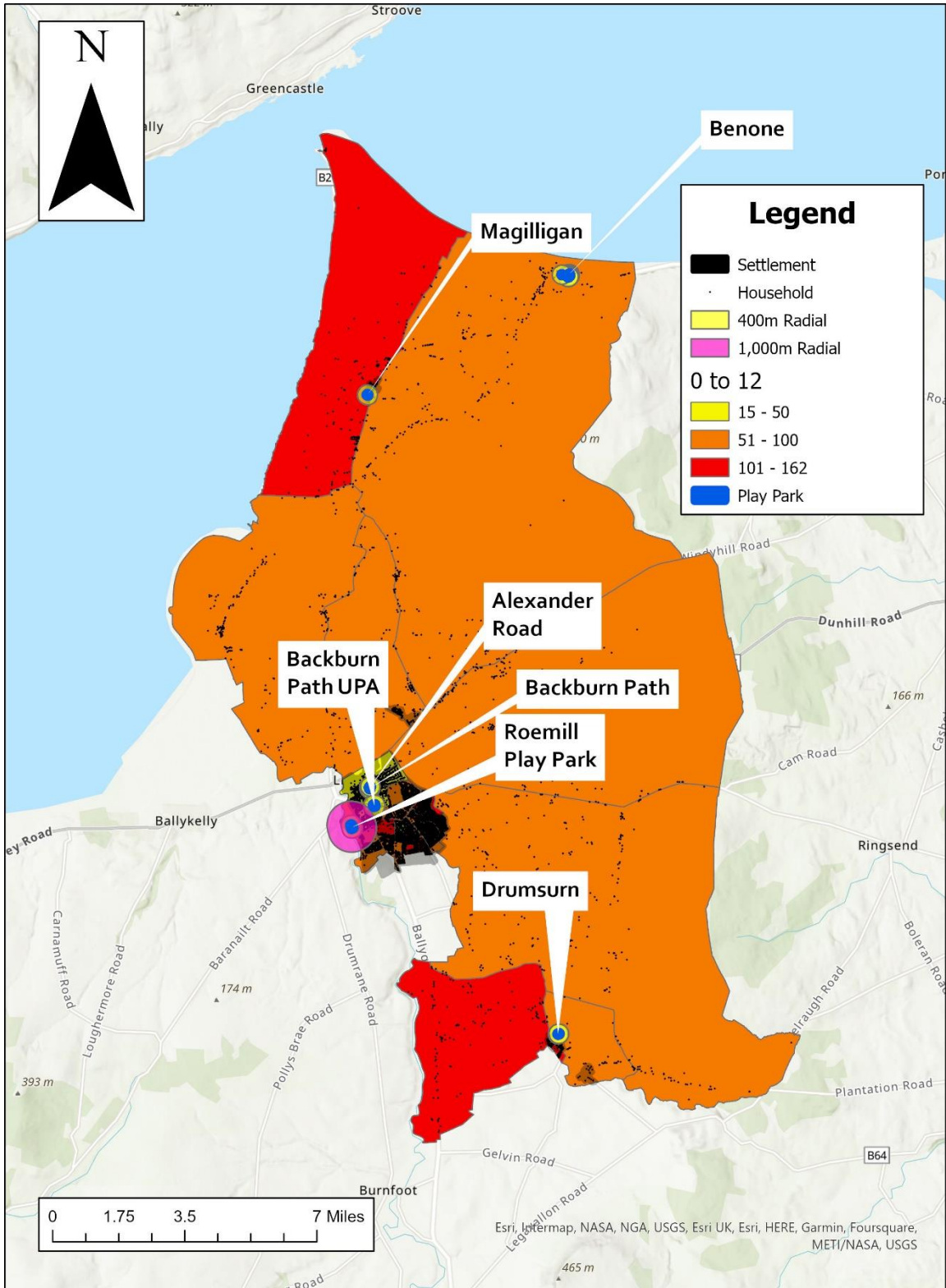
Play Parks are designated according to the Fields in Trust 'Accessibility Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Play' (often known as the ABS). The ABS classifies play parks according to the level of play provision offered by the site and establishes a radial catchment area to identify the resident population whose needs are served by a play park based on its designation:

Designation of Play Park	Walking Distance
Local Areas for Play (LAPs) are specifically designated and laid out for very young children (<5 years) with the express purpose of providing somewhere to play close to where they live.	100
Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) are areas of open space designated and laid out with features and equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently (5 to 12 years) close to where they live.	400
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP) are areas of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children (including 12+) but with play opportunities for younger children as well.	1000

There are at present there are 8 play parks located within the DEA, 7 designated as Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPS) with one Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) located at Roemill Playing Fields in Limavady.

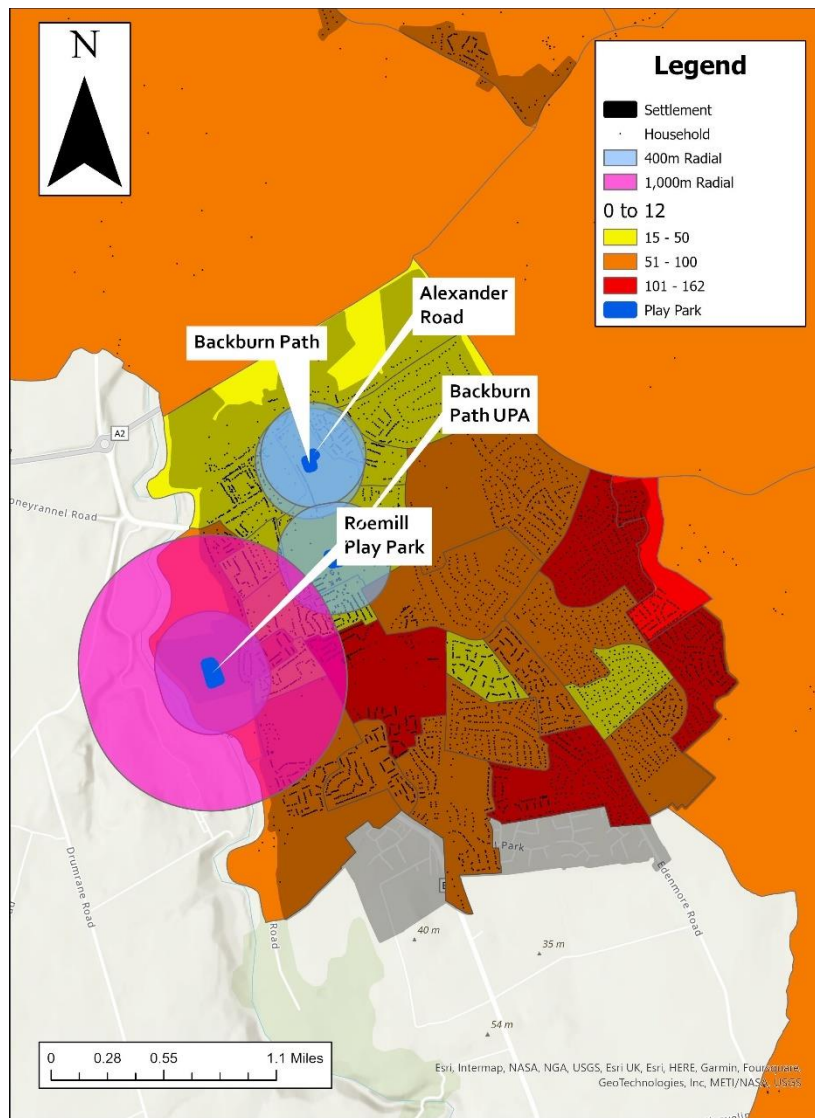
The map overleaf shows the location of play parks mapped against settlements and household location. As can be seen, in the majority of cases, play parks are located at the point of greatest population need i.e. within or in close proximity to a settlement. One area has been identified as a potential gap area for fixed play and have been subject to further review:

1. Limavady South/East



Potential Gap Area 1 – Limavady South/East

The town of Limavady currently has 4 play parks, of which 3 are designated LEAP's (Blackburn Path, Alexander Road and Blackburn Path UPA) with 1 NEAP located at Roemill Playing Fields. In the 2021 census the town had a population of 11,279.



Radial coverage analysis, combined a review of household location and demographics, indicates a gap in provision to the Southeast half of the town. The area is primarily residential in nature, indicating limited access to land capable of supporting the development of a play park. It is recommended that Council undertake a review of land availability to ascertain whether scope exists to meets identified play need.

11.0 The Glens DEA – Gap Analysis

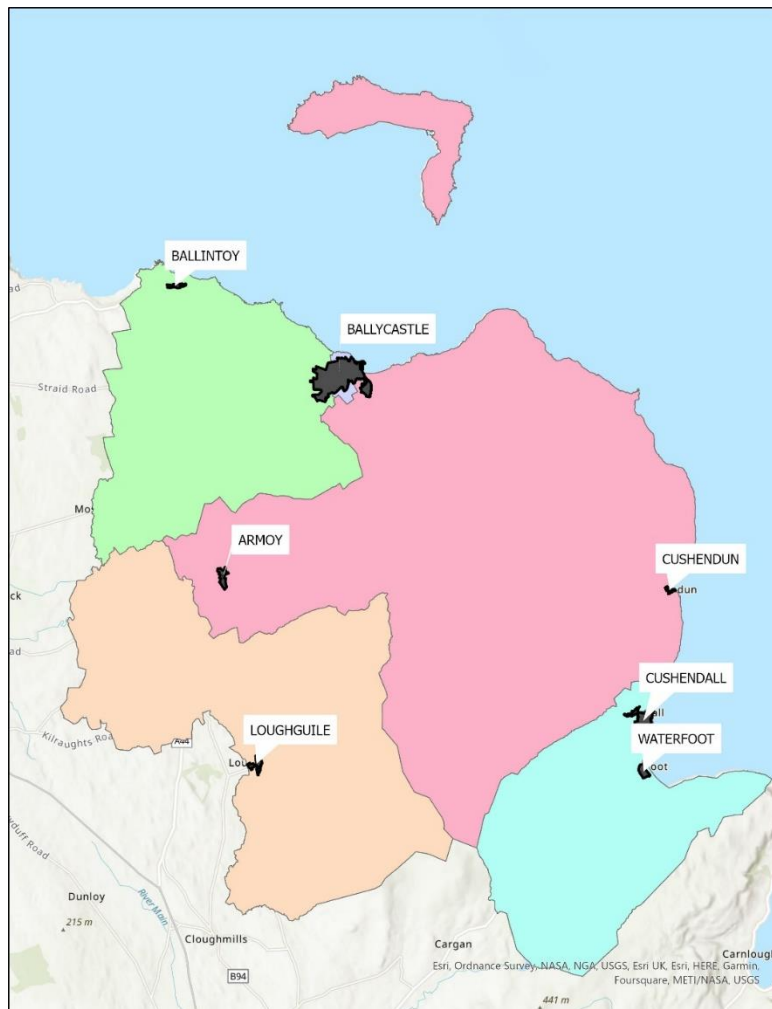
The Glens District Electoral Area (DEA) is located to the East of Causeway Coast and Glens Council area and comprises 5 wards – Ballycastle, Kinbane, Torr Head and Rathlin, Loughguile and Stranocum and Lurigethan.



Recognised settlements within the DEA include:

- Ballycastle
- Ballintoy
- Armoy
- Lougguile
- Cushendun
- Cushendall
- Waterfoot

A settlement location map can be viewed below.



In assessing the level of coverage afforded by existing fixed play areas, and in order to identify potential areas of need for new fixed play provision three key pieces of data have been analysed:

1. Population data from the 2021 census data highlighting the number of 0- to 12-year-olds resident within NISRA defined data zone areas; and
2. Household location data

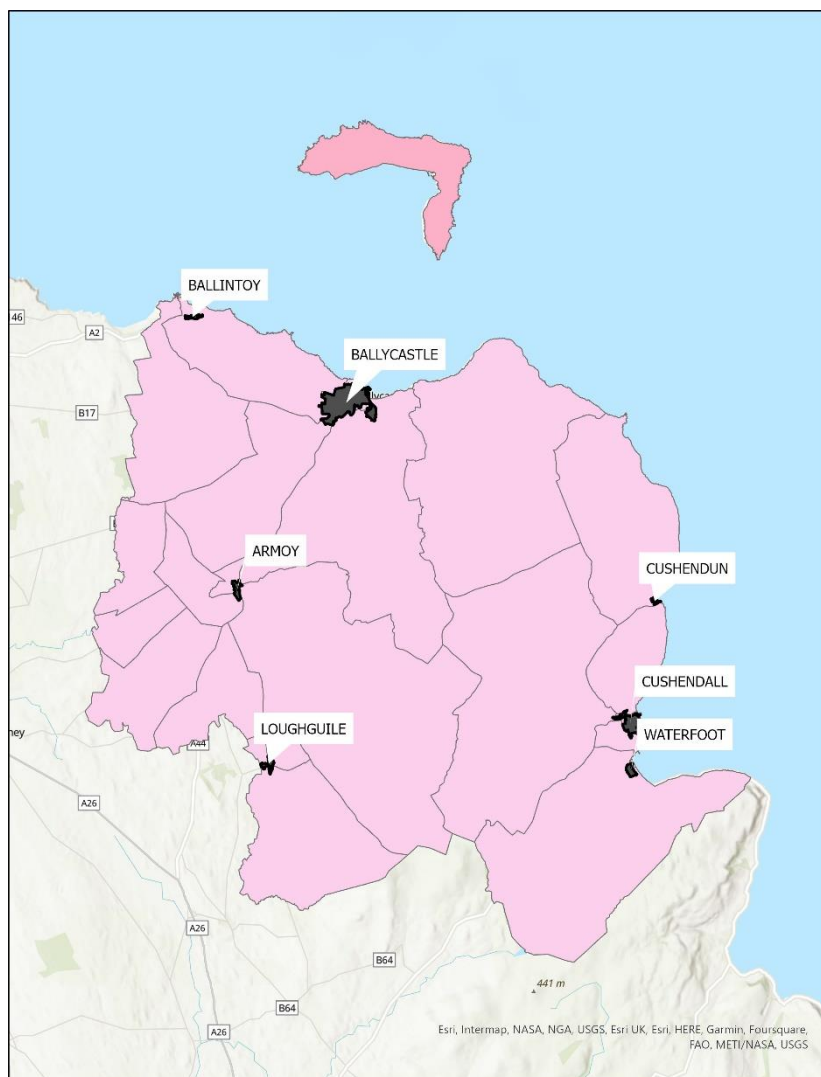
3. The current location of fixed play area across the DEA

By combining data sources an assessment can be undertaken of the level of potential demand for fixed play within a location based on population and household spread.

Data Zones

Data zones have been introduced by NISRA to support the analysis of demographic population statistics emerging from the 2021 census. Data zones represent the most localised level of data available, with 3,780 Data Zones nesting within 850 Super Data Zones which in turn nest within DEA areas and overarching local government districts.

A map showing the Data Zone classification areas for The Glen DEA can be viewed below.

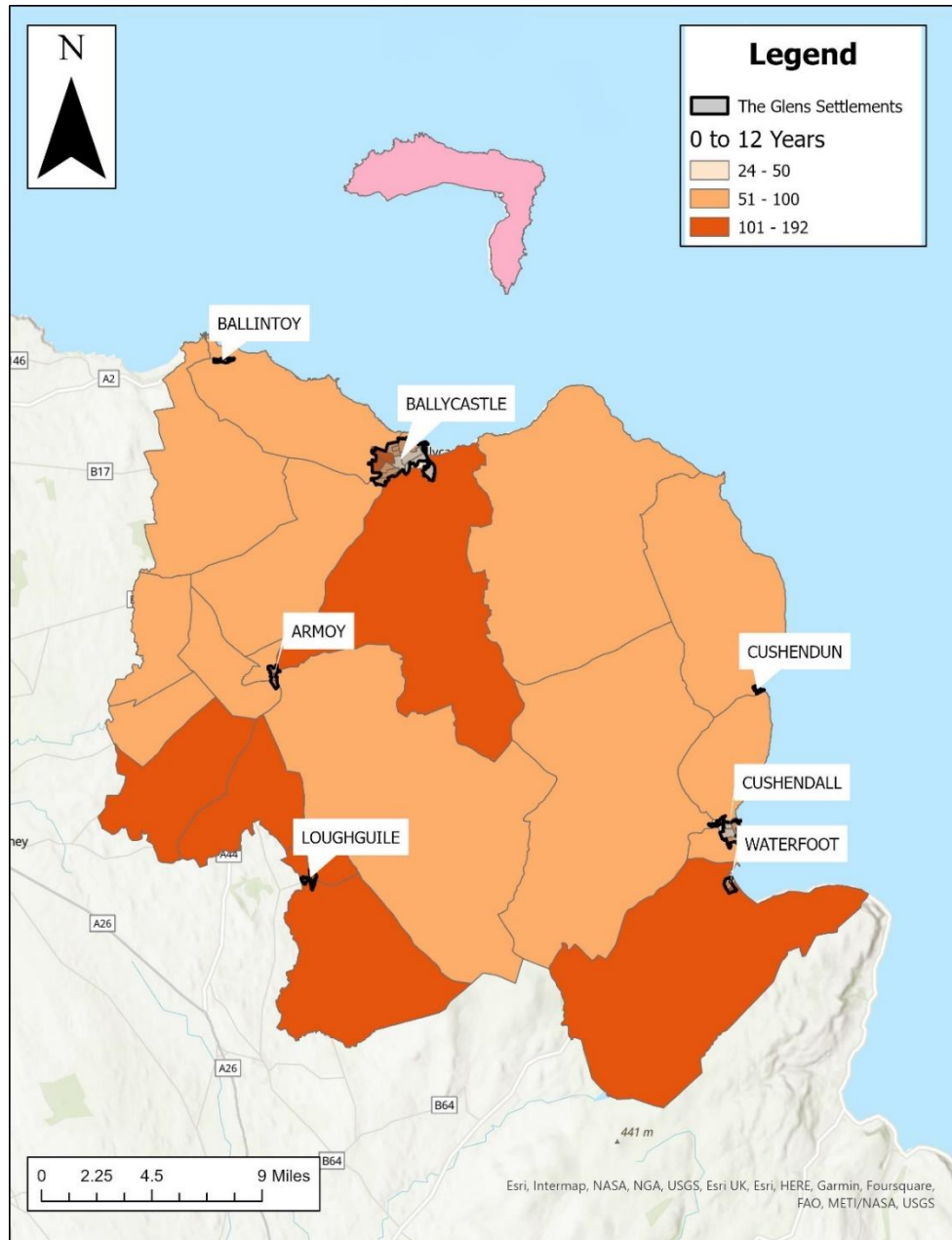


In reviewing population data mapped by data zone, it is important to recognise their size and geographical spread, particularly within rural areas. The size, shape and form of data zone areas have been designed to ensure

that each has a broadly similar population size, is socially similar in terms of housing characteristics and has a compact, regular shape. Given lower population levels and more dispersed household distribution patterns, rural data zones tend to cover a larger geographical area.

Demographic Overview

The map below shows population statistics, mapped by data zone, for children aged 0 to 12 years (the primary focus group for fixed play parks), resident on the day of the 2021 census of the population.



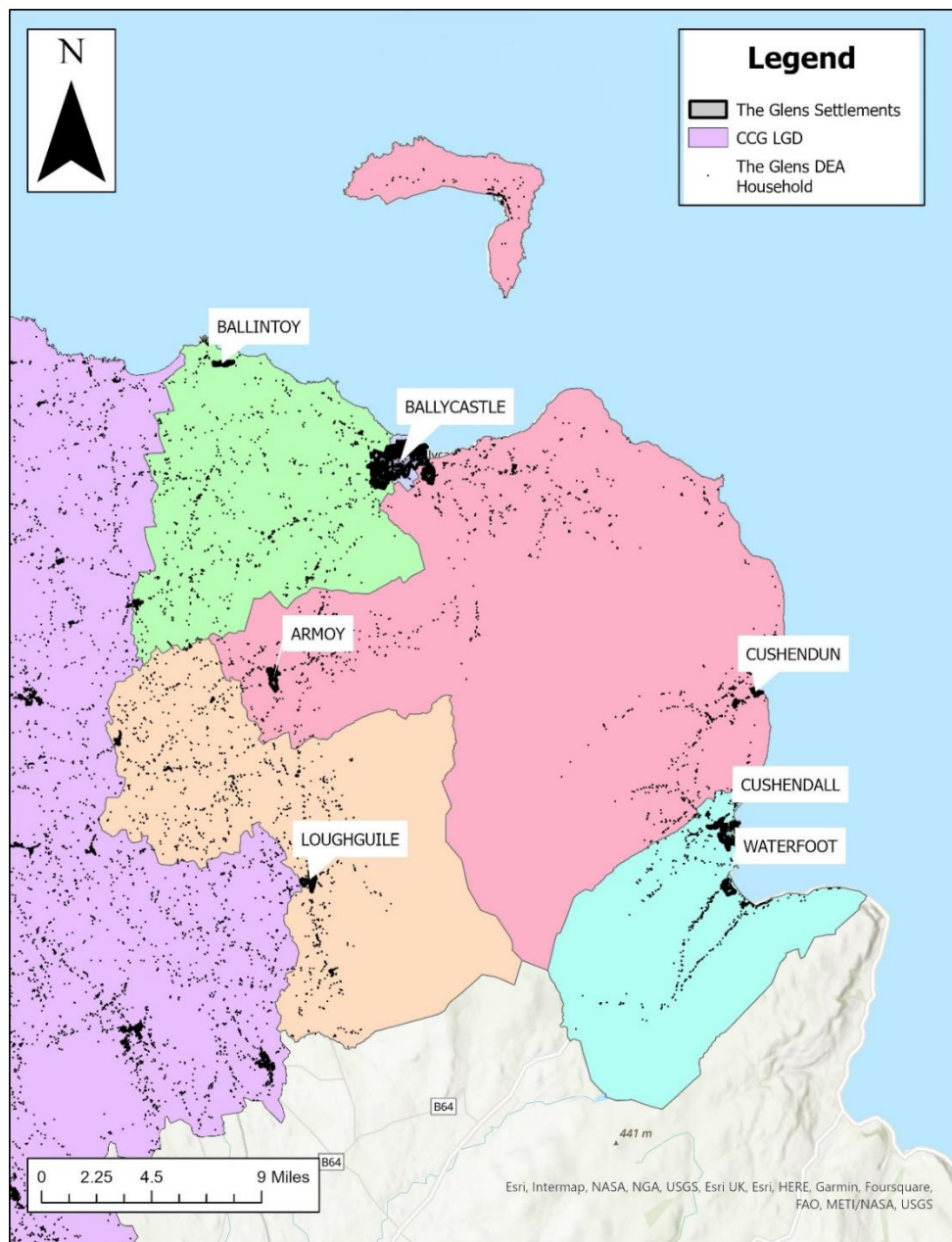
Under the agreed criteria, to be eligible for consideration for new fixed play development or upgrade the number of resident children and young people (0 to 12) within an urban defined area should be 150 or more. In the case of

rural areas, in recognition of lower population density levels and household spread this has been reduced to 50 children or young people (aged 0 to 12 years).

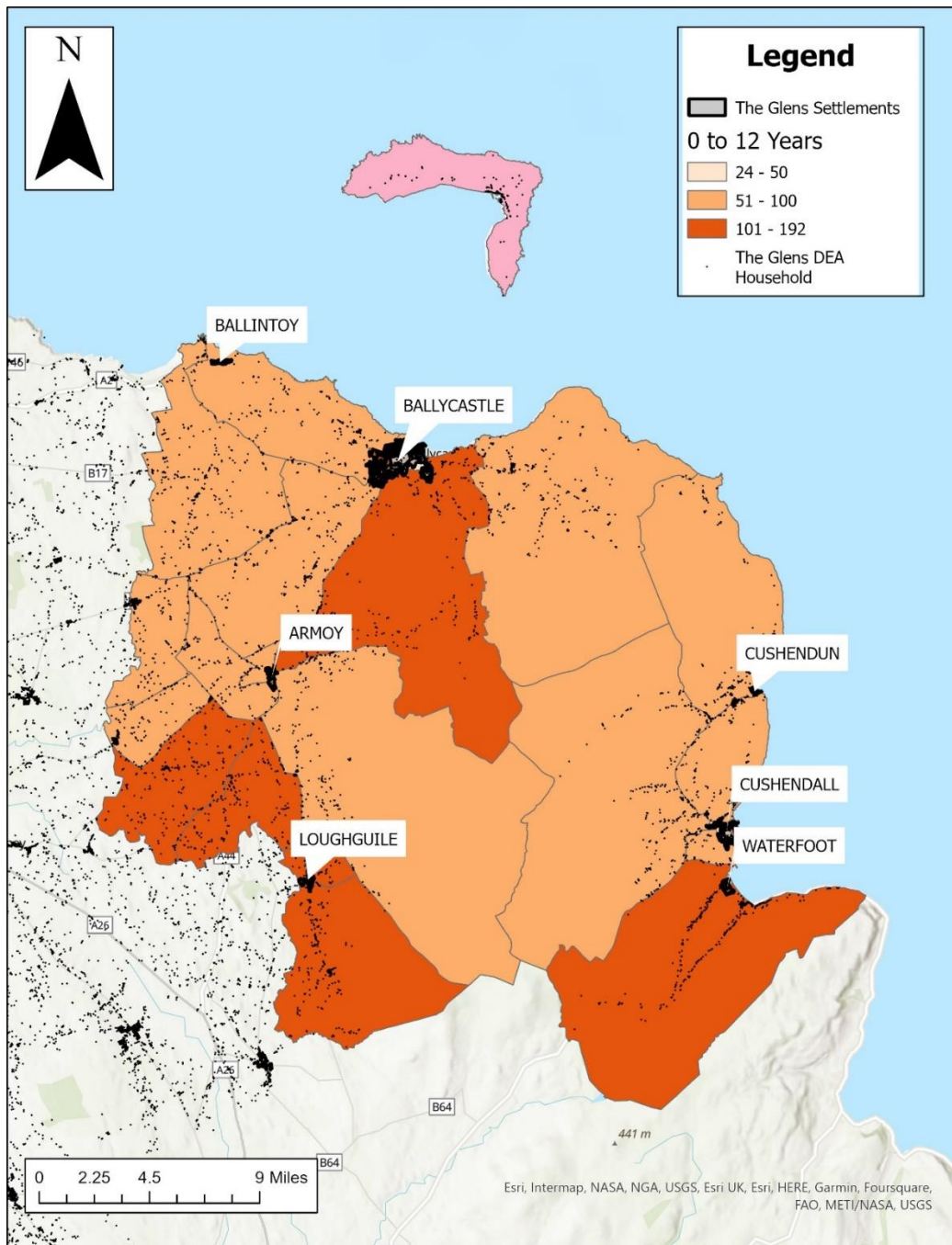
Household Distribution

As a largely rural area, household distribution within the DEA tends to be centred around key settlements or along main roadways; outside of settlement areas, household distribution tends to be of a dispersed nature.

The map below shows the location of individual households across the DEA and within neighbouring DEA's.



The map below shows the demographic data for 0- to 12-year-olds mapped against the household distribution pattern for the DEA.



Current Play Provision

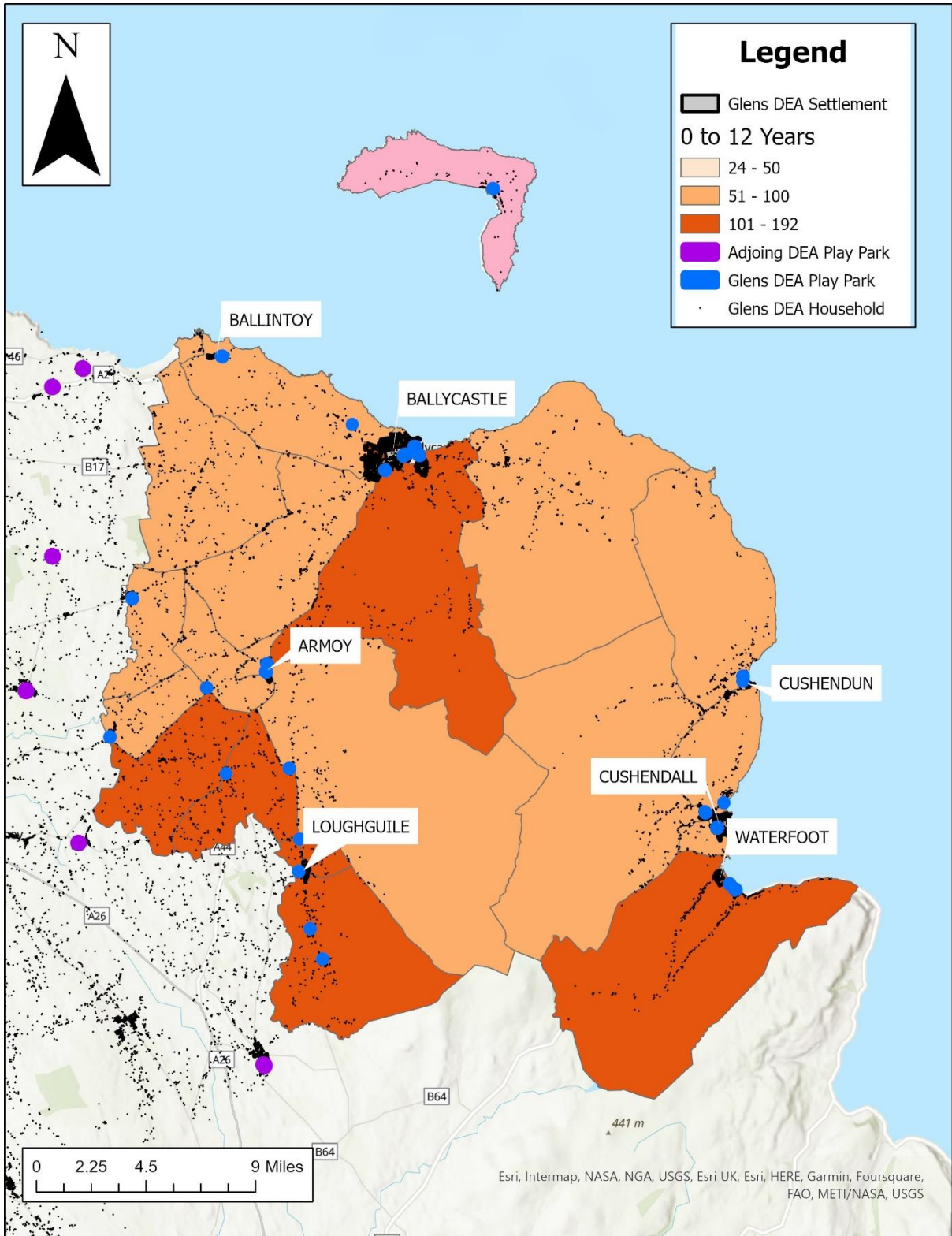
Play Parks are designated according to the Fields in Trust 'Accessibility Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Play' (often known as the ABS). The ABS classifies play parks according to the level of play provision offered by the site and establishes a radial catchment area to identify the resident population whose needs are served by a play park based on its designation:

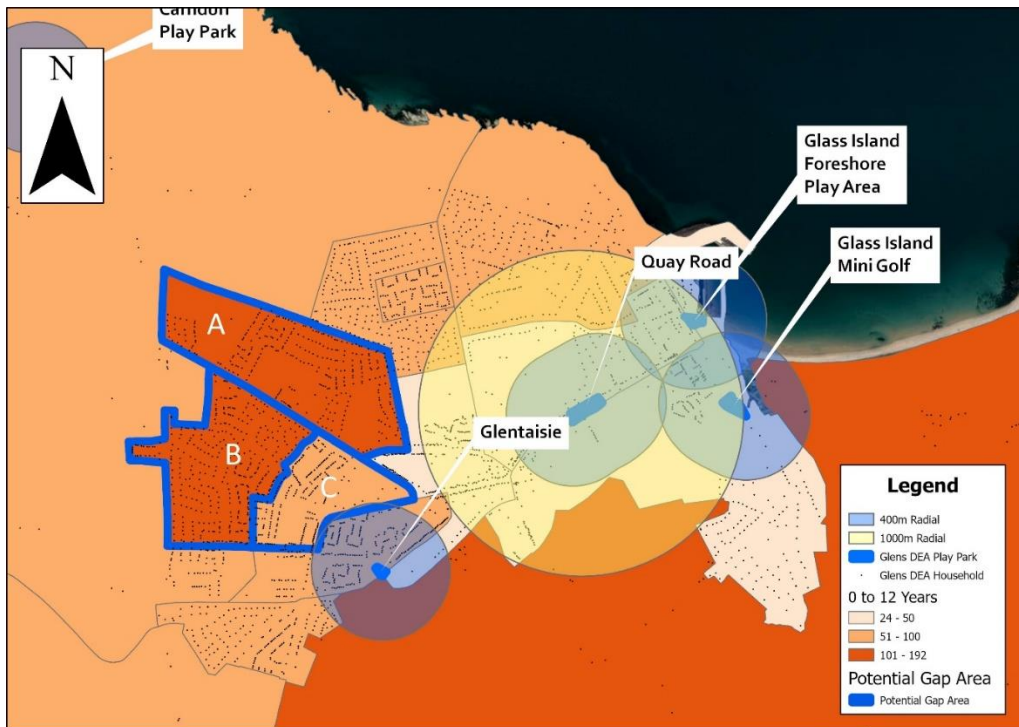
Designation of Play Park	Walking Distance
Local Areas for Play (LAPs) are specifically designated and laid out for very young children (<5 years) with the express purpose of providing somewhere to play close to where they live.	100
Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) are areas of open space designated and laid out with features and equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently (5 to 12 years) close to where they live.	400
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP) are areas of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children (including 12+) but with play opportunities for younger children as well.	1000

There are at present 27 play parks located within the DEA all of which are designated as Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPS).

The map overleaf shows the location of play parks mapped against settlements and household location. As can be seen, in the majority of cases, play parks are located at the point of greatest population need i.e. within or in close proximity to a settlement. Two areas have been identified as potential gap areas for fixed play and have been subject to further review:

1. Ballycastle West
2. Waterfoot





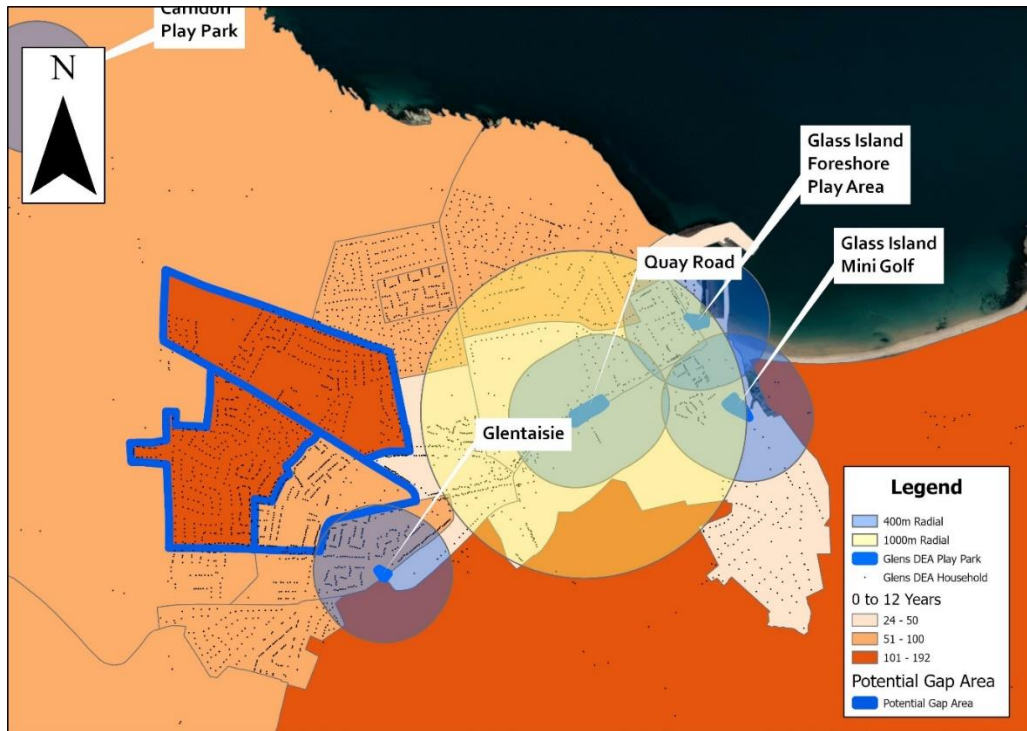
The total number of 0-to 12-year-olds residing within each of the three identified data zones is:

- Data zone A =177
- Data zone B =192
- Data zone C =92

With a total of 461 children aged 0 to 12 years living within an area of over 100 households (with 973 in the identified area), the site meets the criteria established within the council play strategy for new fixed play development.

As previously highlighted, council are currently developing plans for the enhancement of the existing play park at Quay Road to a district level play park. Based on the Fields in Trust standards, such a site has a coverage area of 1,000m.

A map showing the Quay Road site with a 1,000m radial introduced can be viewed overleaf. As can be seen, whilst the 1,000m radial increases the residential catchment area, it does not extend to the identified gap site.

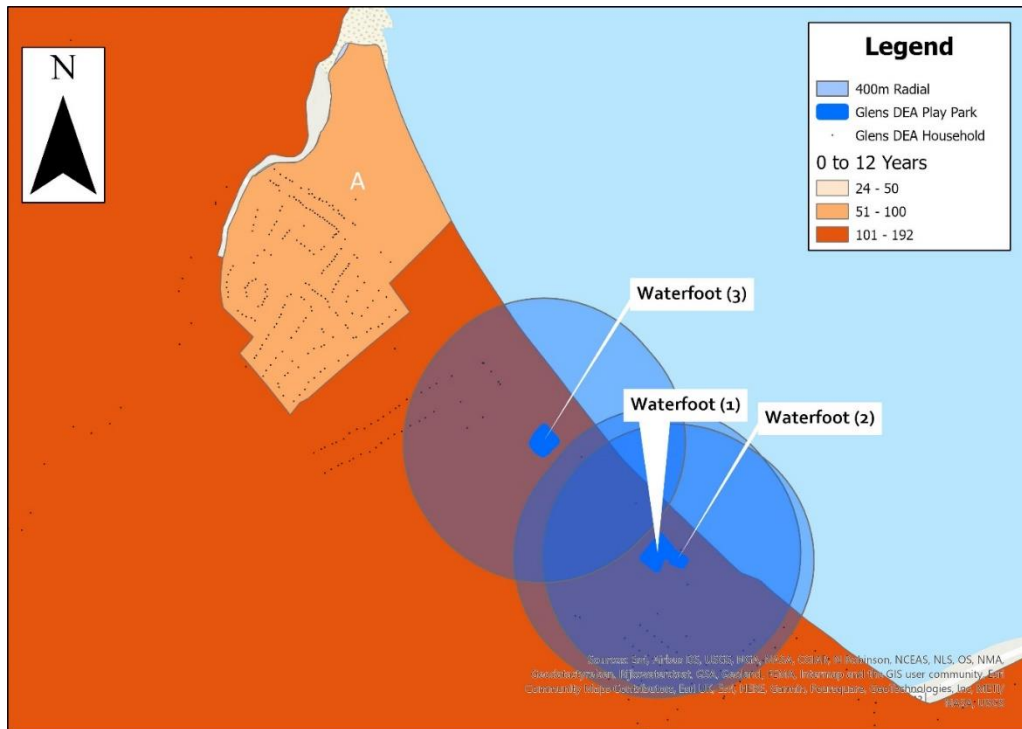


Despite development at Quay Road, a gap in play provision will remain at the identified location. It is noted that the area is primarily private residential, and as such any future fixed play development would be reliant on an appropriate site being available and accessible to council.

Potential Gap Area 2 – Waterfoot

Waterfoot is a seaside village located to the East of the council area.

The village currently has 2 play locations (one fixed and one natural) located along the coast from the main village and residential area (area A denoted in the map below).



Whilst both play areas are accessible by road and footpath from the main village and residential area, residents have raised concerns regarding road safety issues for children travelling to either site on foot or by bicycle.

In 2021, identified map area A had 62 resident children aged 0 to 12 living within 219 households. It should be noted that the legacy Council identified the development of new fixed play provision within Waterfoot as one of its key final actions prior to creation of the new Council.

Based on the criteria, and acknowledging the actions of the legacy council, identified area A represents a fixed play gap site. As with other gap sites, the opportunity to develop fixed play within the area will be dependent on the availability and accessibility of an appropriate site.

12.0 Review of Progress

Under the original Play Investment Strategy, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council identified a number of key strategic recommendations aimed at fulfilling the child's right to play as outlined within Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As part of the mid-point review an assessment was undertaken of the degree to which the Council have been able to achieve each of the strategic aims. In considering the feedback provided within this section it is important to recognise the delaying impact of Covid-19 and to acknowledge that Council are still only at the halfway point in delivering the overarching play strategy.

12.1 Accessible/Inclusive Play

Acknowledging the importance of play to all children and young people, within the Play Investment Strategy Council gave a commitment to:

"enhance geographical access to accessible fixed play areas through the development of additional accessible fixed play areas similar to that located at Flowerfield".

Council further gave a commitment to ensuring:

"Accessible play areas will be designed to accessible play standards and will incorporate access to toilet and changing facilities within close proximity".

With a view to achieving the above aim, the strategy identified 4 key action areas:

1. Ensure that the proposed new Destination Play Area in Limavady is fully Accessible with access to suitable ancillary facilities
2. Refurbish the Quay Road, Ballycastle play area to Accessible standard and ensure access to suitable ancillary facilities
3. Review the Megaw Park fixed play area and ancillary facilities to ensure it is fully accessible
4. Maintain Flowerfield to its current high standard

Limavady Accessible Play Park

The first key action area identified was the development of a new destination level accessible fixed play area (with appropriate support facilities) to be located within Limavady.

Following identification of a suitable site at Roe Mill Recreation Grounds, Council developed a new accessible play park which opened on 25th January

2022. Based around a number of play zones and aimed at meeting the needs of children of all ability levels, the site incorporates an inclusive 'Changing Places' facility housed within the adjacent Pavilion building.

As part of the mid-point review, a play value assessment of the play park was undertaken with a view to establishing the level of play value associated with the play park. In completing the play value assessment, a range of information was considered including:

- The range, variety and play types supported by each playground
- The level of provision afforded by the playground for a range of age groups
- The degree to which the playground provided access to inclusive play opportunities or specialist play equipment
- Wider locational and site factors including the attractiveness of the site as a space for play, overall condition, indicative level of usage, damage to equipment through vandalism, environmental factors etc.


Play value assessment took into consideration a number of key areas including:

Area	Description
Locational factors	Attractiveness and welcoming nature of the play setting; level of community oversight; vandalism and cleanliness of site; level of perimeter fencing etc.
Accessibility factors	Condition of pathways and play surfaces; entrance and layout accessibility; inclusive play opportunities.
Environmental factors	Presence of bushes, shrubs, grass; sunny, shaded and sheltered areas; ground modelling; natural play materials.
Physical play opportunities	Review of physical play opportunities afforded by the play area; range of play equipment available.
Creative play opportunities	Presence of sand/water play, loose play parts; imaginative play opportunities
Inclusive play opportunities	Presence, scope and scale of inclusive and accessible play opportunities for children with disabilities.
Social play opportunities	Quiet place to sit/chat/think; places to hide; opportunities to interact with different ages/abilities.

The maximum play value score possible was 800. The table overleaf outlines the scoring framework and provides a description of conditions based on the play value score.

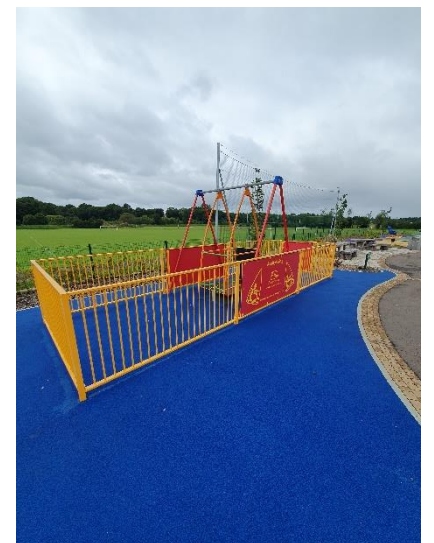
Play Value Score	Description
<399	<p>Site offers a low level of play value and requires remedial action. Typically, this will be due to range of factors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lack of variety in the range of play equipment available limiting its play value and reducing repeat visits • Poor condition of fixed play equipment due to age/wear and tear e.g. wood rot, corrosion, broken components etc. • Damage to play equipment or wider site e.g. vandalism or graffiti that detracts from the site as an area for play • A lack of inclusive play opportunities • A lack of environmental engagement and play opportunities • Wider site aspects, for example poor or restrictive access to the play area, poorly maintained grass/greenery or other natural components. <p>Play areas falling within this category (providing that continued demographic need can be demonstrated) are generally in need of upgrade or significant remedial action aimed at enhancing play value during the lifetime of the policy.</p>
400-474	<p>Site continues to offer a fair level of play value but will require action to enhance play value</p> <p>Play areas scoring between 400 and 474 will typically offer a limited range of play opportunities and, whilst condition is fair may require remedial action above regular maintenance in order to address underlying issues that reduce their play value. Such sites are likely to require upgrade in the short to medium term.</p>
475-599	<p>Site offers a good level of play value and does not require action at present. Council should continue to maintain and monitor such sites to prevent a reduction in play value.</p>
600+	<p>Sites scoring above 600 are deemed to have a high play value and do not require any immediate action beyond ongoing maintenance and regular monitoring of play value. In the case of those sites identified as being neighbourhood play areas, recommendations may be made within the play plan in terms of site enhancement to incorporate inclusive play opportunities, toileting and supporting infrastructure.</p>

Roemill Road Play Park, Limavady

Play Value Assessment			
Location and Radial Map	PV Score	Play Equipment	Overview
	655	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percussion drums • Rain wheel • Play Panel • Chimes • Talk-tubes • Education Play Panel Wall • Musical Platform • Chill Zone • Cozy cocoon • Giant Rotating disc • Willow tunnels • Wet Pour mounds • Tyre swing • Flat swings • Toddler swings • Inclusive swing • Wheelchair swing • Inclusive Multi-Unit • See Saw 	<p>Limavady accessible play park offers an attractive, high-quality location for play incorporating a broad range of fixed play opportunities aimed at children of all abilities.</p> <p>The play park is zoned according to differing play types and has been designed to appeal to a wide range of ages and abilities.</p> <p>The wider site offers ready access to Roe Mill Playing fields, providing children and young people with an array of non-fixed play opportunities.</p> <p>As a destination play park the site has wide radial coverage. The site provides ample parking for visitors alongside access to a 'Changing Places' facility on site, supporting families wishing to stay at the play park for a longer time period.</p> <p>As a relatively new play park the general condition of both equipment and surfacing is excellent.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotating seat • Trampoline • Embankment slide and rope climb • Inclusive roundabout • Whale Rocker 	
Recommendations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and monitor the site within the renewal cycle as identified within the Play Strategy. 			

Play Value Score by Area of Assessment							
Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score	95	55	100	215	125	45	20



Quay Road Ballycastle

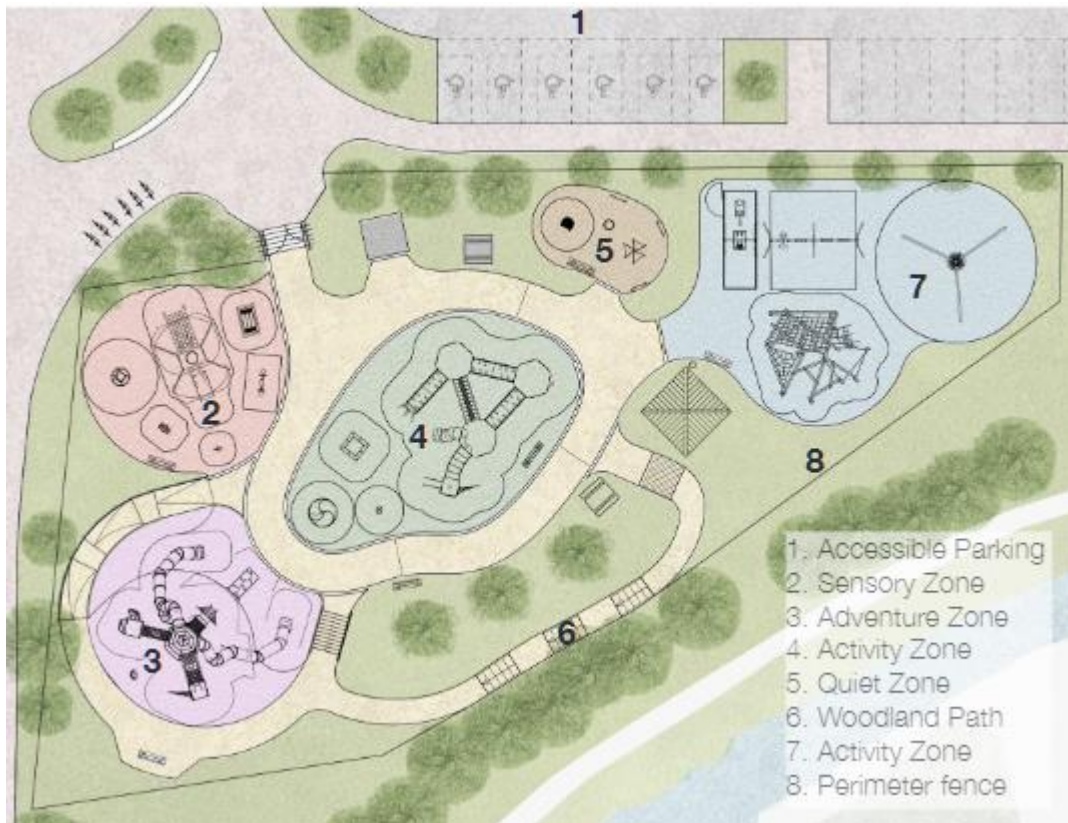
The second key action identified under strategic recommendation 1 was the development of a new destination level accessible fixed play area (with appropriate support facilities) to replace the existing play park located at Quay Road, Ballycastle.

Council have recently released plans for the redevelopment of the site to incorporate, alongside a number of key leisure facilities an accessible play park.

The accessible play park will be located to the south of the site (see map below) in order to facilitate universal access.



The concept behind the play park provide a destination level play park that offers a wide range of play experiences for children of all ages and abilities. Specific play equipment will be incorporated for children with reduced mobility and the play park will also include multi-sensory play experiences, tactile surfacing, landscaping and interactive panels.



Public consultation regarding the plans for the site (including the accessible play area and toilets to Changing Places standard) are currently ongoing. Once complete, plans will be finalised, and development of the site will be commenced.

The development of accessible and inclusive play at Quay Road was a significant element of the Play Investment Strategy and, whilst progress has been slow (due in part to the Covid pandemic) the development will significantly enhance access to inclusive play within the Council area.

Megaw Park, Ballymoney

Within the original Play Investment Strategy, in line with its District level status, Megaw Park Play Park achieved a high play value score of 650 making it the second highest play park in the Council area.

In line with its focus on enhancing access to inclusive and accessible play opportunity, the strategy acknowledged the potential for Megaw Park Play Park to be further enhanced to provide additional access to accessible and inclusive play opportunities.

During the period under review, a number of developments and enhancements have been undertaken including the introduction of an accessible Trampoline, inclusive seesaw and inclusive swing seat alongside quiet play opportunities.

Acknowledging the requirement for appropriate accessible toilet and changing facilities at District level inclusive play parks, a review is currently being undertaken focused on the potential installation of a Changing Places facility at Megaw Park.

Development of a Changing Places facility would be in-keeping with the District level status of the site, would be in line with the Play Investment Strategy and would bring Megaw Park into alignment with current good practice as articulated within the UK Play Safety Forums guidance document "Including Disabled Children in Play Provision".

As part of the review, a play value assessment was undertaken for Megaw park to provide an up-to-date assessment of the level of play value currently being delivered by the play park.

Megaw Park, Ballymoney

Play Value Assessment				
Location and Radial Map	Original PV Score	PV Score (2023)	Play Equipment	Overview
	650	640	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aeroplane Rocker • Cradle Swings • Toddler Unit • 4 Seat Rocker • Senior Multi-play unit • Trampoline • Inclusive Seesaw • Climbing Unit • Basket Swing • Flat Swing • Inclusive Swing • Inclusive Roundabout • Teen Shelter • Zip Line • Tyre Swing • Trim Trail 	<p>The play park located at Megaw Park offers a wide range of play opportunities in-keeping with the District level status of the site.</p> <p>Designed to meet the range of a broad range of ages the site incorporates play equipment aimed at toddlers and younger children up to older children and early teens.</p> <p>Overall, the site offers an attractive, high-quality location for play and incorporates a number of inclusive and accessible pieces of play equipment aimed at meeting the needs of children with disabilities. As a District level park, consideration should be given to the addition of a Wheelchair swing which would enhance inclusive provision to District standard.</p> <p>As a destination play park the site has wide radial coverage and provides parking for visitors. At present the site</p>

				<p>does not incorporate a 'Changing Places' facility on site. It is recommended, in line with good practice and the parks District level status, that Council progress development of a 'Changing Places' facility.</p> <p>The general condition of both equipment and surfacing is very good, albeit with some use related general wear and tear.</p>
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Recommendations

- Maintain and monitor the site within the renewal cycle as identified within the Play Strategy.
- Progress development of a 'Changing Places' facility on-site.
- Addition of Wheelchair swing to enhance play park to District standard in line with good practice.

Play Value Score by Area of Assessment							
Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score	95	55	110	205	115	35	25



Flowerfield, Portstewart


The inclusive play park located at Flowerfield (Portstewart) was opened in 2016 providing a flagship inclusive play facility. Under the development of the play strategy, the site was assessed as offering the highest level of play value within the Council area (675 out of a possible 800). The assessment noted:

"Site offers a high level of play value with an extensive variety of accessible fixed play equipment on offer. Site provides opportunities for children to experience challenging play and is an attractive location for play. Demand is very high from both residents and beyond – Flowerfield is a destination play site."

The key recommendation for the site within the play strategy was for the site to be maintained to a high standard, ensuring that it continues to offer a high level of play value for children of all abilities.

As part of the review, a play value assessment was undertaken for Flowerfield to provide an up-to-date assessment of the level of play value currently being delivered by the play park alongside recommendations.

Flowerfield, Portstewart

Play Value Assessment					
Location and Radial Map	Original PV Score	PV Score (2023)	Play Equipment	Overview	Recommendations
	675	640	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scent Posts • Giant Rotating Disc • Talk Tubes • Trampoline • Rain Stick • Senior Multi-Play Unit • Inclusive Roundabout • Inclusive Wheelchair Wobble Seesaw • Wheelchair Accessible Play Unit • Balance Bar Play Panel • Story Area • Inclusive Ball Play Games • Wobble Disc • Wooden Chimes • Horse Rocker 	<p>Designed to offer a wide range of inclusive fixed play opportunities Flowerfield play park, despite a slight reduction in play value of 35, continues to deliver a high level of play value.</p> <p>Designed to meet the range of a broad range of ages and abilities, Flowerfield incorporates a wide range of inclusive and accessible pieces of play equipment aimed at meeting the needs of children with disabilities.</p> <p>As a destination play park the site has wide radial coverage and provides parking for</p>	Maintain and monitor the site within the renewal cycle as identified within the Play Strategy.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motorbike Rocker • Seesaw • Peddle Roundabout • Cradle Swings • Inclusive Swing • Wheelchair Swing • Mixed Swings • Chimes • Music Platform • Education Panels 	<p>visitors. Toilets to 'Changing Places' standard are available on-site.</p> <p>The general condition of both equipment and remains good, albeit some pieces are beginning to show some wear and tear.</p>	
Recommendations					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and monitor the site within the renewal cycle as identified within the Play Strategy. 					

Play Value Score by Area of Assessment							
Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score	85	70	100	200	115	45	25



12.2 [Development of New Play Parks](#)

As part of the original strategy development process, a household distribution review and demographic assessment was undertaken to identify locations which, based in resident population and tourist visitor levels required the development of new fixed play parks.

The strategy identified five locations for fixed play development:

1. Limavady Town (Inclusive Play Park)
2. Portrush (Destination play Park)
3. Portrush (Play Installations)
4. Coleraine (Waterside)
5. Waterfoot (based on legacy Council decision)

Of the five locations identified for new fixed play park development two have been completed.

Limavady Town

As noted in the previous section, fixed play development has been completed at Limavady Town with the development of a high play value, inclusive and accessible play park to District level standard.

The play park provides access to a high value play facility which has been designed to incorporate a broad range of play opportunities for children of varying ability levels.

Portrush Destination Play Park

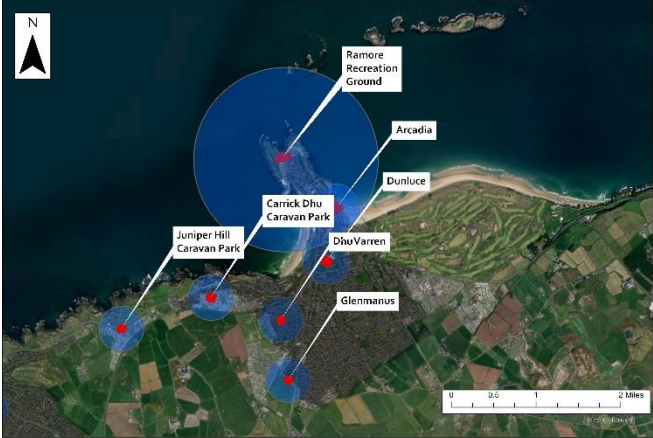
As part of the play investment strategy, a new District level destination adventure play park has been developed at Ramore Head in Portrush alongside a number of other key recreation features including:

- Pavilion Building
- Bowling Green
- Practice bowling space
- Multi-use recreation space
- Public toilets to Changing Spaces standard.

The aim of the play park was to provide an enhanced level of access to a high value equipped play park that would meet the needs of residents and visitors/tourists alike.



Ramore Head Play Park, Portrush

Play Value Assessment			
Location and Radial Map	PV Score (2023)	Play Equipment	Overview
	655	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Multi-unit • Inclusive Roundabout • Embankment Slide • Log Stack and Ropes • Stepping Stones • Bridge • Trampoline • Balance spring discs • Seagull Rocker • Climbing Wall • Basket Swing • Wheelchair Swing • Flat Swings • Cradle Swings • Seesaw 	<p>The recently developed play park at Ramore head in Portrush provides an attractive, high value location for play for residents and visitors to the area.</p> <p>The site offers a wide range of fixed play opportunities aimed at children of all abilities and has been designed to appeal to a broad range of ages. The play park includes a wheelchair swing which is in line with its destination level status. Large scale multi-units offer multiple play opportunities, whilst the use of timber and natural materials enhances the play appeal of the site.</p> <p>The wider adjacent area provides ample parking for visitors whilst access to a 'Changing Places' facility on site supports families of children with disabilities to stay at the play park for a longer time-period.</p> <p>As a newly developed play park, the condition of both equipment and surfacing is excellent.</p>

Recommendations

- Maintain and monitor the site within the renewal cycle as identified within the Play Strategy.

Play Value Score by Area of Assessment

Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score	75	70	115	200	125	45	25



Portrush Play Installations

Given the level of tourism associated with the area, the Play Investment Strategy identified an opportunity for Council to enhance play provision within the Portrush area through the development of appropriately designed fixed play installations along key walkways, including the East and West Strands and Ramore head.

To date there has been no progress on the recommendation. It is however noted that the development of a District level high value play park at Ramore Head has significantly enhanced access to quality play for both residents and tourists to the wider area.

In line with the original strategy recommendations, the integration of play installations along both the East and West Strands would act to enhance local play opportunities whilst acting as a attractant for both residents and visitors to the area. It is therefore recommended that council proceed with such installation in the next phase of the Play Investment strategy.

Coleraine (Waterside)

The Waterside area of Coleraine was identified within the strategy as an area of high play need, with no fixed play provision available for a in excess of 1,144 households (based on 2016 data).

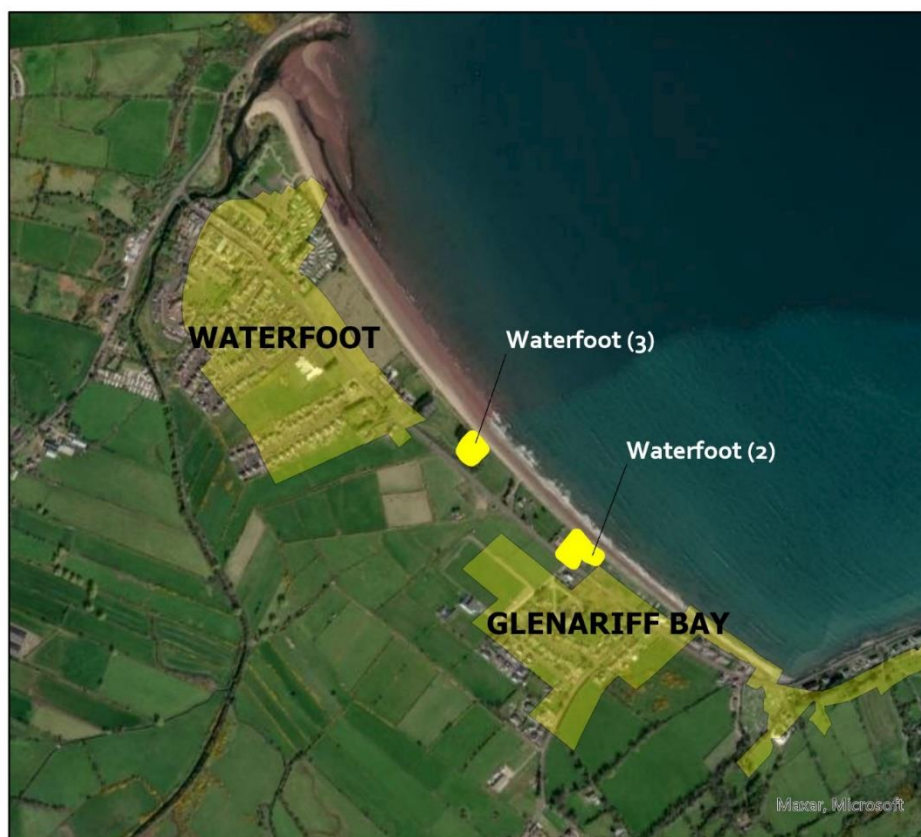
Given the high level of demand for play, the strategy recommended that Council should progress towards the development of a new fixed play park to service the area. In making the recommendation it was acknowledged that, given the residential nature of the area, the availability of suitable land was a likely impediment to play park development within the area.

During the intervening period, Council have undertaken a review of land availability however have been unable to progress development. Given the area remain in high need, Council should continue to explore land options with a view to meeting the identified need.

Waterfoot

Whilst there is are currently two existing play facilities (one fixed and one natural) located at Glenariff bay close to Waterfoot village (see location map overleaf), residents had requested additional provision closer to/within the main village area due to safety concerns regarding the pedestrian access route which runs along the main Garron Road.

Authorisation for the development of additional fixed play provision located within Waterfoot village was given by the Legacy council prior to amalgamation in 2015 under the Review of Public Administration.



The current fixed play park (Waterfoot 2) is located approximately 750m from the centre of the village and the main residential area.

Based on pre-RPA authorisation, the play investment strategy recommended that Council should explore options for the provision of a fixed play park within the main settlement of Waterfoot.

To date Council has not progressed the development of an additional fixed play park within Waterfoot and should look to progress in the next phase of delivery.

12.3 Enhancement of Existing Play Parks

Within the strategy a number of existing fixed play parks were identified as being in need of extension and enhancement in order to meet growing levels of demand within the local area.

The identified play parks were:

1. Ballykelly
2. The Bio Park, Cloughmills
3. Quay Road (Ballycastle) to accessible destination standard
4. Rugby Avenue, Coleraine to destination standard

To date none of the identified play parks have been subject to extension or enhancement as outlined within the strategy.

It should be noted that, as previously outlined, development work has commenced on the extension and enhancement of the Quay Road, Ballycastle site. At present draft designs have been produced and community consultation is ongoing, with a view to developing an accessible, destination level play park.

During the intervening period it should also be noted that discussions have been progressed regarding the development of a destination play park at the Rugby Avenue site in Coleraine, dependent on the locating of a new leisure centre.

12.4 Land Exploration for New Play Development

The strategy identified five locations for land exploration with a view to future fixed play development in order to meet developing local need. The locations identified were:

1. Ballymoney South
2. Castleroe
3. Bushmills
4. The Cuts (Coleraine)

To date no potential development sites have been identified at any of the first four locations, however land exploration continues with a view to progressing the recommendations.

12.5 Capital Renewal Programme

The strategy identified 12 play parks which, due to their low level of play value required upgrade and renewal in order to enhance the standard of play on offer.

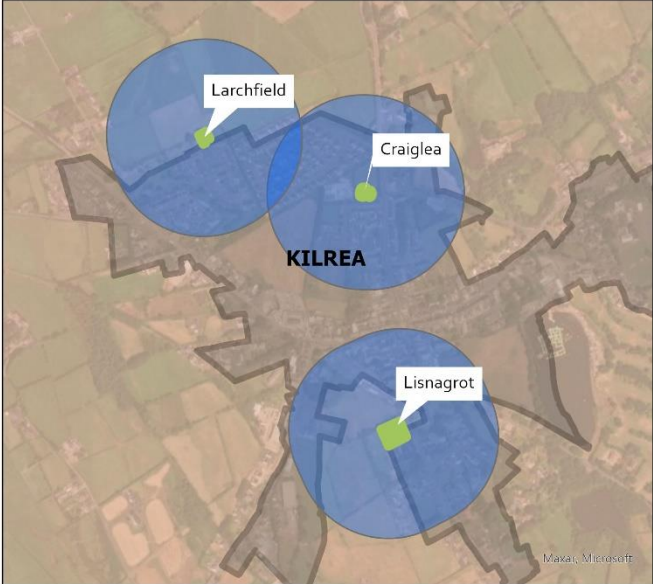
As part of the review process, a further play value assessment has been undertaken for each of the identified alongside further recommendations. The table below highlights the locations alongside actions taken since the formalisation of the play investment strategy.

Play Value reports for each of the sites have also been included alongside further recommendations based on their current status.

Play Park	Original Play Value	Action taken to Date	Play Value 2023
Landsdowne Road	290	Single swing located on Landsdowne Road has been removed with play centralised at destination play park on Ramore Head.	-
Lisnagrot	300	No upgrade works have been undertaken to date.	300
Alexander Road	350	No upgrade works have been undertaken to date.	310
Middle Park	370	No upgrade works have been undertaken to date.	355
Cottage Wood 1 and 2	385	No upgrade works have been undertaken to date.	380
Garvagh Road	385	No upgrade works have been undertaken to date.	355
Swanns Bridge	380	No upgrade works have been undertaken to date.	305
Dhu Varren	390	No upgrade works have been undertaken to date. A number of pieces of equipment have been removed, further reducing play value of the site.	305

Daneshill	390	No upgrade works have been undertaken to date.	360
The Warren	410	No upgrade works have been undertaken to date.	395
Anderson Park	445	No upgrade works have been undertaken to date.	365
Larchfield	-	Park has been upgraded.	490

Lisnagrot


Play Value Assessment					
Location and Radial Map	Original PV Score	PV Score 2023	Play Equipment	Overview	Recommendations
	300	300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat swings • Multi-unit • Seesaw • Rocker • Cradle swings 	<p>Lisnagrot play park offers a low level of play value due to the limited level of fixed play equipment which is showing age related wear and tear.</p> <p>It is noted that the site is located adjacent to Kilrea Primary School which enhances the level of demand for play at the location beyond solely residential. The site therefore offers dual development potential with the Primary School.</p>	Play Park should be upgraded to better meet local need.

Play Value Score by Area of Assessment

Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score	40	15	40	115	65	15	10



Alexander Road


Play Value Assessment					
Location and Radial Map	Original PV Score	PV Score 2023	Play Equipment	Overview	Recommendations
 <p>An aerial photograph of a residential area. A road labeled 'Alexander Road' runs diagonally from the top left towards the center. A path labeled 'Blackburn Path' runs horizontally across the middle. Two yellow rectangular callouts are placed on the map: one on Blackburn Path and one on a green area below it. The surrounding area contains houses, parking lots, and some commercial buildings.</p>	350	310	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Multi-Unit • Balance Beam 	<p>The play park at Alexander Road (Limavady) consists of a large play multi-unit which offers a range of play opportunities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbing • Sliding • Balancing <p>The multi-unit is showing signs of age-related wear and tear which acts to detract from the attractiveness of the site as location for play.</p> <p>The play park also offers a snake themed balance beam located outside the fenced</p>	<p>Alexander Road play park is located in close proximity to a higher play value site at Blackburn Path (PV = 460).</p> <p>Given the close proximity of higher a higher value play park at Blackburn Path, and continued decline in play value, it is recommended that the play park at Alexander Road be removed with future investment focused on enhancement of the Blackburn Path Play Park.</p>

					<p>off area. The wider green space offers potential for non-fixed play.</p> <p>Overall, the site offers a low level of play value due to the limited fixed play equipment available which acts to reduce the number of play types on offer.</p>	
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Play Value Score by Area of Assessment							
Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score	45	15	40	115	70	15	10



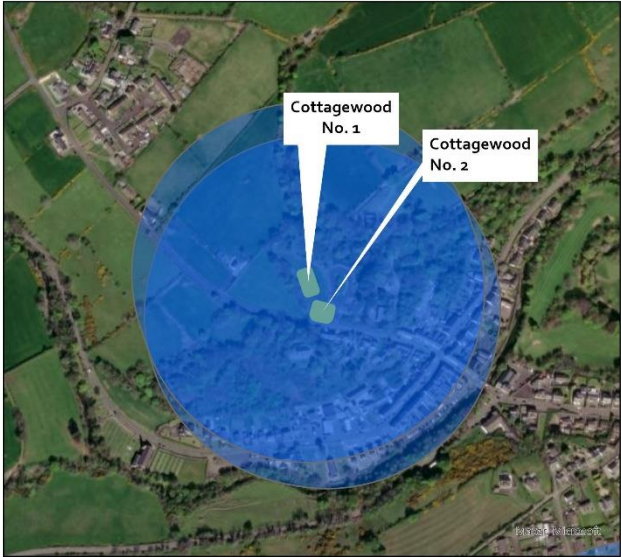
Middle Park

Play Value Assessment					
Location and Radial Map	Original PV Score	PV Score 2023	Play Equipment	Overview	Recommendations
 <p>Middlepark</p>	370	355	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tyre Swing x 2 • Multi-unit • Junior Multiunit • Cradle Swings • Flat Swings 	<p>The play park at Middle Park offers a number of fixed play opportunities for a range of ages.</p> <p>The play equipment is showing age related wear and tear which acts to detract for the attractiveness of the site as a place for play.</p> <p>Based on initial analysis of household density, there remains a level of local demand for play within the immediate radial coverage area.</p>	Renewal and upgrade of the play park due to declining play value and condition.

Play Value Score by Area of Assessment							
Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score	40	15	45	155	75	15	10




Cottage Wood 1 and 2

Play Value Assessment					
Location and Radial Map	Original PV Score	PV Score 2023	Play Equipment	Overview	Recommendations
 <p>An aerial photograph of a residential area with a large blue circular radial overlay. Two small green squares mark the locations of 'Cottagewood No. 1' and 'Cottagewood No. 2'. The surrounding area includes green fields, roads, and buildings.</p>	385	380	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-unit • Tyre Swing • Cradle swings • Flat swings • Junior Multi-unit 	<p>Cottage Wood 1 and 2 are located in close proximity to each other and offer a low level of play value.</p> <p>The level of play value is affected by a combination of ageing equipment, a lack of variety in play types on offer and wear and tear to the play equipment.</p>	<p>Given their close proximity, low level of play value and condition it is recommended a single new play park should be developed on site to replace the existing 2.</p> <p>Given the natural beauty of the location it is recommended that the new play park should be developed using natural materials in-keeping with the location.</p>

Play Value Score by Area of Assessment							
Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score	45	15	55	165	75	15	10



Garvagh Road

Play Value Assessment					
Location and Radial Map	Original PV Score	PV Score 2023	Play Equipment	Overview	Recommendations
	385	355	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-unit • Cradle swings • Flat swings 	<p>The play park located at Garvagh Road offers a low level of play value, due primarily to the limited variety of play equipment available.</p> <p>The multi-unit is showing signs of wear and tear which further detracts from the play value of the location. Both the cradle swings and flat swings are off more recent installation and are in good condition.</p>	<p>Given the low level of play value, the play park should be upgraded with a focus on replacing the multi-unit.</p> <p>Both swing sets are of a sufficiently high level of quality to be maintained on site.</p>

Play Value Score by Area of Assessment							
Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score	35	15	45	160	75	15	10




Swanns Bridge

Play Value Assessment					
Location and Radial Map	Original PV Score	PV Score 2023	Play Equipment	Overview	Recommendations
	380	305	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Play Rockers 	<p>Site consists of 3 play rockers aimed at lower age groups, however, does offer some non-fixed play opportunities.</p> <p>Equipment is in fair condition, however, is severely limited in its appeal due to the focus on lower age groups.</p>	<p>Enhancement of site through introduction of additional play equipment.</p> <p>Equipment introduced should be of natural construction to maintain the natural aesthetic of the wider location.</p>

Play Value Score by Area of Assessment							
Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score	15	15	30	150	75	15	5



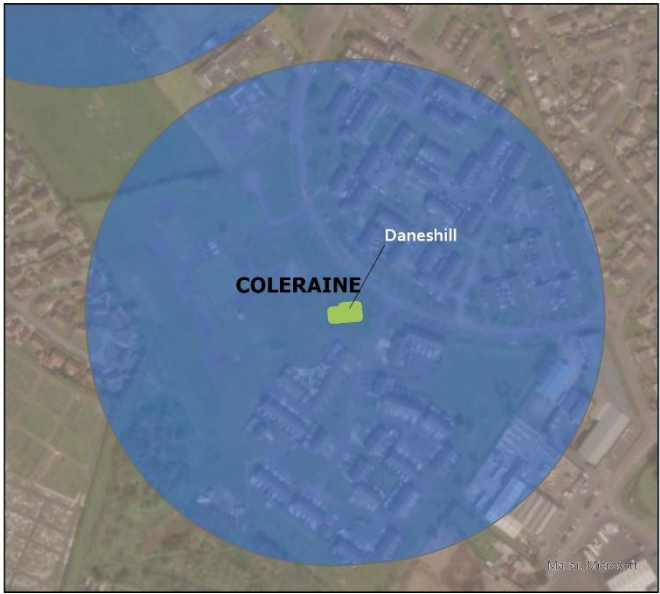
Dhu Varren

Play Value Assessment					
Location and Radial Map	Original PV Score	PV Score 2023	Play Equipment	Overview	Recommendations
	390	305	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seesaw • Cradle Swings • Flat Swings • Slide 	<p>The level of play value associated with park located at Dhu Varren has decreased significantly since the original assessment was undertaken.</p> <p>The low level of play value is due to a combination of a lack of available play types, the poor condition of the play equipment and the play park environs and the removal and non-replacement of play equipment.</p>	Upgrade of play park and enhancement of the wider site area.

Play Value Score by Area of Assessment							
Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score	30	15	35	130	65	15	15



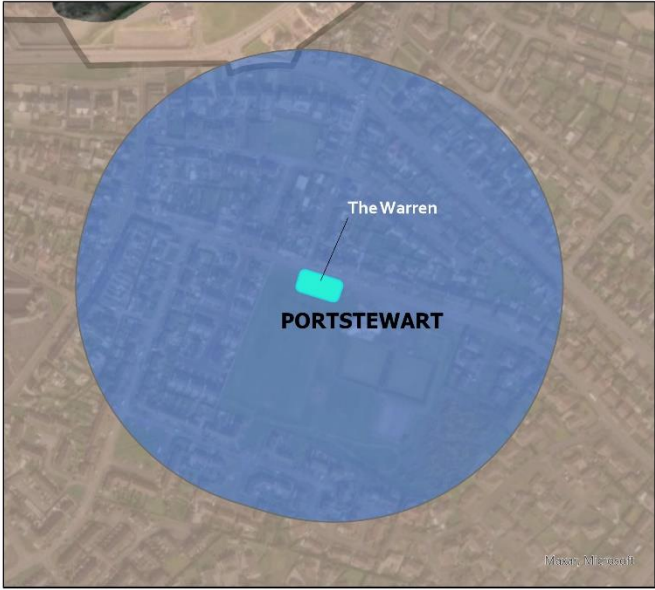
Daneshill

Play Value Assessment					
Location and Radial Map	Original PV Score	PV Score 2023	Play Equipment	Overview	Recommendations
	390	360	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbing Unit • Flat Swings • Multi-unit • See Saw • Toddler Unit • Cradle Swings • Balance Beam 	<p>Daneshill Play Park offers a range of play equipment, however the level of pay value suffers due to its age and condition.</p> <p>The most recent maintenance inspection noted significant levels of wood rot, rusting to metal components and damaged equipment.</p>	The play park at Daneshill should be upgraded.

Play Value Score by Area of Assessment							
Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score	50	15	55	150	70	10	10



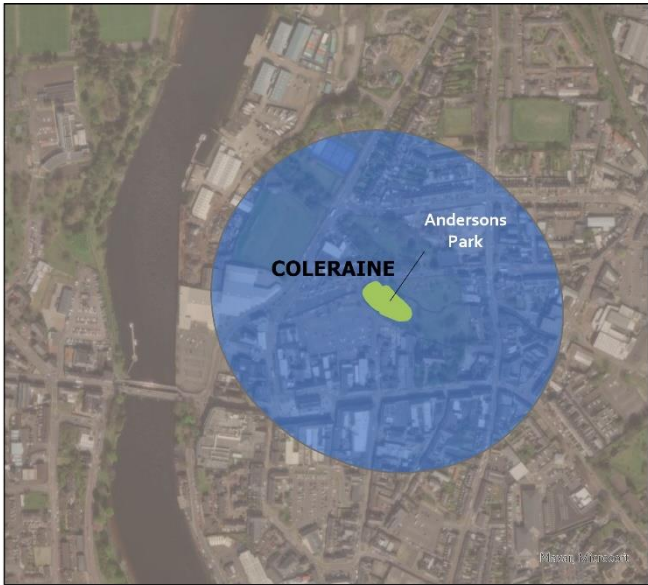
The Warren

Play Value Assessment					
Location and Radial Map	Original PV Score	PV Score 2023	Play Equipment	Overview	Recommendations
	410	395	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat Swings • Rocker • Multi-unit • Toddler Unit • Cradle Swings • Basket Swing 	<p>The Warren Play area offers a range of play equipment, albeit aimed mainly at younger children.</p> <p>Equipment is showing signs of age-related wear and tear with wood rot and metal corrosion noted which detracts further from the site.</p>	<p>Given the low level of play value and wider condition issues, the play park should be upgraded.</p>

Play Value Score by Area of Assessment							
Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score	45	20	45	175	80	15	15



Anderson Park

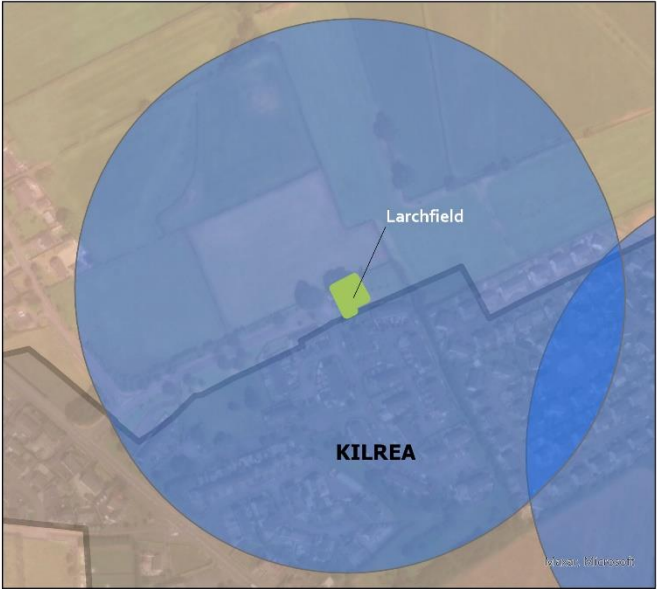
Play Value Assessment					
Location and Radial Map	Original PV Score	PV Score 2023	Play Equipment	Overview	Recommendations
 <p>An aerial photograph of Coleraine, Northern Ireland, with a blue circular radial map overlaid. The center of the radial map is labeled 'COLERAINE' and 'Andersons Park'. A small green oval highlights the location of Anderson Park within the radial map. The map shows a river on the left and various buildings and streets in the surrounding area.</p>	445	365	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cradle Swings • Panel Drums • Play Panel • Embankment Slide • Inclusive Roundabout • Multi-unit • Climbing dome • Toddler unit 	<p>Play area has 2 zones - 1 for toddlers and younger children with zone 2 aimed at the older age group.</p> <p>The equipment is showing significant levels of age-related wear and tear including rust and peeling paint. There is evidence of vandalism including graffiti on equipment and broken drumheads.</p> <p>Since the original play value assessment, a number of pieces of play equipment have been removed and not replaced</p>	<p>Redevelopment with a view to creating a more expansive outdoor play experience which capitalises on the natural park environment, appeals to a broad range of age groups and meets a range of ability levels.</p>

					<p>further reducing the level of play value.</p> <p>As a town centre park Anderson Park in its current condition does not capitalise on its natural environment and considerable scope exists for the establishment of a larger scale destination play area that would have broader appeal.</p>	
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Play Value Score by Area of Assessment							
Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score	40	30	45	155	70	15	10



Larchfield

Play Value Assessment					
Location and Radial Map	Original PV Score	PV Score 2023	Play Equipment	Overview	Recommendations
	- (Closed due to vandalism)	490	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbing Dome • Inclusive Roundabout • Seesaw • Cradle swings • Flat swings • Rocker • Cuckoo Play Panel • Bongo Play Panel • Cog Play Panel • Multi-unit • Embankment slide 	Play Park has been upgraded and offer a good level of play value.	Maintain and monitor.

Play Value Score by Area of Assessment

Area Assessed	Physical Play	Creative Play	Social Play	Location	Features	Environment	Risk/Challenge
Max Possible Score	105	120	125	225	125	75	25
Site Score							



12.6 Multi-Use Games Areas

Whilst not falling within the remit of the play investment strategy, it is acknowledged that council have recognised the need to increase access to leisure and recreation opportunities for older children and teens through Multi-Use Games Areas.

Multi-Use Games Areas (often referred to as MUGA's) are fenced recreational spaces that have been marked out for informal sporting activities. MUGA's generally include provision for football and basketball/ netball but may also include provision for other sports such as tennis.



Generally constructed using all-weather surface options, MUGA's are particularly popular with older children and teenagers and offer all-year round opportunities for participation in informal sporting and wider recreational activity within the community.

Recognising the value of MUGA's, the council Pitch Strategy has identified additional MUGA development opportunities within a number of areas, enhancing recreational opportunities. Areas identified within the Pitch Strategy audit for MUGA development are:

- Cushendall
- Limavady
- Dungiven
- Castlerock
- Dervock
- Cloughmills
- Portrush

12.7 Transformation Programme

The investment strategy identified 5 locations which, based on a low level of demand for play, were recommended for site transformation.

Site transformation is a process wherein low value fixed play equipment in an area of low demand is removed from the site which is retained for community use as a general recreational space. The process is guided by community consultation which helps to steer the design of the recreational space to best meet the needs of the resident population.

The five sites identified for transformation and their relative play values are:

1. Shanes Park (Play Value = 255)
2. Islandmoore (Play Value = 270)
3. Ballyknock (Play Value = 290)
4. Glenuillin (Play Value = 335)
5. Ballanagarvey (Play Value = 365)

During the intervening period none of the identified sites have been subject to transformation action.

12.8 Development of Non-Fixed Play Approaches

The Play Investment Strategy acknowledged that whilst fixed play parks have a key role to play in meeting play need, it is not always economically viable to develop new fixed play parks within areas of low population density.

In seeking to meet the needs of such areas, the strategy recommended that Council work towards:

- Establishment of a dedicated post to support the roll-out and implementation of the play strategy
- Establishment of a Community Play Volunteers Programme
- Piloting of community and street play initiatives to include community accessible Play Pods
- Active promotion and support for National Play Day.

In reviewing progress, Council have undertaken some steps towards the enhancement of non-fixed play approaches, albeit progress has been limited in part due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

With regards to establishing a dedicated role to drive implementation of the play investment strategy, Council have allocated responsibility for play matters to the Sport and Wellbeing Development Unit Manager. This has provided a focus on play, both fixed and non-fixed that was previously not in place. This has been beneficial in terms of:

- Driving capital play investment and enhancing play value, particularly through the development of new play parks at Ramore Head and Limavady.
- Contributing to broader regional play development through active participation within PlayBoard NI's Local Government Play Development Officers group.

In seeking to progress delivery of the non-fixed play element of the play investment strategy, it is recommended that Council move towards the development and implementation of the key recommendations as they relate to community-based play including:

- Piloting of street play initiatives aimed at opening up access to outdoor play opportunities, particularly within urban and residential locations with limited access to accessible recreation space.
- Development and roll-out of play training for community volunteers, alongside play pod resources, with a view to enhancing access to local non-fixed play opportunities at community level.