
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date: 26 August 2021
Report By:	Head of Roads & Environmental Shared Services	Report No: KL/ERG/21/053
Contact Officer:	Kenny Lang	Contact No: 01475 715906
Subject:	Play Areas Strategy 2021/23	

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update committee on the continuing upgrade and refurbishment of play areas and proposals for future development.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The total available budget for delivery of the Play Area Strategy and the Play Areas complete on site budget line has £351k allocated between 2021/22 and 2022/23. The bulk of this funding (£321k) is allocated in 2021/22. A further allocation of £5m nationally has been identified through the Scottish Government which has been confirmed as £65k. The total funding under consideration in this report is £416k.

2.2 Officers have identified 6 priority projects and details of these are included in this report.

2.3 The priorities are based around the following factors

- Routine planned safety and condition inspections
- Annual play area inspection
- Accessibility and inclusivity
- Locality
- Play Scotland best practice and advice

2.4 Significant work has been undertaken over the last two years to improve inclusivity and this will continue into future years subject to funding.

2.5 Opportunities for external funding will be addressed in future years as it becomes available.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that members note the priority projects for 2021/2023 and work undertaken to date with regards to the play area provision.

3.2 That it be remitted to officers to undertake an assessment of those sites which could be improved for accessibility and provide a detailed report to this committee.

3.3 That it be remitted to officers to engage with CoSLA on the Play Parks Restoration Fund and to remit the Interim Service Director, Environment & Economic Recovery delegated authority to accept funding to progress the delivery of the identified play areas.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Inverclyde Council's play area strategy developed in 2010 identified key objectives to

- Assess demand for children's play areas.
- Assess the adequacy of the existing provision
- Set a standard for provision of children's play areas.
- Explore external funding opportunities for the provision of play areas.
- Recommend priorities in respect of investment in play areas.

4.2 Funding of £519k was allocated in 2010/11 and subsequent years capital funding has been used to develop, maintain and upgrade our play area estate.

4.3 The service have made improvements to its play area estate which currently sits at 53 compared with 45 in 2010/11. A further 16 play areas within housing estates are not maintained or managed by the Council.

4.4 Changing requirements and play equipment design have been managed and the service have made improvements in terms of accessibility and inclusivity with 28 of our play areas now having inclusive play equipment compared with 5 in 2019.

5.0 PLAY AREA PRIORITY PROJECTS 2021/22 – 2022/23

5.1 Six priority play areas have been identified in line with the criteria as follows

- In house bi weekly or monthly planned safety and condition inspections
- Independent annual play area inspection assessments
- Identification of accessibility and improved inclusivity for play areas
- Assessment of use and locality based provision
- Information and best practice guidance from Play Scotland

5.2 The 6 play areas identified are

- Coronation Park Port Glasgow
- Birkmyre Avenue Port Glasgow
- Wellpark Greenock
- Craigend Greenock
- King Street Gourock
- Lunderston Bay Gourock

A map showing the location of each area is included at Appendix 1

5.3 Officers have commenced the procurement exercise and have undertaken topographical and SI surveys of Lunderston Bay.

5.4 The total estimated funding for the projects is £360k, Capital of £351k is available between 2021/22 and 2022/23. The balance will be funded from the Park, Cemeteries & Open Spaces AMP.

5.5 A funding commitment of £50m has been announced by the Scottish Government through the Play Parks Restoration Fund. CoSLA have sought input from a number of Local Authorities including Inverclyde Council. Discussion with the Scottish Government on the details of the policy and distribution criteria are to be arranged. The initial allocation has been confirmed as £65k in this financial year.

- 5.6 The table below identifies the works planned for each play area and estimated budget up to a total of £420 to include the additional Scottish Government funding which has been confirmed as £65k.

Play Area	Location	Brief description of works	Estimate (000s)
Coronation Park	Port Glasgow	Inclusive equipment and upgrade to existing provision and adult gym Improve surface area	£55
Birkmyre Avenue	Port Glasgow	Improve accessibility and surface area	£40
Wellpark	Greenock	Remove existing play area, install new play area.	£45
Craigend	Greenock	Remove existing play area, install new play area.	£30
King Street	Gourock	Improved accessibility and surface area	£50
Lunderston Bay	Gourock	New destination play area	£195

On completion of the works the Council will have 32 inclusive play areas.

6.0 LUNDERSTON BAY

- 6.1 Inverclyde Council now have management responsibility for Lunderston Bay as part of the disaggregation of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.
- 6.2 The current play area is in a state of disrepair and much of the play equipment have been removed over the years for safety reasons. The site of the play area is also some 360 metres from the nearest toilet and changing facility.
- 6.3 The site is leased from Ardgowan Estates and an agreement has been reached to relocate the play area to the east of the toilet block. The new site will be less than 100 metres from the toilets.
- 6.4 A design brief has been requested with an allocated budget of £195k. This will be a naturalised play area with sympathetic play equipment in keeping with the nature of the location and maritime connections with Inverclyde. The site will be a destination play area and will enhance and add to the existing play area estate.
- 6.5 Officers have discussed any planning concerns and it is anticipated that there are no planning issues on the basis that the costs of the development are less than £250k, that there are no bad neighbour issues, that the provision of play facilities is a legal obligation.

7.0 FUTURE PROVISION

- 7.1 The main objectives of the play area strategy have been met and the provision of play areas and equipment is significantly improved. It is not considered that further or new play areas are needed at this time and this will be assessed annually to ensure that play areas are fit for purpose and maintained to a high standard
- 7.2 While the service have made significant strides in improving the access to play equipment for all, there are a number of play areas which, while having good quality provision may be difficult to access with a wheelchair or pram due to the ground surface conditions.
- 7.3 Officers will make an assessment of sites which could be further improved for accessibility and report to this committee identifying improvements and associated costs.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 FINANCE

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
Play Areas		2021/23	£340		
Play Areas complete on site		2021/23	£10		
External Funding SG		2021/22	£70		

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments

8.2 Legal

The information contained within the report do not impact on the Council's Legal Services.

8.3 Human Resources

The proposals contained within the report have no HR implications.

8.4 Equalities

Equalities

Improved accessibility and inclusive play equipment have a positive impact on equalities.

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

YES	
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce

	inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

8.5 Repopulation

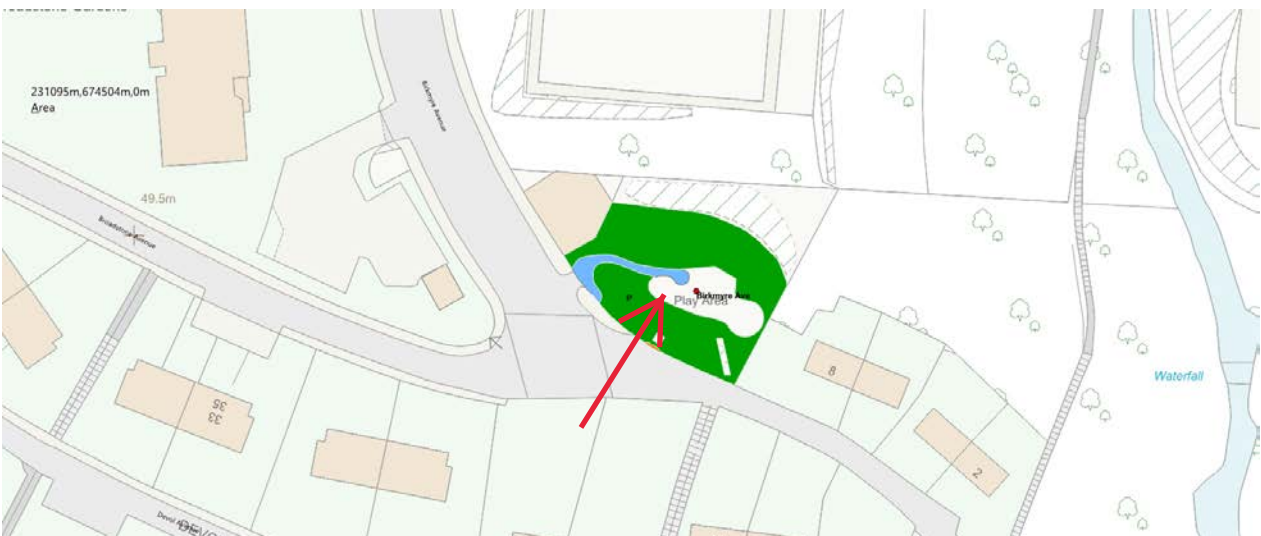
There are no direct repopulation implications arising from this report

Appendix 1

Coronation Park



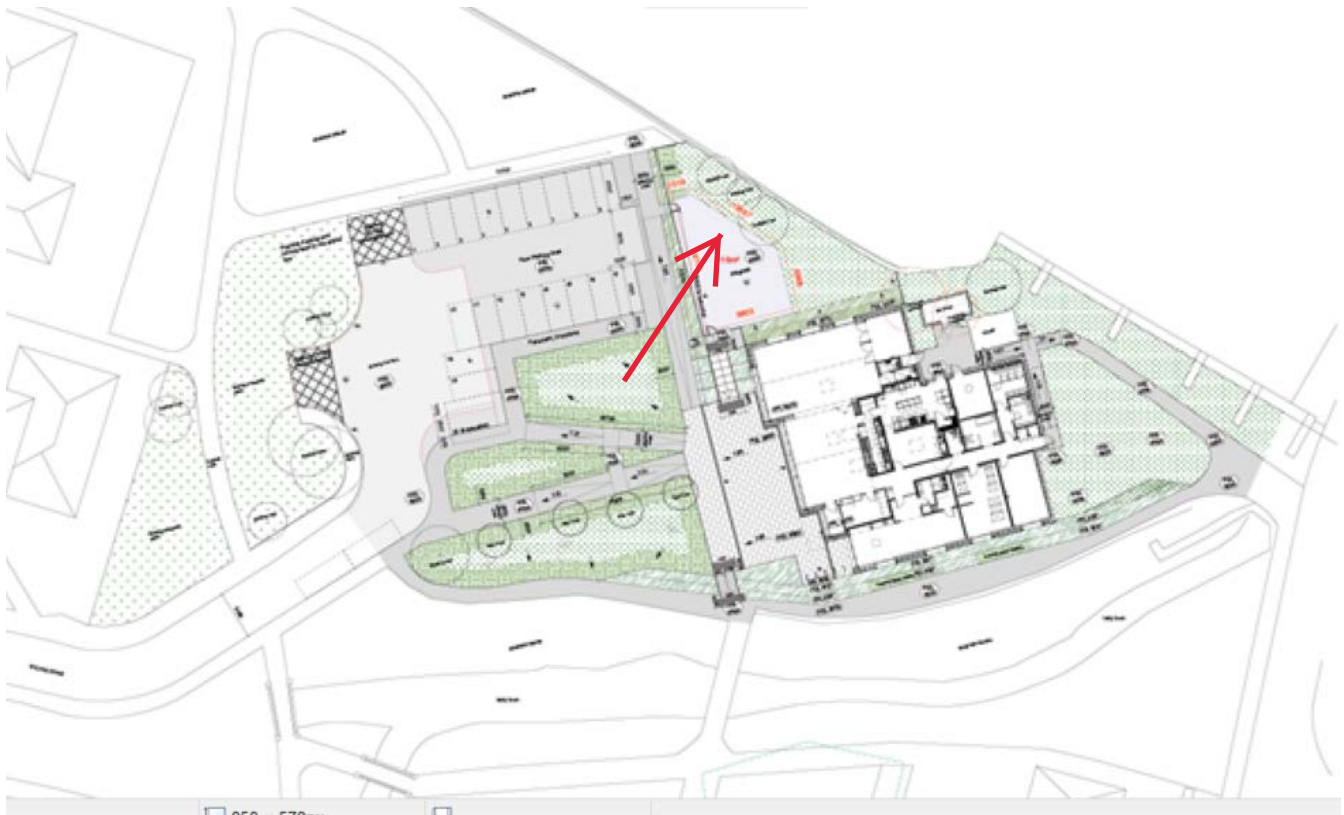
Birkmyre Avenue



Wellpark



Craigend Resource Centre



King Street



Lunderston Bay

