

Derry City & Strabane
District Council

Draft Play Plan

Prepared By **PLAYBOARD NI**



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Draft Play Plan

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Introduction

Play is central to the lives of children and young people contributing to the development of essential skills that support social, intellectual, physical and emotional well-being, providing a means of connecting with the wider community and critically, providing opportunities for fun and enjoyment.

Derry City and Strabane District Council is committed to fulfilling the child's right to play as enshrined in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The development of this 15 year Play Plan represents a key component of this commitment, establishing a strategic approach to the enhancement of play opportunities across the district.

In developing the Play Plan, a number of key activities have been undertaken including:



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An assessment of the Play Value associated with all 84 fixed play areas within the District.

An analysis of underlying demographic need and settlement patterns using Geographical Information System software to determine fixed play coverage levels, identify gaps in provision and identify redundant play areas.

Community engagement on the issue of play and play provision through online surveys and Local Growth Area (LGA) focus groups.

Development of key recommendations aimed at supporting the enhancement of play opportunities across the Council area.

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What is Play?

The term “play” is most often used to describe those activities that children engage in during their free time. This can include:

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

As an activity, play can be social, where the child chooses to play with another child or group of children, or solitary where the child chooses to play alone. In General Comment 17, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child describes play:

“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.”



“Play
is any behaviour,
activity or process
initiated, controlled
and structured by
children themselves.”



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Overview of the area

There are 84 fixed play areas across the Derry City and Strabane District Council area. The locations of fixed play areas across Council are set out on the map.

The Play Plan is divided between the Councils’s 8 Local Growth Areas (LGAs): Strabane Town and the 7 District Electoral Areas (Ballyarnett, Derg, Faughan, Foyleside, Sperrin, The Moor and Waterside)

Different types of play areas

Fixed play areas vary in terms of the type and range of play equipment available; this is often due to the size and location of the site and the indicative number of households the play area has been designed for.

To help identify where a play area should be located, the radial walking distances for different types of play area have been agreed.

Derry City And Strabane District Council Play Area Designation	Radial Distance Criteria (M)
Local Play Area: Local play areas are designed to cater primarily for local residents within walking distance of the facility.	400
Neighbourhood Play Area: Neighbourhood play areas offer a high level of play value, attracting users from a larger Neighbourhood area. Typical features can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free play MUGA/kickabout area• High quality play provision including inclusive play equipment• Dependent on wider site infrastructure, may include access to Community Hub (centre) with toilets and possibly Changing Places Toilet facility• Car-parking	750
District Play Area: District play areas represent the largest fixed play provision in terms of both size and scale, offering a wide variety of fixed and non-fixed play opportunities. Often set within larger park landscapes, features can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support services including café and toilet provision to facilitate longer term site use• Changing Places Toilet• High quality play provision including inclusive play equipment• Greenway connections/pathways• Car parking• Pitches/grassed areas to facilitate ball games and free play	1000



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Play Value Assessment

All fixed play areas were assessed against a set of criteria and assigned a Play Value Score.
A range of information was considered including:

Areas Assessed	Description
Locational factors	Attractiveness and welcoming nature of the play setting; level of community oversight; vandalism and cleanliness of site; height of perimeter fencing etc.
Accessibility factors	Condition of pathway surfaces; condition of play surfaces; entrance and layout accessibility etc. (inclusive play opportunities assessed separately)
Environmental factors	Presence or not of natural vegetation e.g. trees, bushes, shrubs; grass levels; presence of sunny, shaded and sheltered areas; ground modelling; presence of natural play opportunities e.g. rocks, logs etc.; water play opportunities.
Physical play opportunities	Review of physical play opportunities afforded by the play area; range of play equipment available.
Creative play opportunities	Presence of sand, soil or mud play; water play opportunities; presence of loose play parts; opportunities for pretend play (e.g. natural spaces and places that stimulate the imagination, materials which can be manipulated etc.).

Inclusive play opportunities	Presence, scope and scale of inclusive and accessible play opportunities for children with disabilities.
Social play opportunities	Presence of quiet places to sit/chat/think; places to hide; opportunities to interact with children of different ages and abilities; focused recognition of the social aspect of play for older children e.g. teen shelter.

The maximum score possible using the play audit tool is 800.
The below table summarises the resulting scores using a traffic light system

Play Value Score	Description
<400	Low level of play value, requires remedial action
401-480	Fair level of play value, requires action to improve
481-600	Good level of play value, does not require any immediate action
601+	High level of play value, does not require any immediate action



Ballyarnett Local Growth Area



Play Area	Designation	PV Score
Ballynagard	Local	305
Templemore	Local	335
Shantallow	Local	460
Leafair Park	Local	485
Glenabbey	Local	485
Gallagh	Local	545
Ballyarnett Play Park	District	620

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Recommendations

New Play Area Development

Taking into account underlying levels of population density, housing locations and coverage associated with existing fixed play provision, it has been recommended that 3 new fixed play areas be developed to meet play need. Providing appropriate land can be accessed to facilitate play development, the identified locations are at:

- Carnhill
- Elmore/Earhart
- Culmore Country Park

Play Area Partial Upgrade/Enhancement

In addition to the proposed new play areas, the Play Plan recommends that enhancements or partial upgrades be made at:

- Ballyarnett Play area – as a district designated play area the site should be enhanced to include a range of inclusive play equipment alongside the development of appropriate toileting facilities (to Changing Places standard)

Play Area Upgrades

In addition to the proposed new play areas, the Play Plan recommends that enhancements be made at 2 existing play locations, namely:

- Templemore Play area – to be enhanced from local to district designation in line with the development of the sports centre
- Culmore Area – the existing play area at Ballynagard to be relocated to a new site and enhanced from local to neighbourhood designation, providing wider radial coverage. (Planning Permission is secured)

No Immediate Action

Based on the play assessment process, the remaining 4 play areas located at Shantallow, Glenabbey, Leafair and Gallagh continue to meet play need, offer a good level of play value and do not currently require any immediate action.

Council should continue to monitor play value and condition to ensure there is no degradation from the existing standard.

Waterside

Local Growth Area



Play Area	Designation	PV Score
Rosstowney Drive	Local	235
Faughan Crescent	Local	260
Faughanview	Local	310
Milltownview	Local	330
Currynrierin	Local	345
Fountain Hill	Local	370
Stevenson Park	Local	395
Lapwing Way	Local	485
Rose Court	Local	515
Roulstone Avenue	Local	515
Irish Street	Neighbourhood	530
Kilfennan	Neighbourhood	535
Drumahoe	District	580
St Columb's Park (Junior)	District	590
St Columbs Park Adventure	District	closed

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Recommendations

New Play Area Development

Taking into account underlying levels of population density, housing locations and coverage associated with existing fixed play provision, it has been recommended that 5 new fixed play areas be developed to meet play need. Providing appropriate land can be accessed to facilitate play development, the identified locations are:

- Top of the Hill
- Waterstone Park/Windridge Way/Thornlea Gardens area
- Knightsbridge/Pelham Road/Sevenoaks area
- Lincoln Court or Rosstowney Drive (upgrade)
- The Triangle

Play Area Upgrades

In addition to the proposed new play areas, the Play Plan recommends that upgrades be made at 5 existing low play value locations, namely:

- Currynrierin Play area
- Stevensons Park Play area
- Fountain Hill Play area
- St Columbs Park Adventure Play
- Rosstowney Drive or a new play area at Lincoln Court

Play Area Partial Upgrade/Enhancement

With regards to St. Columbs Park (Junior), whilst play value remains generally high, the site lacks inclusive play experiences and, given its District status it is recommended that the play park be enhanced through the addition of inclusive play equipment (e.g. wheelchair accessible roundabout, see-saw, swing).

Removal/Transformation

Based on a combination of low play value and indicative low level of population demand it is recommended that 5 play areas be considered to removal/site transformation following local consultation. These play areas are located at:

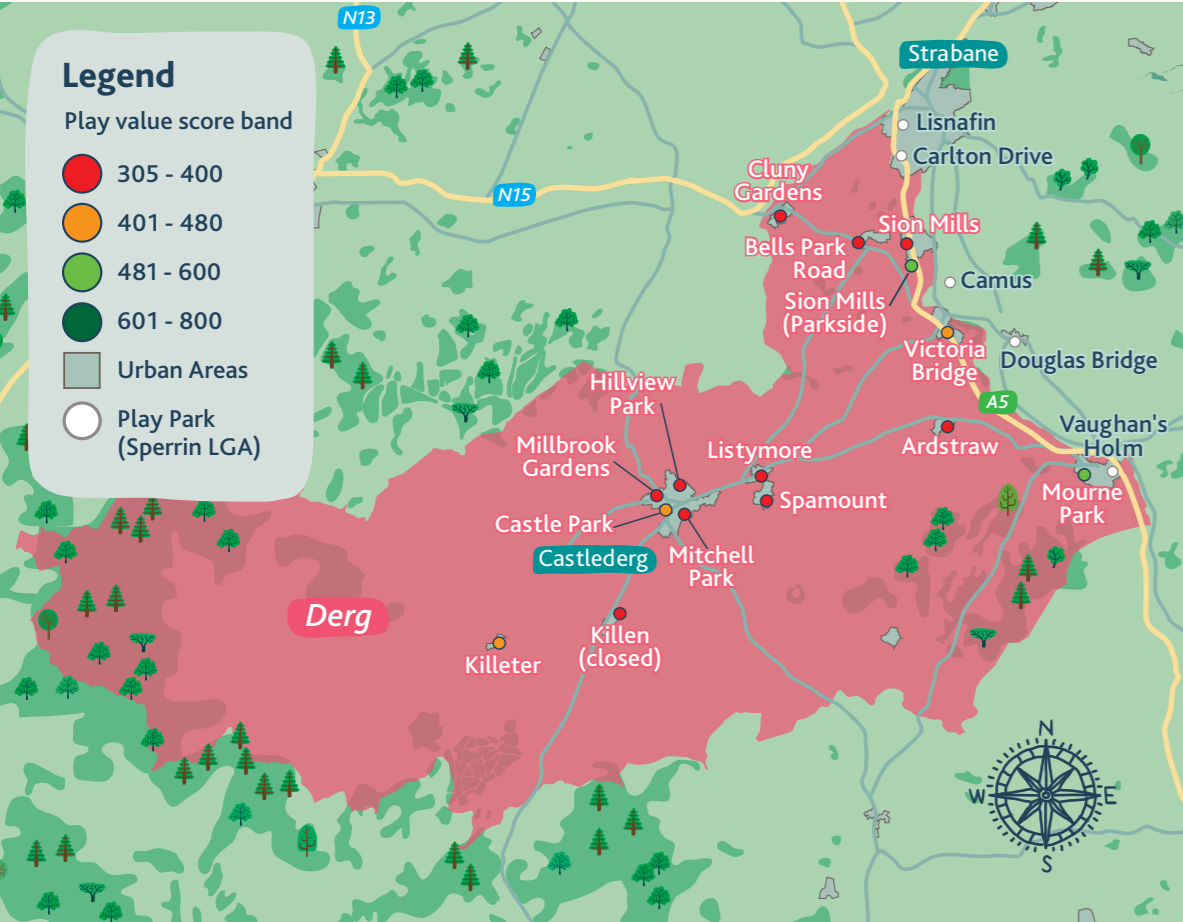
- Faughan Crescent
- Faughanview
- Rosstowney Drive
- Milltown View
- Rosstowney Drive (if a new play development goes ahead at Lincoln Court)

No Immediate Action

Based on Play Value Scores and a continued level of demand, the remaining 6 play areas located at Lapwing Way, Rose Court, Roulstone Avenue, Irish Street, Kilfennan and Drumahoe District Park continue to meet play need, offer a good level of play value and do not currently require any immediate action.

Council should continue to monitor play value and condition to ensure there is no degradation from the existing standard.

Derg Local Growth Area



Play Area	Designation	PV Score
Killen (Closed)	Local	295
Hillview Park	Local	330
Glebe (Bells Park Road)	Local	340
Cluny Gardens	Local	360
Sion Mills (Garden Road)	Local	380
Listymore	Local	390
Spamount	Local	395
Millbrook Gardens	Local	395
Mitchell Park	Local	400
Castle Park (Toddlers)	Local	415
Castle Park (Childrens)	Local	440
Ardstraw	Local	445
Killeter	Local	465
Victoria Bridge	Local	465
Mourne Park Newtownstewart	Local	500
Sion Mills (Park Side)	Local	590

Recommendations

New Play Area Development

Taking into account underlying levels of population density, housing locations and coverage associated with existing fixed play provision, it has been recommended that 1 new fixed play area be developed to meet play need.

Providing appropriate land can be accessed to facilitate play development, the identified location is:

- Drumlegagh

Play Area Upgrades

Upgrades to be made at 9 existing low play value locations:

- Killen Play area (possible re-location to alternative site)
- Hillview Park Play area
- Glebe Play area
- Cluny Gardens
- Listymore
- Spamount
- Millbrook Gardens
- Castle Park to a district designated play area
- Vaughan's Holm upgrade to Neighbourhood or District designated play area. (located in Sperrin LGA but serves Derg LGA)

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Play Area Partial Upgrade/Enhancement

Enhancements or partial upgrades to be made at:

- Ardstraw – some new equipment was recently installed, remaining old equipment needs to be replaced

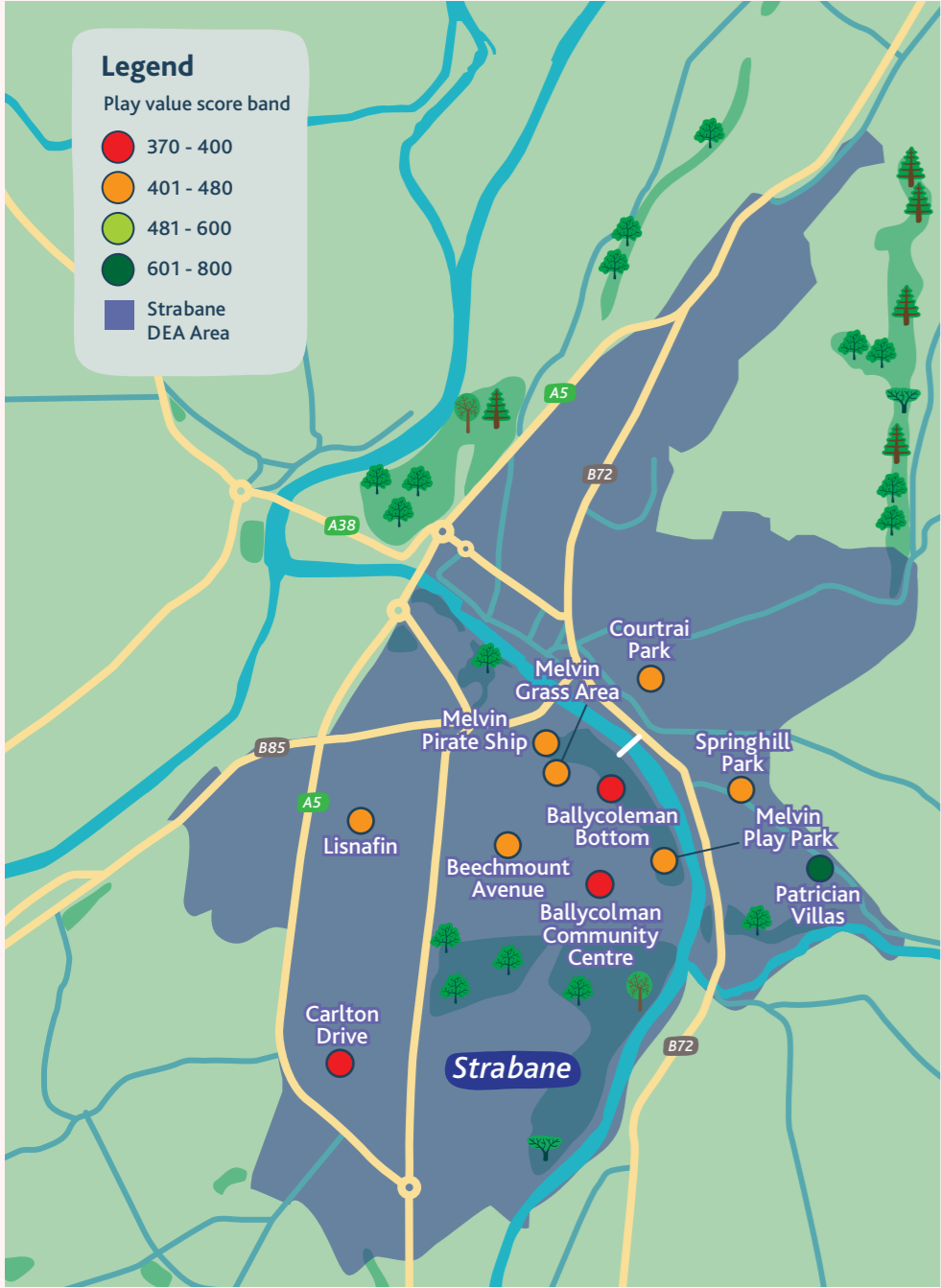
Removal/Transformation

Based on a combination of low play value and indicative low level of population demand it is recommended that the play areas at Mitchell Park and Sion Mills (Garden Road) be considered for removal/site transformation following local consultation.

No Immediate Action

Based on Play Value Scores and a continued level of demand, the play areas located at Killeter, Victoria Bridge and Mourne Park, Newtownstewart and Sion Mills Parkside continue to offer a good level of play value and do not currently require any immediate action.

Council should continue to monitor play value and condition to ensure there is no degradation from the existing standard.



Strabane Local Growth Area

Play Area	Designation	PV Score
Carlton Drive	Local	360
Melvin Play park	Local	395
Ballycolman C Centre	Local	405
Beechmount Ave.	Local	405
Lisnafin	Local	410
Courtrai Park	Local	410
Melvin Sport (Pirate Ship)	Local	415
Ballycolman (Bottom)	Local	415
Springhill Park	Local	460
Melvin Grass Play Area	Local	465
Patrician Villas	Neighbourhood	615

Recommendations

New Play Area Development

Taking into account underlying levels of population density, housing locations and coverage associated with existing fixed play provision, it is recommended that 5 new fixed play areas be developed to meet play need.

Providing appropriate land can be accessed to facilitate play development, the identified locations are:

- Tulacorr, Grangewood and Glenside area
- Ashdale, Fernbrook and Brookvale area
- Belladoo, Laurel Drive and Five Acres area
- Adria site(developer led)
- Castletown Road

Play Area Upgrades

Upgrades to be made at existing low play value locations:

- Carlton Drive
- Ballycolman (Bottom)
- Ballycolman Community Centre to neighbourhood designation
- Lisnafin to neighbourhood designation
- Courtrai Park (potential development to town park)

Removal/Transformation

Based on a combination of low play value and duplication with proposed new play at the Adria site, it is recommended that the play area at Beechmount Avenue be considered to removal/site transformation following local consultation.

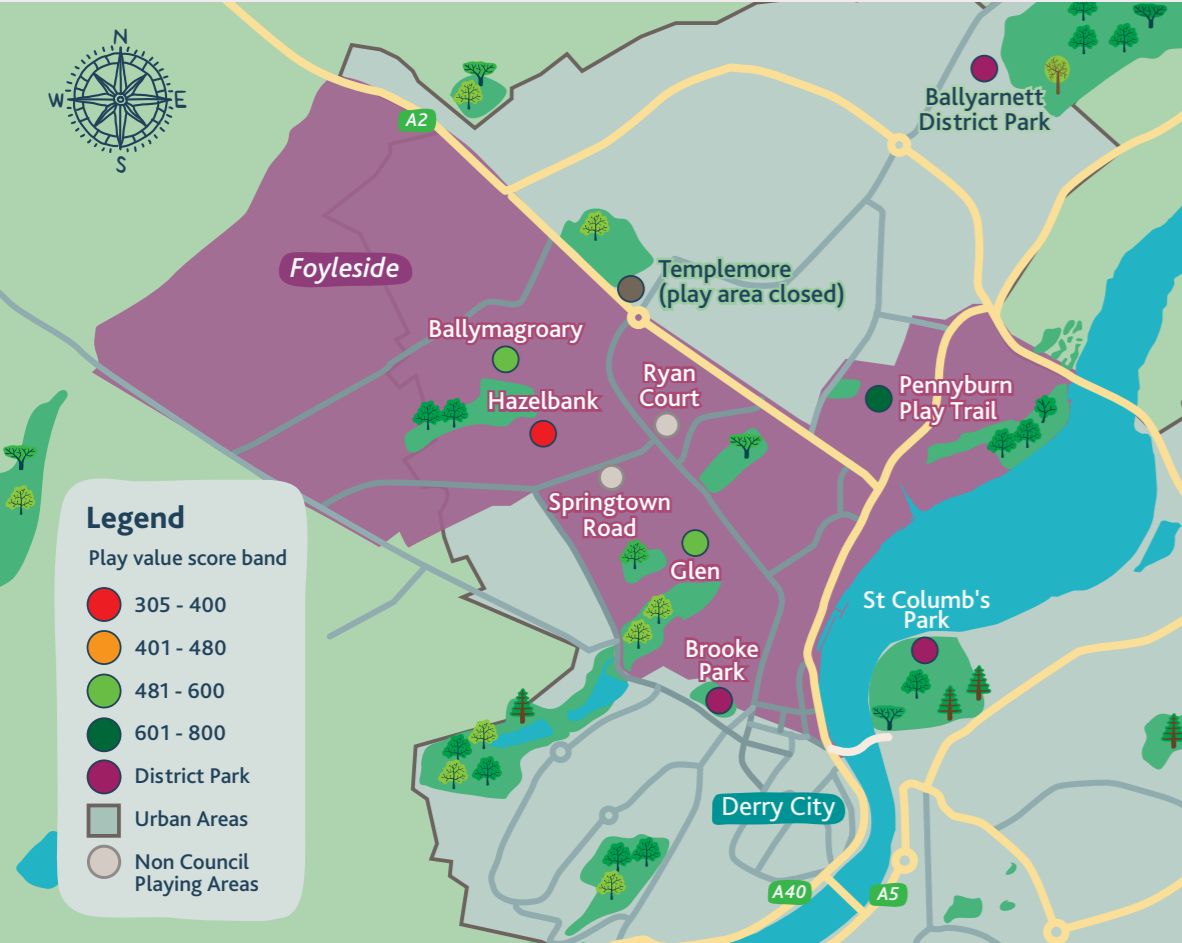
In considering transformation it is suggested that consideration should be given to the development of activities on-site for older children and teenagers e.g. Multi-Use Games Area.

No Immediate Action

Based on Play Value Scores and a continued level of demand, the play areas located at Melvin (including the play park, pirate ship and grass area), Springhill Park and Patrician Villas continue to meet play need, offer a good level of play value and do not currently require any immediate action.

Council should continue to monitor play value and condition to ensure there is no degradation from the existing standard.

Foyleside Local Growth Area



Play Area	Designation	PV Score
Hazelbank	Local	250
Ballymagroarty	Local	525
Glen	Local	545
Pennyburn Play Trail	District	635

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Recommendations

New Play Area Development

Taking into account underlying levels of population density, housing locations and coverage associated with existing fixed play provision, it has been recommended that 3 new fixed play areas be developed to meet play need.

Providing appropriate land can be accessed to facilitate play development, the identified locations are:

- St. Eithne’s
- Coshquin (Planning Permission is secured)
- Lower Strand Road (incorporation of playable features)

Play Area Upgrades

In addition to the proposed new play areas, the Play Plan recommends that upgrades be made at:

- Hazelbank Play area to neighbourhood designation (located adjacent to new community centre)

It should be noted that the proposed enhancement of Templemore to District designation will impact on Foyleside LGA.

No Immediate Action

Based on Play Value Scores and a continued level of demand, the play areas located at Ballymagroarty, Glen and Pennyburn continue to offer a good level of play value and do not currently require any immediate action.

Council should continue to monitor play value and condition to ensure there is no degradation from the existing standard.



Faughan Local Growth Area



Play Area	Designation	PV Score
Primity Crescent	Local	445
Eglinton (Closed for upgrade)	Neighbourhood	475
Carnmoney	Local	490
Pinewood Crescent	Local	495
Nicholson Gardens	Local	495
Lettershandonney	Local	510
Goshaden	Local	525
Enagh Crescent	Local	530
Magheramason	Neighbourhood	570
Strathfoyle	Neighbourhood	615

Recommendations

New Play Area Development

Taking into account underlying levels of population density, housing locations and coverage associated with existing fixed play provision, it has been recommended that 3 new fixed play areas be developed to meet play need.

Providing appropriate land can be accessed to facilitate play development, the identified locations are:

- Prehen
- Tamnaherin
- Bready

Play Area Upgrades

Upgrades to be made at 1 existing low play value locations:

- Eglinton (upgrade underway)

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Play Area Partial Upgrade/Enhancement

Enhancement to be made at:

- Strathfoyle Play area – enhancement to incorporate inclusive play equipment and access
- Primity Crescent (minor improvements to enhance play value)

No Immediate Action

Based on Play Value Scores and a continued level of demand, a number of play areas continue to offer a good level of play value and do not currently require any immediate action.

- Carnmoney
- Pinewood Crescent
- Nicholson Gardens
- Lettershandonney
- Goshaden
- Enagh Crescent
- Magheramason

Council should continue to monitor play value and condition to ensure there is no degradation from the existing standard.

Sperrin Local Growth Area



Play Area	Designation	PV Score
Sperrin Heritage Centre	Local	270
Allen Park (Donemana)	Local	330
Plumbridge (Dergborough Rd)	Local	345
Douglas Bridge	Local	350
Newtown Stewart Vaughans Holm	Local	360
Plumbridge Riverside	Local	410
Glenmornan	Local	415
Camus	Local	435
Donemana (Metal)	Local	440
Artigarvan	Local	460
Learmount	Local	470
Faughanview	Local	510
Donemana (Wood)	Local	550
Cumber House	District	610

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Recommendations

New Play Area Development

Taking into account underlying levels of population density, housing locations and coverage associated with existing fixed play provision, it has been recommended that 3 new fixed play areas be developed to meet play need.

Providing appropriate land can be accessed to facilitate play development, the identified locations are:

- Straidarrran
- Ballymagorry
- Cranagh

Play Area Partial Upgrade/Enhancement

Enhancements or partial upgrades to be made at:

- Artigarvan - some new equipment was recently installed, remaining old equipment needs to be replaced
- Donemana replacement of old metal equipment and enhancement to neighbourhood or district designation play area
- Learmount (partial upgrade)
- Cumber House (partial upgrade)

Play Area Upgrades

Upgrades to be made at 4 existing low play value locations:

- Douglas Bridge
- Camus
- Vaughans Holm to neighbourhood/district designation
- Plumbridge (Dergborough Road)

Removal/Transformation

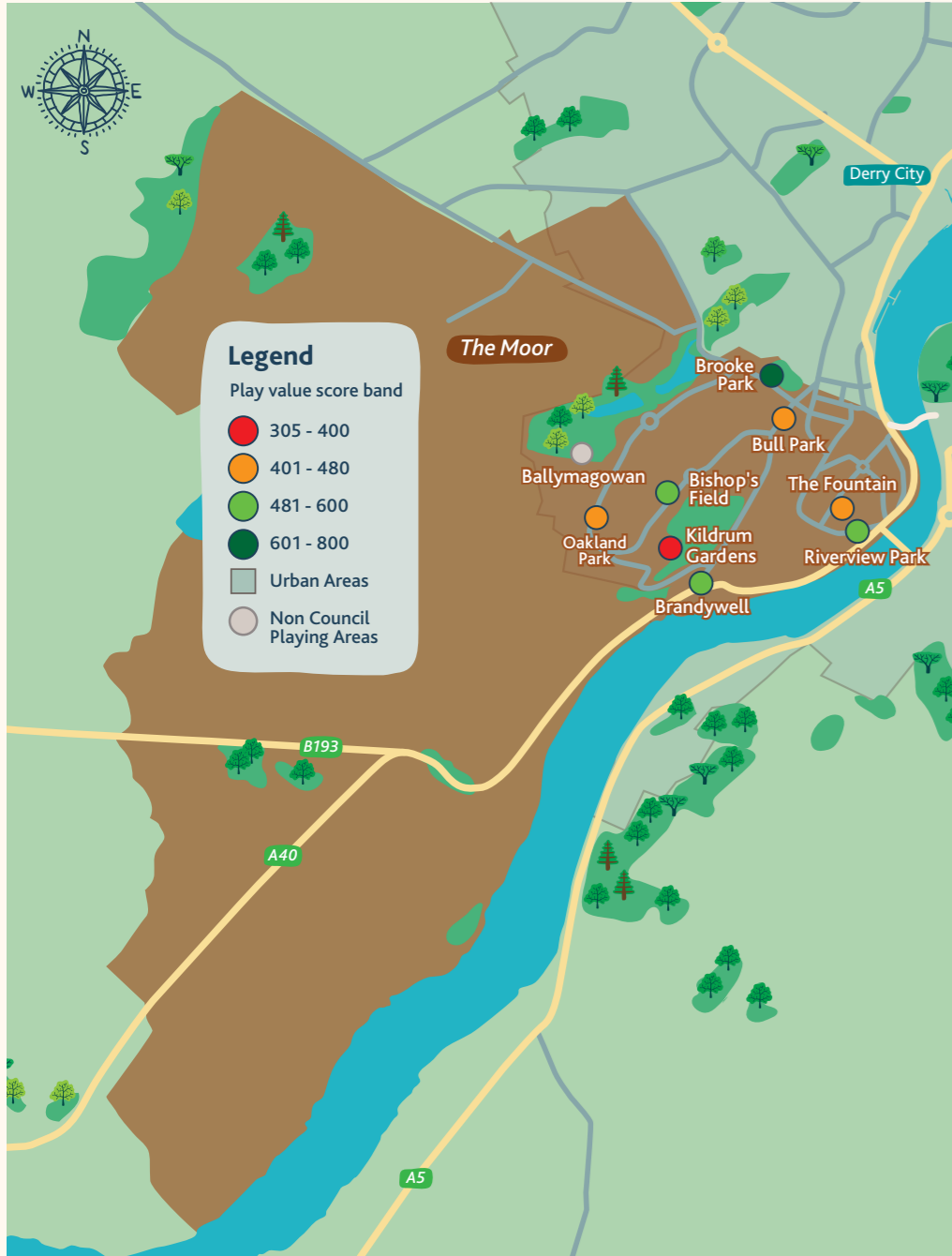
Based on a combination of low play value and indicative low level of population demand it is recommended that the play areas at Sperrin Heritage Centre and Allen Park be considered for removal/site transformation following local consultation.

No Immediate Action

Based on Play Value Scores and a continued level of demand, a number of play areas continue to offer a good level of play value and do not currently require any immediate action.

- Riverside (Plumbridge)
- Faughanview

Council should continue to monitor play value and condition to ensure there is no degradation from the existing standard.



The Moor Local Growth Area

Play Area	Designation	PV Score
Kildrum Gardens	Local	285
Bull Park	Local	450
The Fountain	Local	460
Oakland Park	Local	465
Inniscarn Gardens (Bishops Field)	Neighbourhood	495
Brandywell	Local	500
Riverview Park	Local	515
Brooke Park	District	660

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Recommendations

New Play Area Development

Taking into account underlying levels of population density, housing locations and coverage associated with existing fixed play provision, it has been recommended that 3 new fixed play areas be developed to meet play need.

Providing appropriate land can be accessed to facilitate play development, the identified locations are:

- Nixon's Corner
- Glenowen
- Ardgrange and Grangemore

No Immediate Action

Based on Play Value Scores and a continued level of demand, a number of play areas continue to offer a good level of play value and do not currently require any immediate action.

- The Fountain
- Bishop's Field
- Brandywell
- Riverview Park
- Brooke Park

Council should continue to monitor play value and condition to ensure there is no degradation from the existing standard.

Play Area Upgrades

Upgrades to be made at 1 existing low play value location:

- Bull Park

Play Area Partial Upgrade/Enhancement

Enhancement to be made at:

- Oakland Park – inclusive play opportunities to be introduced.

Removal/Transformation

Based on a combination of low play value and indicative low level of population demand it is recommended that the play area at Kildrum Gardens be considered for removal/site transformation following local consultation.

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Accessible and Inclusive Play

All children have the right to access appropriate play opportunities and a fundamental aspect of the Play Plan will be working to ensure that that fixed play areas offer play opportunities for children of all abilities.

Accessible and inclusive play means more than simply providing children and families with physical access to play areas and equipment. In order to be truly inclusive, a play area must offer a wide range of high quality physical, creative and social play opportunities for children regardless of their needs and abilities.

New or upgraded play areas should ensure that core consideration is given to the needs of children with disabilities including (but not restricted to) The provision of multi-ability fixed play equipment which offers play opportunities for children of a wide range of ability levels.

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Summary

Over recent years acknowledgement of play's critical role in shaping the lives of children, young people and its positive impact on wider society has become more explicit at policy level regionally, nationally and internationally. It is clear that the wider policy environment both recognises the importance of play in relation to children's health and wellbeing, welfare and development and is supportive of Council decision to establish a play investment strategy.

Critically, whilst recognising the role of councils in meeting play need, policies consistently acknowledge that no single organisation has within its remit the capacity to address all of the issues that impact on or restrict children's play opportunities.

Responsibility for delivering play opportunities that meet the needs of children and young people lies across all policy arenas, hence the critical importance of the Community Planning Partnership as we seek to establish and roll-out the play investment strategy. It is proposed that members of the Community Planning Partnership provide input regarding key policy initiatives that lie within their remit, whilst providing connection to existing and emerging work strands that are supportive of play.



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For further information on alternative formats please contact

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Text phone: 028 7137 664

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