

## **Space to Play South Lanarkshire**

### **Notice of Motion**

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 20 on 21 February 2023, proposed by Councillor Kirstin Robb, seconded by Councillor Mark McGeever, as follows:-

“This council believes that South Lanarkshire should be the best place for children and young people to grow up in. Our children deserve a play-positive environment where the importance of play to children and families, health, well-being, local communities and the environment is valued and understood. Access to high quality spaces for play is one of the building blocks of childhood and brings multiple benefits to the child and local communities, and is more important than ever for post covid recovery and cost of living concerns.

The Council welcomes the commitment by the Partnership Administration to “introduce a Play Strategy to make South Lanarkshire more play-positive, with upgraded play parks, accessible play equipment and safe outdoor spaces” and notes the cross party recognition of the importance of improving play facilities and shared support for the preparation of a play strategy for South Lanarkshire.

The Council further welcomes the intentions in the National Planning Framework 4 (policy 21) to encourage, promote and facilitate spaces and opportunities for play, recreation and sport in local development plans.

The Council affirms its support for both the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Scotland’s Play Charter; recognising that all children have the right to have fun, creative, fulfilling and development-rich play experiences throughout their childhoods.

Therefore, South Lanarkshire Council:

1. Welcomes ongoing work on Open Space Strategies, the Play Sufficiency Assessments and Children’s participation duties made under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, requiring local authorities to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in their area
2. Agrees that the results of these assessments and engagement with a wide range of partners, including Community Planning, be used to inform the South Lanarkshire Play Strategy leading to South Lanarkshire becoming a play positive place where the value of play is fully recognised, comes higher up everyone’s agenda and wider action is taken
3. Develops proposals to consider the implications of signing up to Play Charter (<https://www.playscotland.org/get-involved/membership/scotlands-play-charter/>)
4. Will ensure that the voices of children and young people are heard on decisions that affect them, including on play, by implementing the relevant regulations and the council’s own planning guidance on “community involvement in greenspaces”.

5. Will work with local people to enhance local greenspaces and woodlands for play, improving access, removing hazardous waste and increasing biodiversity.

Council notes:-

- a. The work being done to assess the condition and inclusiveness of South Lanarkshire's playparks and ensure effective spend of the Playpark Renewal Fund, but regrets that the Fund falls considerably short of requirements to ensure the programme has enough resources and funding to complete its work, with the council now seeking funding from a range of sources to top up the fund to complete the programme
- b. The opportunities to make parks as inclusive and as accessible as possible, in line with the Play Park Renewal Fund principles, particularly 'destination parks', and that these should be informed by quality engagement and partnership with local groups; and
- c. that the Play Strategy will drive forward improvement actions such as:
  - i. costing up solutions responding to the conclusions of the Play Sufficiency Assessments, including consideration of low, no cost and community action to enhance play
  - ii. working with partners, including community-led initiatives, to assess the opportunities and benefits to open up more play assets in a managed way
  - iii. exploring opportunities to leave suitable natural loose parts material from Grounds operations for play.
  - iv. Work with communities and agencies to address any anti-social behaviour affecting play at a local level, bringing local people together to find solutions.

Council requests that a full report be made to Committee on the progress of the Play Strategy, following conclusion of work on Open Space Strategies and Play Sufficiency Assessments".