



Report

Report to:	South Lanarkshire Council
Date of Meeting:	22 September 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Standing Order No 18a - Play Parks
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

- ◆ Respond to questions raised by Councillor Robert Brown under Standing Order No 18a in relation to Play Parks.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Council is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the report is noted;
- (2) that it be noted that a further report will be submitted to the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee.

3. Background

3.1 Councillor Brown submitted the following request under Standing Order No 18a to the Chief Executive on 7th September 2021 requesting a response be tabled at Council to the following questions:

- How many play parks are maintained or managed by South Lanarkshire Council?
- How much Scottish Government funding does the Council expect to receive as a result of the SNP's manifesto pledge to spend £60 million to refurbish all play parks?
- How many play parks will that sum pay to refurbish?

4. Response

4.1 Taking each question in turn, the following response is provided based on the information officers are currently aware of.

4.2 *How many play parks are maintained or managed by South Lanarkshire Council?*

The Council maintains 233 play areas that will be assessed for renewal through the future allocation of the £60m fund. The breakdown over geographical area is as follows:-

Area	Number
Hamilton	41
East Kilbride	75
Cambuslang/Rutherglen	17
Clydesdale	100
Total	233

4.3 How much Scottish Government funding does the Council expect to receive as a result of the SNP's manifesto pledge to spend £60 million to refurbish all play parks?

The Scottish Government made a manifesto commitment to renew play parks across Scotland, so that all children have access to quality play in their own community, backed by £60m. Ministers further pledged to agree the first allocation of funding to local authorities within the first 100 days of the new Government.

For 2021-22, initial funding of £5m capital funding has been agreed and will be distributed between each of the 32 Local Authorities in Scotland based on the agreed funding model of:

- 95% on population aged 0-14
- 5% on rurality

The £5m funding is to be used to commence the programme of renewal within each local authority

South Lanarkshire's allocation has been confirmed as £0.298m for 2021/22, which equated to 5.96% of the £5m allocated.

The agreed definition of an eligible play park, as set by the Scottish Government, is one which is local authority owned, managed or maintained sites, designated for play, which are free to access and open to all. Play parks in private ownership, those that require an entry fee or those only available to specific groups / with conditions for entry would be outwith the scope for funding. It is expected that play parks with equipment (swings, slides etc) aimed at children aged 0-14 would be included as would other facilities used by the same age group (e.g. pump tracks), but MUGAs (Multi Use Game Areas) or dedicated sports fields would be outwith scope.

The funding profile of the remaining £55m across the remainder of the Parliamentary term is being considered and the Council will be informed of any decision as soon as this is agreed. The Scottish Government, in collaboration with stakeholders, will develop some nationally agreed principles against which spending plans should be developed.

Assuming a similar allocation to the £5m already allocated, the Council could receive in the region of £3.576m but there is no indication of what period these funds will be provided.

4.4 How many play parks will that sum pay to refurbish?

At this point in time, it is not possible to provide a detailed response to that question. The reason being is that further detailed assessment and design work is required to identify how many play areas require to be refurbished and how the funding will thereafter be prioritised and allocated.

Given the requirement to review all 233 locations, develop detailed plans for sites to be refurbished and to manage the delivery on site, a report is being prepared for consideration at the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee on the 28th September to seek approval for the appointment of 2 Landscape Development Officers for a period of 23 months from the Council's initial allocation on funds.

For each design project, the team must:-

- Create an outline design and budget costings
- Consult with clients and partners and / or the wider community
- Create detailed contract drawings
- Prepare all tender documentation and detailed specification
- Evaluate returned bids
- Agree programme of work with the successful contractor
- Undertake regular site visits to monitor contract
- Deal with contractor claims and variations to contract
- Manage project budgets and reporting

Existing staff are fully committed in delivering the existing work programme and with managing, developing and programming additional requests as they are received therefore it is considered that the most appropriate use of the current funding allocation is to employ 2 additional landscape development officers.

These staff will undertake the following work to allow the Council to develop a plan on how any future funds should be used, and an updated report provided to the Committee for consideration:-

- Commence and complete condition review of all 233 play areas
- Commence and complete play value assessment of all 233 play areas
- Commence and complete inclusive play assessment of all 233 play areas
- Consider how allocated funds could be aligned considering the outcome of the above assessments
- Continue discussions with COSLA on the impact the level of funding provided has on refurbishing/improving all 233 play areas

5. Employee Implications

5.1 There are no employee implications in relation to this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no financial implications in relation to this report.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

7.1. Although there are no direct climate change or sustainability implications from this report it is likely that the improved and increase play value in any refurbished play area will encourage increased use of the Council's outdoor space and encourage healthy activity in children.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

8.1. This matter does not require an equality impact assessment to be undertaken.

8.2. As part of the design process, consultation will be undertaken with partners and/or the wider community as appropriate.

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Links to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities;
- ◆ Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for inclusive growth;
- ◆ Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration.

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:

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