

PLAY PARK FUNDING – UPDATE REPORT NO 2

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the December 2022 Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee (EDI), a Play Park Funding report was noted by members with an agreement that officers would submit a further report outlining the suggested process and timelines proposing further engagement with other groups, including Youth Forums and relevant Community Councils. The original report can be found at the following link: [December 2022 EDI Play Park Funding Report](#)
- 1.2 A subsequent update report was presented to the March 2023 EDI Committee as per the following link: [March 2023 EDI Play Park update Report](#)
- 1.3 In August 2022, the Scottish Government confirmed a full 5 year funding package to all Scottish Local Authorities from 2020/21 through to 2025/26. Argyll and Bute Council will receive a total of £938k for Play Park funding. All Scottish Councils have received funding through the Capital Allocation for Renewal of Play Parks Fund for investment in play park equipment.
- 1.4 The March 2023 EDI Committee gave consideration to a report outlining a suggested process and timelines for proposing further engagement with other groups, including Youth Forums and relevant Community Councils in relation

group (e.g. pump tracks), but MUGAs (Multi Use Game Areas) or dedicated sports fields would be outwith scope.

- 1.6 Area Committee Business days with Elected members have already taken place. A comprehensive engagement process has since taken place with online engagement for adults and young people having closed on Friday 14 July 2023 with the following responses:-

1054 Adult Responses

408 Young People Responses

The rate of response is considered to be a remarkable return for the play park engagement process, highlighting the importance play parks have within our communities.

- 1.7 The data received from the consultation response will be analysed to provide information relating to:-

General age groups of the users for each play park site

The priorities communities have raised relating to health and safety/equal
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2.5 As part of the previous discussions, officers engaged with a Play Park Design Company who costed the supply and fitting of an aspirational play area for Bendarroch Play Park in Garelochhead with a view to identifying indicative costs for a range of equipment with activities such as climbing, swinging, balancing, rotating and other rapid movement. This design is suitable for children of all ages, with included items which are inclusive and can be used by children of varying abilities. The cost was £139,538.18, which should be compared with the budget we have of £33,500. A breakdown of indicative costs is highlighted in **Appendix 1**.

2.6

4.3 As the March 2023 EDI Committee agreed the engagement process, and bearing in mind there is no dedicated officer to deliver this project, it is being delivered on top of normal day to day duties, an indicative timeline of delivery is presented below. It should be noted that this is a rolling programme and having experienced issues with tenders previously, as well as other Local Authorities indicating that there are extensive delays in providing the equipment, as there are only a few contractors able to supply equipment, it is expected that some play parks will be upgraded for Summer 2024, with others in the following year, however the funding covers a 5 year period until 31 March 2026.

4.4 Officers suggest the following indicative timeline is appropriate:-

ACTION	TIMESCALE
Engagement with Community Councils and Education Department	Commenced March-May 2023
Engagement with Disability Forums	Expected to commence Autumn

6.4 HR – None known.

6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: None known.

6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics – Engagement will take place with appropriate groups, including the disability forum, to provide a positive impact on our young people.

6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – None known.

6.5.3 Islands – Elements of renewal on all council owned play parks, which therefore will not adversely affect islands.

6.6 Climate Change – W

