

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 22 NOVEMBER 2022

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CAPITAL GRANT ALLOCATION FOR RENEWAL OF PLAYPARKS
2022-23**

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

ABSTRACT

This report provides information on the capital grant allocation to Angus Council from the Scottish Government for Renewal of Play Parks. It recommends projects for approval to use the grant allocation for the current financial year 2022/23.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) agree the list of the proposals for use of Renewal of Play Park Capital Allocation of £111,000 for 2022/23.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

2.1 Delivery of the projects will contribute to the following priorities in the Council Plan:

People: We want to maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities

- work collaboratively for and with our citizens to keep them safe in resilient communities
- reduce social isolation and loneliness

Place: We want our communities to be strong, resilient and led by citizens

- engage with citizens and communities to deliver the right services in the right place at the right time.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Renewal of Play Parks

The Scottish Government made a commitment to renew play parks across Scotland, so that all children have access to quality play in their own community and as part of this established a £60m fund. For 2022-23, £5 million of capital funding has been agreed and has been distributed between each of the 32 Local Authorities in Scotland based on the agreed funding model of:

- i. 93% on population (0-14 years old)
- ii. 7% on rurality

Based on this model the allocation of funds for Angus Council in 2022-23 is £111,000 paid as General Capital Grant.

3.2 Angus Council received £108,000 in 2021/22 and this was used as follows (Report [390/21](#)).

| | |
|---|----------|
| Kirriemuir – Martin Park play area | £ 17,800 |
| Montrose – The Splash unit replacements | £ 6,900 |
| Crombie – Play park timber unit replacements | £ 32,000 |
| Arbroath – West Links vandalism replacement | £ 13,500 |
| Letham – Dempster Park play area unit replacement | £ 6,800 |
| Forfar – Graham Crescent unit replacement | £ 6,500 |
| Monifieth – Blue Seaway unit replacements | £ 24,500 |

- 3.3 In addition, Local Authorities have been informed on the future capital funding of £50m by the Scottish Government for the Renewal of Play Parks in 2023-26. The total capital allocation for Angus for the three years will be £1.1m.
- 3.4 It should be noted that the additional funding will not be sufficient to ensure the complete renewal of all play parks in Angus. Officers will develop proposals together with local communities, with the view of achieving improvements for as many local communities as possible, but also based on the need for renewals of the current play provision.
- 3.5 To ensure that all play park renewals are prioritised, planned, and designed to offer the best play experiences for all children and young people the Scottish Government has developed 4 national principles, against which the spending plans should be measured.

These principles encompass important standards such as the need to involve children, young people and families in the process of planning the renewal programme, ensure that access to play is as wide-reaching and inclusive as possible, play parks and spaces should seek to bring together local communities by creating a greater sense of place and cohesion, and that the use of existing national resources can help local authorities to take a strategic and evidence-based approach to the design and renewal of their local play parks.

- 3.6 The guidance further expects local authorities to maintain a comprehensive inventory of all play parks in their estate, the age and condition of each park and its equipment, and how they fit with the needs of local communities.
- 3.7 The fund is ringfenced to play parks which are 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 scope. Play parks with equipment (swings, slides etc) aimed at children aged 0-14 are included as are other facilities used by the same age group (e.g. pump tracks), but MUGAs (Multi Use Game Areas) or dedicated sports fields are outwith scope.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 To ensure a fair and equal distribution of funding those playpark projects are proposed that are most in need for renewal. A condition survey and register of all public play areas in Angus is compiled and updated annually to review both play equipment and safety surfacing and ensure their ongoing suitability and usability.
- 4.2 The development of play improvement proposals is furthermore based on the Standard for Play Area Provision for Angus (compare Report No. 601/13), which set out a hierarchy of play parks based on the range of activities available for play in them and the walking distances from the home to the play park.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The fund is predominantly supporting play equipment replacements or renewals rather than financing the upkeep of playparks. Due to the high cost of providing playspaces that conform to all national standards only a small number of play areas can be renewed.

Based on the playpark condition survey and prioritisation based on most need, the following projects are recommended for use of the £111,000 funding allocation for this financial year:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Friockheim Park renewal of multiunit and safety surfacing | £41,000 |
| MacDonald Park Arbroath, installation of new multi-unit | £40,000 |
| Spink Street Play Area Arbroath, replacement of multi-unit, slide and swings with toddler equipment | £30,000 |

- 5.2 Report No. 601/13 made recommendations for a fairer distribution of play activities in Arbroath by recommending that MacDonald Park was upgraded to a Neighbourhood Play Area (NPA) and Spink Street downgraded to a Doorstep Play Area (DSPA) in the future. This redistribution is based on the location of MacDonald Park on the route to school for many pupils of the surrounding area and the provision of other leisure activities in the park. Nearby Spink Street

is slightly obscured due to its immediate neighbourhood to car parks and a superstore and mostly visited by very young children.

- 5.3 To ensure the involvement of local communities in shaping their environment the play units in all playparks will be chosen by engaging directly with schools, playgroups and users of the parks. Based on the success of recent engagement with children and families, and in partnership with the Vibrant Communities team, Environmental Services will continue to work with the communities of Angus, adopting the Participatory Budgeting model.. This includes giving equal opportunity to participate in decisions shaping the local community; help deliver on the outcomes in Scotland's National Performance Framework and giving communities more influence to make decisions on how funding is spent in their localities.
- 5.4 There are further, provisional allocations of £220,000 for 2023/24, £330,000 for 2024/25 and £550,000 2025/26. It is proposed that a report is submitted to Communities Committee each year on the use of the grant allocation, and that recommendations continue to be based on playpark condition surveys and prioritisation based on most need. Although the funding will not be split on any geographical basis, given the number of years and amount of funding it is anticipated that playparks across a range of Wards/areas will be renewed via the funding.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications as all proposals are contained within the allocated funding, there are indirect financial implications through officer time to support the delivery of projects supported by the funding and any administration of these to third parties.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached to this Report.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report No. 601/13 Play Area Provision in Angus, Report by Strategic Director – Communities
- Report No. 390/21 Capital Grant Allocations: Place Based Investment Programme, Renewal of Playparks & Nature Restoration Fund

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Equality Impact Assessment



Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

Step 1

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CAPITAL GRANT ALLOCATION FOR RENEWAL OF PLAYPARKS 2022-23

Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment Yes/No

(A) If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

(i) It does not impact on people Yes/No

(ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics Yes/No

(iii) It is for information only Yes/No

(iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year Yes/No

(v) It is technical Yes/No

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

(B) If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment Yes/No

Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Yes/No

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.

If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

Step 3

(i)Lead Directorate/Service: Infrastructure and Environment

(ii)Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

Proposals is for allocation of ringfenced capital grant allocations from Scottish Government. The delivery of the projects allocated funding will be subject to relevant legislation.

(iii)What is the aim of the proposal? Please give full details.

To allocate Play Park Renewal grant funding from Scottish Government to particular projects

(iv)Is it a new proposal? Yes/No Please indicate OR

Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function? Yes/No Please indicate

Step 4: Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?

Please indicate all which apply:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Employees | Yes/No |
| Job Applicants | Yes/No |
| Service users | Yes/No |
| Members of the public | Yes/No |

Step 5: List the evidence/data/research that has been used in this assessment (links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance). This could include:

Internal data (e.g. customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).

Internal consultation (e.g. with staff, trade unions and any other services affected).

External data (e.g. Census, equality reports, equality evidence finder, performance reports, research, available statistics)

External consultation (e.g. partner organisations, national organisations, community groups, other councils).

Other (general information as appropriate).

Projects were identified from those where the Council has had involvement, either through proposals previously put forward by members of the community or part of a Service identified project.

Step 6: Evidence Gaps.

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold? Yes/No

If yes, please state what they are, and what measures you will take to obtain the evidence you need.

Step 7: Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups? Please complete for each group, including details of the potential impact on those affected. Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each group. Please state the reason(s) why.

Age

Impact

Positive. We are aiming to provide a wider range of play opportunities for children and young people. We will engage with children, young people and families to select their favourite play equipment in each playpark that will be improved.

Disability

Impact

Positive. We are aiming to provide inclusive play units that can be used by children of all abilities. We will engage with children, young people and families to select their favourite play equipment in each playpark that will be improved.

Gender reassignment

Impact

Neutral

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact

Neutral

Pregnancy/Maternity

Impact

Neutral

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers)

Impact

Neutral

Religion or no belief

Impact

Neutral

Sex

Impact

Neutral

Sexual orientation

Impact

Neutral

Step 8: Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected

If you have consulted with any group potentially affected, please give details of how this was done and what the results were.

No consultation undertaken

If you have not consulted with any group potentially affected, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating action of any negative impact (Step 9)?

The specifics would be covered in the detail of delivery of the allocated projects.

Step 9: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts?

Step 10: If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification.

Step 11: In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?

Step 12: Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?

Step 13: FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

This step is only applicable to **strategies** which are key, high level decisions. If your proposal is **not** a strategy, please leave this Step blank, and go to Step 14.

Links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance.

Step 13(A) What evidence do you have about any socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome in relation to this strategic issue?

Step 13(B) Please state if there are any gaps in socio-economic evidence for this strategy and how you will take measures to gather the evidence you need.

Step 13(C) Are there any potential impacts this strategy may have specifically on the undernoted groupings? Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each grouping.

Low and/or No Wealth (e.g. those with enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.

Impact

Material Deprivation (i.e. those unable to access basic goods and services e.g. repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies).

Impact

Area Deprivation (i.e. where people live (e.g. rural areas), or where they work (e.g. accessibility of transport).

Impact

Socio-economic Background i.e. social class including parents' education, people's employment and income.

Impact

Other – please indicate

Step 13(D) Please state below if there are measures which could be taken to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.

Step 14: What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?

Consideration will be given to the impacts as part of the development and delivery of identified projects.

Step 15: Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?

As part of the Angus Council report to 22nd November 2022.

Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation. Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Jutta Scharnberger, Team Leader Landscape Services, 18 October 2022

Reviewed by: Kevin Robertson, Acting Service Leader, Environmental Services, 21 October 2022

Approved by: Graeme Dailly, Director of Infrastructure & Environment, 21 October 2022

NB. There are several worked examples of separate EIA and FSD Assessments in the Guidance which may be of use to you.
