



Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Item 3

6th June 2024

Report by Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Contact: George Gillespie, Executive Director Ext: 79106

PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

Purpose of Report:

To present the Glasgow Play Sufficiency Assessment for approval by the Council.

Recommendations:

The committee is asked to:

- Approve the Glasgow Play Sufficiency Assessment
- Note that the Play Sufficiency Assessment will be submitted to Scottish Ministers as part of Glasgow City Council's documentation for the City Development Plan 2 Gatecheck process.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1. Background

- 1.1 National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), adopted in 2023, states in Policy 21: Play, recreation and sport, that local development plans (LDPs) should identify sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages, and support development proposals that protect, enhance or improve children's access to play.
- 1.2 NPF4 recognises that many people, including children and young people, need better places to support their lifelong health and wellbeing and build their future resilience. It seeks to improve the quality of life of people across Scotland through facilitating places that enable local living, including providing access to playgrounds and green or blue spaces where there are opportunities for relaxation and informal play.
- 1.3 Ensuring all children have access to good quality play opportunities will deliver the policy objectives contained in NPF4 and help local authorities to uphold the rights of children.
[Source: Scottish Government Planning Guidance: Play Sufficiency Assessment, para.12-14, Page 4, 2023]
- 1.4 It is also important to note that everything we do as a Local Authority, happens in the context of a place, and planning balances the social, economic, and environmental needs of our city.
- 1.5 [The Planning \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) inserted a new section 16D Play Sufficiency Assessment into the [Town and Country Planning \(Scotland\) Act 1997](#) ("the Act") with regard to local development plans. Section 16D sets out that a planning authority must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in its area in preparing an evidence report.
- 1.6 The preparation of a [Glasgow's Play Sufficiency Assessment \(PSA\)](#) forms part of the Stage 1 processes as part of early engagement and data collection for the development plan. It is intended to help ensure there is a good understanding of the sufficiency of both formal and informal play spaces for children across planning authority areas. The evidence gathered in the PSA should be used to inform provisions for play in the preparation of LDPs.
- 1.7 It is noted the [Scottish Government Planning Guidance: Play Sufficiency Assessment](#) published in Dec 2023 specifically ask us to do the following:
 - The PSA is to be presented in the form of a written report, incorporating maps as required by the Regulations.
 - The PSA report must contain the following:
 - Information on formal play spaces in the planning authority area, both by locality and in the totality of the planning authority area. The locations of formal play spaces must be shown on a map.

- Information on informal play spaces in the planning authority area, which have been identified as relevant by the planning authority or by children. The locations of informal play spaces do not require to be mapped.
- Statements setting out the assessment of the sufficiency of play opportunities with regard to quality, quantity, and accessibility, both by locality and in the totality of the planning authority area.

There is flexibility for planning authorities to include information that is meaningful locally and for the PSA report to align with other relevant areas of work such as the open space audit and/or open space strategy, play parks strategy, etc., if the planning authority sees these as appropriate.

- 1.8 Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

[Source: www.gov.scot/publications/play-strategy-Scotland-vision/]

- 1.9 The following sections of this report describe how the component parts of the Play Sufficiency Assessment are being brought together.

2. Engagement with Young People

- 2.1 The Scottish Government introduced, as part of the National Planning Framework 4 (2023) the need for children and young people to be actively involved in the Development Plan process in Scotland. Play Sufficiency Assessments have become a mandatory requirement for all local authorities and Glasgow is working towards meeting the criteria set out by the Scottish Government.
- 2.2 Children experience a range of health wellbeing and educational benefits from outdoor play, and learning in, and connecting to nature. Planning staff have been collaborating with the Centre for Civic Innovation, and Education Services, to pilot a collaborative engagement approach with young people in Glasgow for the Play Sufficiency Assessment.
- 2.3 Staff at the Centre for Civic Innovation have been working with young people (12-16/17) at St Paul's High School to co-design an engagement model which will gather information as well as let young people tell their stories about what it is like to live, learn and play in Glasgow. This has been a rewarding pilot and we have now rolled this exemplary engagement model for our play sufficiency assessment to 10 secondary schools across the city, with further planned rollouts to ensure all secondary school pupils can participate and tell their stories to inform the proposed plan stage for the new development plan for Glasgow.

- 2.4 Over 400 pupils at St Paul's High School, Pollok have not only helped to design this engagement model but told their stories. A further 18 High Schools have participated in the consultation, reaching and involving over 4,000 young people. These young people have told us where they go and what they do and their contributions will help to change the face of play in Glasgow. These views have been incorporated into the PSA.
- 2.5 Education services have also been collecting information from children aged 3-8 across 12 schools in Glasgow and asking them about where and how they play and what they do in our outdoor spaces. So far over 300 early years and primary school pupils have told us their play stories and we are adding to that number every day.
- 2.6 In addition, a general survey for adults, to meet the requirement of the Regulations to consult with the **public, parents and carers and community councils**, has been running on the Council's consultation hub and with targeted social media messaging asking them where the children they know play, how they play and the places that they like to play. We achieved 484 responses to the survey. Appendix One

3. **Quality and Quantity Assessment of Community Spaces and Play Area Renewal**

- 3.1 The committee are referred to a report on Play area renewal to the Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods committee on [22nd August 2023](#) where it was noted that:
- The Council currently has 287 equipped play areas. Although the provision of play areas themselves is not a statutory duty their routine inspection and maintenance is a statutory requirement.
 - Our inspection regime generated 375 instructions for repair across the play area estate from 1st April 2023 to 31 June 2023. These range from minor faults such as damaged swings to major repairs such as full surface repairs being required, and the volume of repairs demonstrates the high level of usage these play areas receive.
 - Stakeholder and community involvement will inform the replacement/refurbishment of play areas
- 3.2 Committee are also referred to the [Open Space Strategy](#) which notes that:
- Open Space Quantity – the OSS also sets out standards for ensuring a sufficient quantity of open space within each ward in the City. This is expressed as a quantity of open space per 1000 population, and there are different standards for the relatively densely populated inner urban area and the less densely populated outer urban area of the City. Whether a ward is deficient in open space, or has a potential surplus, will help inform current/future need.
 - Ensuring good quality Community Spaces through use of the open space standards will help deliver access to play facilities, but there will be other opportunities to encourage play that should be taken into

account in establishing need. The role of open space in facilitating environmental education and outdoor learning and the potential for the education estate to contribute towards open space objectives also need to be assessed.

4. Key Insights into Play across the City and Next steps

4.1 Quality of Spaces

- Across the city, over half of the responders voted feeling unsafe or uncomfortable in the spaces they use.
- When asked how spaces could be improved, cleanliness of the spaces was the highest sought-after thing for young people. Asking for 'cleaning of spaces' as the highest priority over other things such as 'building more' or 'repairing equipment'. Older age groups have increased negativity towards the cleanliness of spaces.
- A large proportion of pupils asked for more sporting facilities other than just football - range of sports options available are limited, especially those that are free.

Safety and comfort

- Overall, those that identify with being male feel more comfortable and safer in areas citywide.
- Those that identify as being female, on average they scored just over halfway in feeling safe in the spaces they use Citywide. However, within each year group, there is a slight contrast between those that do feel comfortable or uncomfortable, some strongly agreeing and other strongly disagreeing.

Structured Play

- A large percentage of clubs that young people go to cost money. There is an opportunity for more free clubs to be made available.
- In each area of the city, a larger portion of young people aged S4-S6 said they 'do not know' of any clubs. This either indicates that there aren't any clubs for older children, or that they are not aware of the opportunities available to them.
- generally, younger years S1-S3 go to more clubs compared to S4-S6

Barriers Towards Play

- Shopping centres were young people's favourite places to go Citywide. There could be various reasons for this, but based on responses, it is fair to say because these are sheltered, indoor spaces with various things to do

- The main barriers are not the lack of spaces - but rather other people who are present in those spaces as they make young people feel unsafe.
- Homework, feeling like they don't have time, the people in the spaces and cost/access to money are all ranked high as barriers for young people and play.
- Overall, young people said that they found it relatively easy to get to the places in their area.
- The time of day has a big impact on the young people using spaces, and a big factor of this is due to light. The young people express that they would appreciate more lighting in sporting facilities and parks.
- The weather is also a big barrier young people find, seeking for more sheltered space to play outside within Winter especially

Council's responsibility

- generally, young people feel that the councils' responsibilities are (in order of priority)
 - cleaning spaces
 - adding more things to do
 - repairing equipment and building more
 - asking citizens their opinions/ thoughts
 - adding more nature
 - Providing information on events/ activities

4.2 The findings from the PSA will be used to inform the ongoing play area renewal programme; the existing maintenance and management regime for play areas and Open Spaces as well as forming part of the Evidence report for the new Development Plan. The PSA will also help to inform development management decisions that impact on existing play areas and open spaces or require the development of new play areas and informal spaces.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:

As noted in the [Play area renewal report](#) Current and future play area investment will be met from the £6.179M Scottish Government funding, Developer Contributions where available and any other grants or funding secured.

Legal:

An up to date Play Sufficiency Assessment is a new legislative requirement as per Town and Country Planning (Play Sufficiency Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 and came into force on 19 May 2023 and 16D Play Sufficiency Assessment into the [Town and Country Planning \(Scotland\) Act 1997](#)

Personnel: Updating of the Play Sufficiency Assessment and delivery on any investment needs identified will be managed via existing staff resources

Procurement: Existing Glasgow City Council and Scotland Excel frameworks will be utilised.

Council Strategic Plan: Grand Challenge 4 Mission : Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods. Develop, secure funding for and implement local infrastructure changes in line with a Liveable Neighbourhoods approach for every single community by 2030 so that our local streets are safe and pleasant for everyone to walk, wheel, cycle, play and spend time in.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify. It is envisaged that this investment could contribute towards Outcome 6, by providing spaces which better support children, young people and families to meet outdoors, and contribute towards Outcome 14 by providing spaces which better support outdoor learning for disabled children and young people. (no significant impact, positive impact or negative impact)

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? Potential positive impacts from spaces which better support children, young people and families to meet outdoors and which better support outdoor learning for disabled children and young people.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage. Investment is targeted towards areas with the lowest 15% datazones per the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate The proposal delivers towards action 48 by working with partner organisations to fund

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| <i>Plan actions? Please specify:</i> | acceleration of the Open Space Strategy Delivery Plan, and contributes to Action 51 by supporting the livable neighbourhoods plan |
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| <i>What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?</i> | Potential positive impacts by supporting active travel and livable neighbourhoods |
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| <i>Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?</i> | Potential positive impacts by supporting active travel and livable neighbourhoods |
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Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

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| Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N | No |
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If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

6. Recommendations:

The committee is asked to:

- Approve the Glasgow Play Sufficiency Assessment
- Note that the Play Sufficiency Assessment will be submitted to Scottish Ministers as part of Glasgow City Council's documentation for the City Development Plan 2 Gatecheck process.