



Draft

Play Spaces Strategy

2020 – 2030

Better play spaces for children to play in.



Communities & Neighbourhoods
Service

Updated July 2019

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1.0 Introduction



Figure 1- photograph courtesy of Play Scotland

“Children’s play is crucial to Scotland’s wellbeing; socially, economically and environmentally. Our people are our greatest resource and the early years of life set the pattern for children’s future development.”

Scottish Government Play Strategy 2013

The aim of this strategy is to reshape Fife Council's future play park provision in order to:

- provide play parks with good play value for children of different ages and needs;
- ensure that public parks and greenspace continue to provide varied opportunities for outdoor play;
- ensure the financial sustainability of play park provision.

Play is important for children's health and wellbeing, and play parks provide important opportunities for outdoor play. This strategy aims to ensure the provision of high quality accessible play parks for children in Fife.

Fife Council currently manages 446 sites with play equipment in parks and greenspaces. However:

- 82% of the play equipment will reach its end of life in the next ten years;
- 151 sites have three or fewer pieces of play equipment and have very limited play value.

Shown below is a site in Dalgety Bay with one swing, which is maintained by Fife Council. This play equipment can only be used for babies and toddlers and its play value is limited.



Figure 2: Whites Quay, Dalgety Bay

Some neighbourhoods and settlements have clusters of sites with under three pieces of play equipment, for example, North Glenrothes.

This strategy proposes having a categorisation of play spaces. This includes greenspace, greenspace with play features and three types of larger play parks providing a wider range of equipment in accessible locations. This will mean that play parks cater for a wider age range of children, rather than focusing on pre-school children. This will provide improved opportunities for children's play, rather than the current offer, which includes 151 number sites with only one or two pieces of equipment.

This will require a reshaping of play park provision. 292 play parks will become one of the three types of play park. We will create 8 new play parks. Another 152 sites will be transformed into greenspace for play. Rather than replacing manufactured equipment in these sites we will redesign them with play features including, timber logs, balancing beams, landform, picnic tables, boulders.

Fife Council has already made available £3.5 million for play park improvements from funding set aside for health and sport.

Working with Kinghorn Community Council, Fife Council is already reshaping play park provision in Kinghorn. There are currently six play equipment sites in Kinghorn, most of which have ageing equipment. Three of the play parks will be improved and three will be turned into greenspaces for play. Kinghorn Community Council has helped with fundraising, and the Nethergate Play Park should be transformed in 2019.

In Levenmouth many play parks have been refurbished. The West High Street play park in Buckhaven has been transformed into a green space for play with picnic tables and flower meadows.

The strategy will involve working with communities to reshape play park provision. Unless provision is reshaped, most of the existing play equipment will need to be removed as it reaches the end of its life over the next ten years. The refurbishment of all the existing play equipment sites would cost around £34 million, which is not feasible.

1 Background

1.1 What is Play?

Play is a fundamental part of growing up for children. From babies to teenagers, play provides a way for children to develop both their brains and their bodies. Running around, chatting and imagining are some of the play activities that aid this.



Figure 3 images courtesy of Play Scotland

However, play is not just for children - adults play in different ways, whether doing something creative, such as music, or playing games, such as bowls.



Figure 5 Leven promenade skate park - children and adults use this to play



Figure 4. Letham Glen, Leven. Adults enjoy play equipment too.

OUTDOOR PLAY

Outdoor play is particularly valuable as it provides unique opportunities to experience the elements and because of the sense of wellbeing and enjoyment that being outdoors can bring. Access to the outdoors also gives children more space to move freely and run around.

Greenspace

Outdoor play is not confined to swings. Greenspaces are also important for play, whether this is running around in a grass space or building huts in a wood. Seating is also important for social play.



Figure 7 Greenspaces are important for active play



Figure 6 Beaches have great play value



Figure 9 Calaismuir Wood, Dunfermline. Woods are great places for play. A fairie hoose was created as part of an art project in the wood.



Figure 8 Lyne Burn, Dunfermline. Children searching for fish.

1.2 Decrease in outdoor play

Today's children and young people generally have fewer opportunities for outdoor play than was the case for previous generations. Increasing traffic levels, concerns about risk, and negative attitudes towards young people are among many factors that have contributed to this decline. An ICM survey commissioned for Playday in 2007 revealed that 71 per cent of adults played outside in the street or area close to their homes every day when they were children, compared with only 21 per cent of children (*Play England*)

In 2007, the American Academy of Paediatrics reported that, while children's free time has been reduced in recent decades, childhood and adolescent depression has been on the increase over the same period. As the report noted, free, child-driven creative play 'offers benefits that may be protective against the effects of pressure and stress' (Ginsburg, 2007).

Many of the open space strategies developed by local authorities have demonstrated that provision for teenagers across the UK is particularly limited. Often deemed too old for 'play', teenagers need more than youth shelters and designated areas for ball games. For example, they need more places where they can congregate and socialise with their friends.

Source: *Play England* <http://playengland.org.uk/media/70684/design-for-play.pdf>

1.3 Policy

The provision of play parks is not a legal requirement. However, the United Nations, the UK Government and the Scottish Government all have policies to ensure that there is provision for outdoor play.

United Nations – Convention on the Rights of the Child

The United Kingdom signed up to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991. Article 31 of the Convention requires signatories to provide appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

Scottish Government – Play Strategy for Scotland (2013)

The national play strategy has a section on play in the community, which states that children should play outdoors more often in places such as green spaces and parks. A community outcome in the strategy states that:

"All children and young people have sufficient time for playing within their community and have contact with nature in their everyday lives"

Plan for Fife (2017- 2027)

The Plan for Fife is the plan for Fife Council and for the Fife Partnership. The Plan states: *"By 2027 we want Fife to be a place where all residents live good lives, make informed choices and have a sense of control so that they can reach their full potential, and where all children are safe, happy and healthy. We also want Fife to be a place where we make best use of our assets and facilities, while sustaining them for future generations."*

'Thriving Places' is one of the four outcome themes in the Plan and includes an action 'to improve access to green recreation and play space.'

Children's Services Plan

As one of 16 outcomes, Fife Council's Children's Services Plan includes 'places to play'. This priority aims to achieve equity of access, with all children having access to appropriate play opportunities. Fife Council is developing a play strategy. This will deal with all aspects of play in line with the Scottish Government Play Strategy.

Fife Greenspace Strategy (2011- 2016)

The Fife Greenspace Strategy is a requirement of Scottish Government's Scottish Planning Policy, and is currently being updated. The strategy provides information on Fife's greenspace resource and ways to address outstanding issues. The resource assessment for the current strategy included an assessment of walkable access to greenspace. This measure was based on children's walking distance to a greenspace. For example, in Glenrothes, 82% of residents were within a 2 1/2 minute walk of a greenspace. This suggests that children in Glenrothes have good opportunities to play in greenspaces, although it is important that barriers, such as roads, are also taken into account.

FIFEplan – Making Fife's Places

Making Fife's Places is supplementary guidance that accompanies Fife's development plan - the FIFEplan. The development plan sets out the long term vision for where building development should and should not happen in Fife. Making Fife's Places provides detailed guidance on the policies in the FIFEplan, and includes requirements for the provision of equipped play areas in all new housing developments.

The guidance states that local, equipped play areas must be provided on-site for all developments of over 200 houses. A local equipped play area should be located within a community greenspace. It should not be fenced off, and should have bins and benches provided. Play areas should be designed to accommodate all age groups and to encourage natural play, incorporating areas of planting, places for socialising and space to run around, kick a ball etc.

Equipped play areas should be welcoming and include equipment for all age groups that caters for three main activities: swinging, spinning and climbing.

1.4 Public views on play parks

Fife Council has undertaken consultations in towns and villages across Fife, and a consistent finding is that people think that it is important to have play parks in their communities. In a recent local consultation carried out to develop the Neighbourhood Plan for Templehall, Kirkcaldy, people said they wanted to see better play parks and opportunities for outdoor play.

People's Panel Greenspace Survey, 2008

The People's Panel is a group of people who have volunteered to help improve Fife by giving their opinions and observations on a range of public issues.

Launched in June 2006, the Panel is organised by the Fife Partnership, which comprises Fife Council, NHS Fife, Police, Fire Service, other public sector partners and the voluntary sector.

This survey, which gathered the views of adults across Fife, found that:

- 61% of people usually walk to a play park;
- 35% of people usually travel by car;
- 5% of people visit a play area daily;
- 36% of people visit a play area weekly;
- 42% of people visit a play area monthly.

People's Panel Survey, October 2016

Fife Council's Parks Streets & Open Spaces Service used the People's Panel to gather views about play parks in Fife.

Panel members were asked to rate play parks:

- 46.7% responded by stating that small localised play parks were very important for the area they lived in; and
- 42.9% responded by stating that large, central well-equipped play parks were very important for the area they lived in.

1.5 Defining play parks



Figure 10 Play park in Glenrothes. Photograph taken 1958. Source SCRAN.

To date, there has been no consistent approach to play park provision in Fife. Many aren't play parks, as they have just a few pieces of equipment with very little play value. The toddler springy at Elrick Play path is a good example of this. White's Quay greenspace, Dalgety Bay, is another example, where there is just one set of swings for babies.



Figure 11 White's Quay, Dalgety Bay



Figure 12 Elrick Park Path, Glenrothes

In the last ten years Fife Council has refurbished many play parks. These have a range of equipment and cater for a wider range of children from babies to teens.



Figure 13 Culross Green

Culross Green has recently been refurbished and now provides a good quality play park for the village with a range of play equipment for different age groups. Most of the equipment is made of wood, including a number of attractive pieces. The park is located next to a cycleway and the shore, and opposite a historic square.



Figure 14 Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline

Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline is one of the main public parks in Fife and contains three play parks. An inclusive play park beside the 10 year old Carnegie Centenary Park and a smaller play park provide a wide range of play opportunities. The park has toilets and a café, and is popular for picnics in good weather.



Figure 15 Burntisland Links

Burntisland Links has a good range of equipment since it was refurbished, providing play equipment at both ends of the Links, as well as water play equipment. The Links is in an excellent location adjacent to the beach.



Figure 16 Leven Promenade

One of the best aspects of the play park at **Leven Promenade** is the proximity to the beach. It has a good range of equipment for all age ranges, and there is a skate park nearby.



Figure 17 Gowrie Hill, Newport-on-Tay

Gowrie Hill, Newport-on-Tay This play park is located in a woodland, which provides an added element of interest.

2 The life expectancy of play parks

Fife Council currently has 446 sites with play equipment located in parks and greenspaces. They contain approximately 2,620 pieces of play equipment.

The Council commissions annual independent inspections of all its play parks. These inspections assess the life expectancy of all play equipment. The life expectancy of a piece of play equipment is defined by when it is anticipated that it is no longer in a safe condition and does not comply with British Standard BSEN1176 and European Playground Standard EN1176.

In Fife, these inspections show that:

- 25% of the equipment needs to be replaced in the next five years and another 57% in between five and ten years;
- 132 play parks need to be refurbished and the play equipment will reach the end of its life within the next five years. 57% of the play parks will need refurbishment within five to ten years;
- 30% of play parks have only between one and three pieces of equipment.

Table 1: Life expectancy of play equipment

Life expectancy	Number of pieces	%
<12 months	447	14
1 – 3 years	265	8
3 – 5 years	400	14
5 – 10 years	1495	49
>10 years	477	15
	3084	

Table 2: Life expectancy of sites with play equipment

Life expectancy	Number of play parks	%
3 years	32	7
5 years	103	23
5 – 10 years	215	50
10 years	38	9
>10 years	48	11
This is an assessment of the life expectancy of each site with play equipment. It is based on life expectancy of equipment. For example if the majority of equipment in the site has five years life expectancy then the play park was categorised as having five years life expectancy.		

2.1 Play park provision guidance by charities

There is currently no national guidance for play park provision. All local authorities have different policies.

Play Scotland

Play Scotland has a toolkit for assessing and improving local play opportunities. One of the indicators is children and young people's access to spaces and opportunities for outdoor play and for spending their free time with friends.

Fields in Trust

The UK charity, Fields in Trust, has guidelines for the provision of play parks. These guidelines were developed for new housing schemes, but are age specific. Below are the three types of play parks in their hierarchy. The local area play consists of a few pieces of play equipment for just one age group. This hierarchy is not suitable for reshaping provision in towns and villages, and we don't propose adopting this for Fife.

LAP – Local Area for Play

The LAP is a small area of open space specifically designated and primarily laid out for very young children to play close to where they live.

LEAP – Local Equipped Area for Play

The LEAP is an area of open space specifically designated and laid out with features including equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently close to where they live. 1 minute walk from a house and 100sqm in size.

NEAP – Neighbourhood Equipped area for play

The NEAP is an area of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children but with the play opportunities for younger children as well. 15 minutes' walk from a house and 1000m².

2.2 Other local authorities' approaches to play park provision

There is no standard approach to play park provision across Scotland's local authorities. The following sections outline the approaches that have been adopted by the City of Edinburgh and Falkirk councils

City Of Edinburgh Council

The council's Open Space Strategy sets out the following requirements to help meet the need for equipped play areas in the existing built up area and to provide for new developments. All houses and flats should have access to at least one of the following:

A play space of:

- good play value (51 – 70) within 800 metres walking distance;
- very good play value (71 – 100) within 1200 metres walking distance;
- excellent play value (101 +) within 2000 metres direct distance.

Play Value is based on the former National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) PlaySafe System. The NPFA became Fields in Trust in 2007.

These principles were based on surveys of parents and children, which found that the average walk or cycle trip to a play area was 750 metres, but that people would go further to access higher quality play destinations.

Falkirk Council

Falkirk Council has guidance in its Open Space Strategy, which states that the council will provide play parks within 10 minutes' walk from homes.

3 Developing a new approach to play spaces.

This strategy sets out a new structure for the location and types of play space provision. It is based on a categorisation which includes:

- Greenspace
- Greenspace for play
- Neighbourhood Play Park
- Town Play Park
- Destination Play Park

Public Greenspace



2 ½ minute walk from home



Public Greenspace that can be used for play, such as grass areas, parks, woods, beaches

Greenspace for play



Non equipped greenspace with features for play such as logs, benches, mounds, boulders

Local play park



5 minutes walk from home



Kettle Park play park is an example of a neighbourhood play area

Town play park



10 minutes walk from home or you could cycle



Thornton Public Park play park is an example of a town play area.

Destination play park



30 minutes walk from home or you could cycle or drive



Beveridge Park play park, Kirkcaldy is an example of a Destination play area.

3.1 Play Space Categorisation

3.1.1 Developing the categorisation

The play spaces categorisation has been developed from the Fife Greenspace Audit and analysis of the use of greenspaces with play equipment in Fife.

Fife Greenspace Audit

The need for children to have greenspace in their neighbourhoods/villages was one of the main criteria in creating the methodology for the Fife Greenspace Audit. The size of spaces that children could use and walking distance were two main criteria. 0.2 hectares was seen as the minimum space for running around and the distance of 2 ½ minutes' walk to a 0.2 hectare greenspace was also used.

Play features with in greenspaces

Outdoor play is not confined to manufactured play equipment. The categorisation recognises that play features in greenspaces can provide opportunities for play. Play features are logs to climb on, boulders to climb on, meadows to pick flowers, slopes to slide down, benches and picnic tables for social play.

Refurbishing play parks

Fife Council staff have managed refurbishment of dozens of play parks in the last ten years. Knowledge gained has been used in developing the three types of play park.

Large play parks in Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline, Beveridge Park, Kirkcaldy, and in Craigtoun Country Park, near St Andrews. It was found that people are prepared to travel over 10 miles to these play parks. The variety and quality of equipment and facilities within these play parks has attracted more people, including visitors to Fife, to these parks.

We have also worked with community organisations to improve play parks in their local area, which are smaller than the large play parks described in the last paragraph.

3.1.1.1 Elements of the categorisation

The categorisation comprises three types of play park, based on two main elements, distance and variety of features / equipment;

3.1.1.2 Distance

The Fife Greenspace Strategy set a distance of a 2 ½ minute walk to 0.2 hectares of publicly usable greenspace. This was based on a child being readily able to access a greenspace. For play parks, it has been concluded that people will be prepared to travel differentially to different types of play parks.

In terms of a neighbourhood play park, the distance is based on the Scottish Government's designing streets policy, which states that walkable neighbourhoods have a range of facilities within a five minute range of residential areas, which residents may access comfortably on foot. It takes approximately five minutes to walk 500m.

For Town Play Parks and Destination Play Parks, it is assumed people will either walk, cycle or travel by car.

3.1.2 Play Space type descriptions

Greenspace

Defined features / equipment are not included in the description of greenspace. The main criteria is that it is free to use and it is a running around space. Greenspace types such as grass areas, parks, woods, coast, beaches, wildflower meadows.

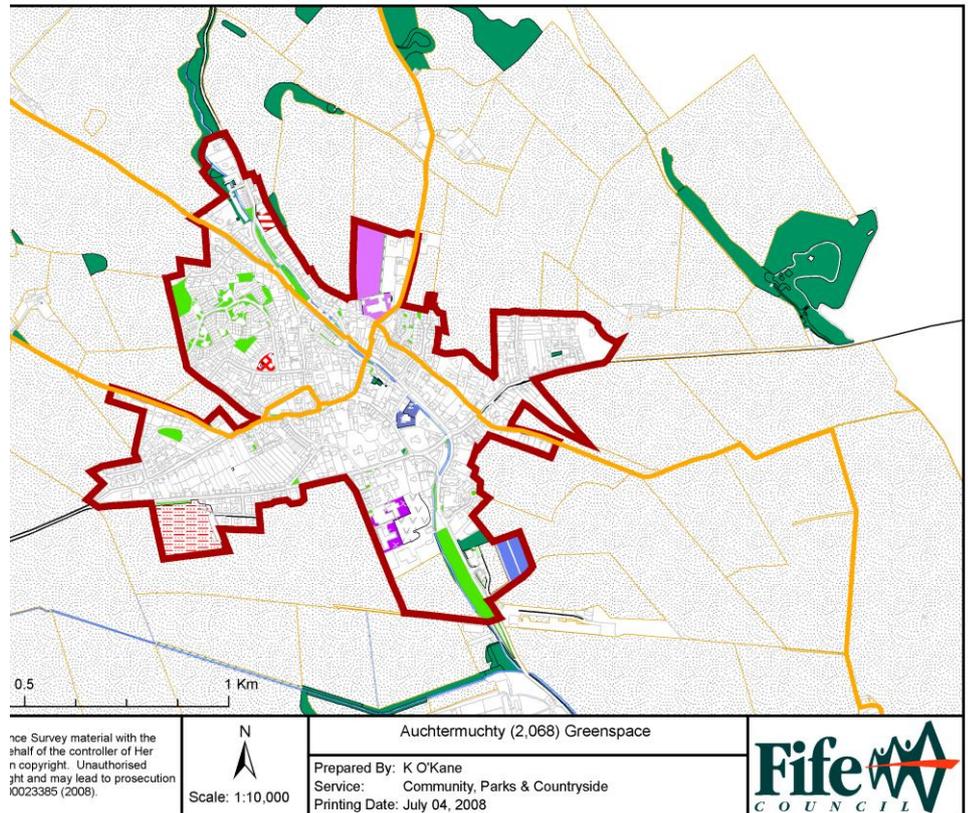


Greenspace audit

The greenspace audit measured the amount and access to greenspace. Auchtermuchty had a poor amount of greenspace, this means there are not many greenspaces for children to play out. Whereas Glenrothes had three times the Fife average for greenspace and 82% of houses were within a 2 ½ minute walk of a greenspace. The audit was carried out in 2008 so we need to carry out a 2nd audit to measure any change.

Legend
Fife Greenspace Mapping
Land Use Codes

-  2.3 Foreshore/rocks
-  6.1 Public parks & gardens
-  6.22 School Grounds
-  6.23 Institutional Grounds
-  6.31 Amenity Greenspace - residential
-  6.32 Amenity Greenspace - business
-  6.33 Amenity Greenspace - transport
-  Play space
-  6.51 Playing Fields
-  6.52 Golf Courses
-  6.53 Tennis Courts
-  6.54 Bowling Greens
-  6.55 Other sports
-  6.6 Habitat Corridors
-  6.61 Green Access Routes
-  6.62 Riparian Routes
-  6.71 Woodland
-  6.72 Open Semi-natural
-  6.73 Open Water
-  6.81 Allotment
-  6.82 Churchyard
-  6.83 Cemetery
-  6.84 Other functional greenspace
-  6.9 Civic Space
-  7.1 Farmland
-  7.3 Other, e.g landfill, quarries



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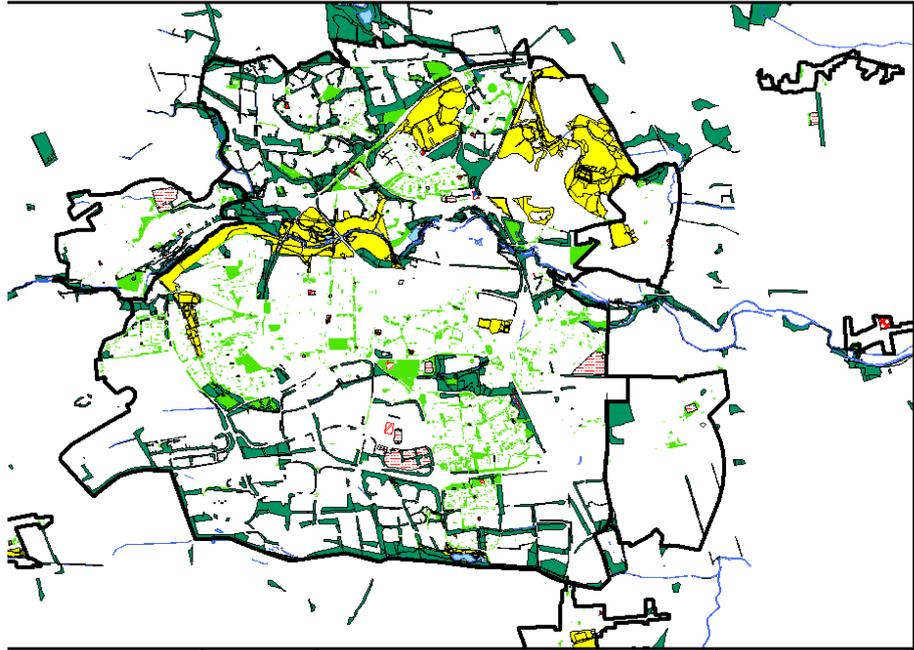
Scale: 1:10,000

Auchtermuchty (2,068) Greenspace
 Prepared By: K O'Kane
 Service: Community, Parks & Countryside
 Printing Date: July 04, 2008



Legend
Fife Greenspace Mapping
Land Use Codes

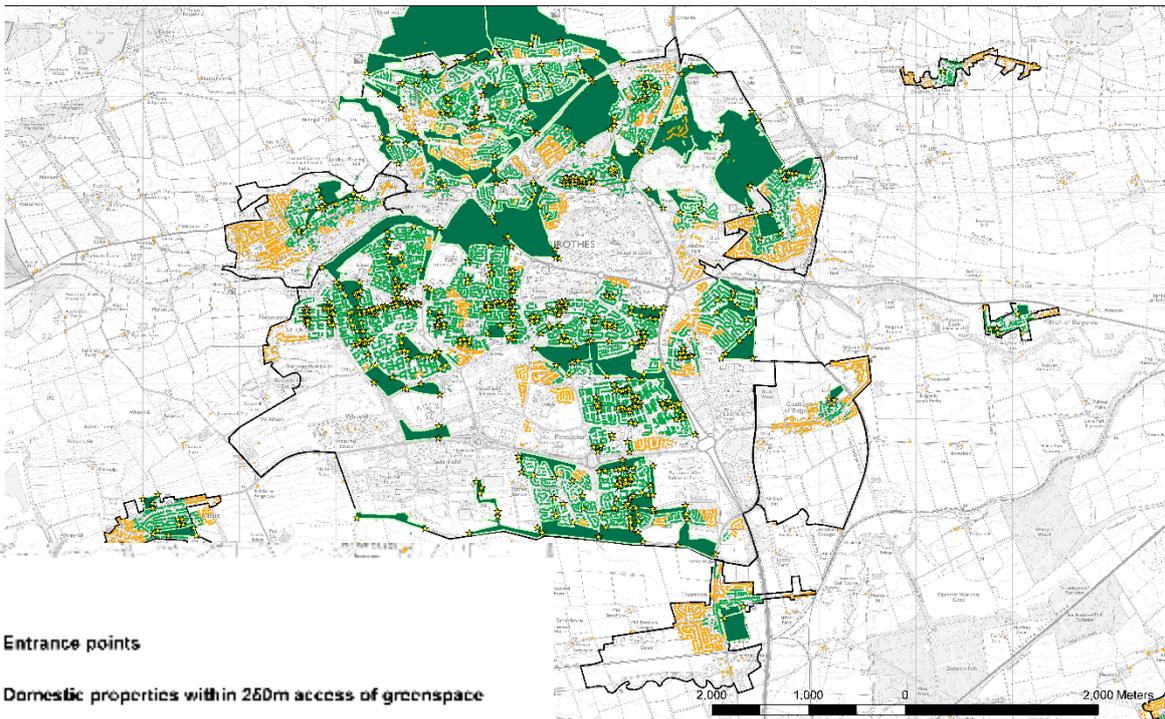
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- 6.82 Churchyard
- 6.83 Cemetery
- 6.84 Other functional greenspace
- 6.9 Civic Space
- 7.1 Farmland
- 7.3 Other, e.g landfill, quarries



1 Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
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GLENROTHES - Publicly Usable Greenspace Map
 Prepared By: K O'Kane
 Service: Parks & Countryside, Leisure & Cultural Services
 Printing Date: January 2014



Legend

- Entrance points
- Domestic properties within 250m access of greenspace
- Domestic properties not within 250m access of greenspace
- 0.2ha + publicly usable greenspace sites

Glenrothes Area - Greenspace Access

Prepared By: Kevin O'Kane
 Service: Parks & Countryside
 Printing Date: 17th February 2010



Greenspace for play

This is a type of greenspace with play features such as climbing boulders, logs, slopes, flower meadows, picnic tables, benches. These spaces don't have manufactured play equipment.

Kinglassie

Logs, timber balancing features, boulders were all included in a greenspace as part of a new housing scheme in Kinglassie.



Play features



Local Play Park example - Kettle Park Play Park

This is a good example of a local play area with enough equipment to provide for a regular visit. Located in the village of Kettle, a five minute walk for most local people.



Primary school age



Pre-school age



Town Play Park example – Thornton Public Park

Thornton Public Park Play Area is a medium sized play area. It is located in the public park beside a multi-use games area.



Town Play Park

High school age (S1&S2)



Primary school age



Pre-school age



Destination Play Park

Destination Play Park example - Beveridge Park Play Park, Kirkcaldy



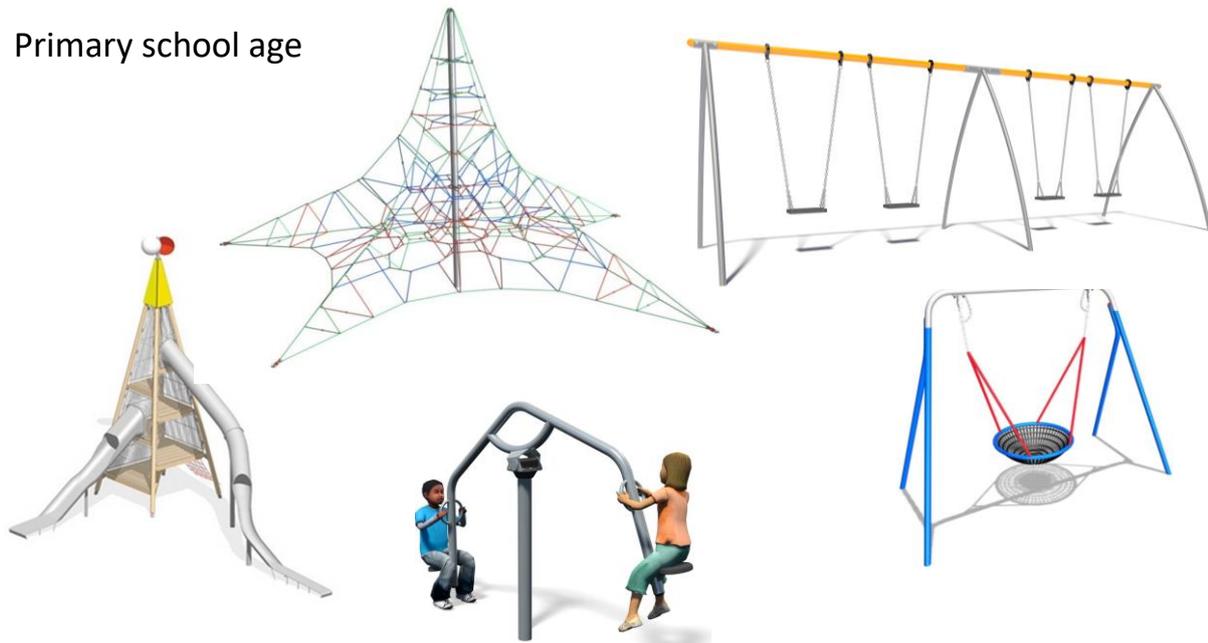
The Beveridge Park play park is a large play park that caters for a wide age range. The play park has equipment for high school children, primary school children and pre-school age children. It also includes adult exercise equipment, a skate park, toilets, a catering van and summer activities. In 2006, £300,000 was spent on a major refurbishment of the play park. This provides a good example of creating a diverse visitor experience which attracts people from across Fife.

Destination Play Park

High school age (S1 & S2)



Primary school age



Pre-school age



Play spaces categorisation – details				
Green space	Green space for play	Local Play Park	Town Play Park	Destination Play Park
Aim	Aim	Aim	Aim	Aim
Publicly usable green space. Such as grass areas, woods, parks, coast, beaches, flower meadows.	This is a greenspace with play features. The features are designed according to the space. Manufactured play equipment is not included in the greenspace.	This is a neighbourhood or village type of play park. These are within walking distance of housing. It is a basic public play area with enough equipment for a short visit. This type of play area is generally located in a park, providing space to run around.	This is an intermediate type of play park located in towns that people are prepared to travel a short distance to. It has enough equipment to cater for babies through to high school children. Town play areas are located in public parks.	The play park at Beveridge Park, Kirkcaldy is a good example of a play area that people are prepared to travel to. It has a wide range of equipment catering for babies through to high school children. Located in a large public park with toilets, with good space to run around, it also has adult gym equipment and a skate park.
Distance		Distance	Distance	Distance
<i>2 ½ minutes walk to a 0.2 hectare publicly usable greenspace from a house</i>		500m real time (along streets) from a house 300m straight line (radius from play area centre) 5 minute walk along streets Most people will walk to the play park	1km distance real time from a house 600m straight line 10minute walk People will walk, cycle or drive to the play park.	3km real time from a house 1.8km straight line 30 minute walk As a destination play area - people will generally drive to reach it.
	Play features		Equipment	Equipment
	Landform changes e.g slopes, mounds Boulders to climb on logs Picnic tables Benches Flower meadows Wooden sculptures		High School (up to 13yrs)	High School (up to 13yrs)
			1 unit	3 units
			Cable way / flying fox	Cable way / flying fox Rotating equipment for 12+ Rotating equipment
		Primary School age	Primary School age	Primary School age
			Basket Swing	Basket swing
		Swings (2 seats)	Swings (4 seats)	Swings (4 seats)
		Multi-unit with inclusive elements	Multi-unit or climbing net	Large multi-unit. Approx. 5m high with long tube slide
				6 m high climbing net or high multi-unit
	Moving unit – see saw , or rotating equipment	Moving unit – see saw , or rotating equipment	Moving unit – see saw , or rotating equipment	
	Pre-primary school age	Pre-primary school age	Pre-primary school age	

		Cradle swing (2 seats)	Cradle swing (4 seats)	Cradle swing (4 seats)
		Toddler multi-unit with inclusive elements	Toddler multi-unit with inclusive elements	Toddler multi-unit with inclusive elements
		Moving equipment (3 units) e.g. springy, roundabout trampoline	Moving equipment (3 units) e.g. springy, roundabout trampoline	Moving equipment (3 units) e.g. springy, roundabout trampoline
		Benches and picnic tables	Benches and picnic tables	Benches and picnic tables
Green space	Greenspace for play	Local Play Park	Town Play Park	Destination Play Park

3.2 Applying the play categorisation to existing sites with play equipment

All 446 sites with play equipment have been assessed using the play spaces categorisation. 292 existing sites can be classed as play parks, with 152 sites being classed as greenspaces for play. It is proposed that these spaces do not have manufactured play equipment but designed to have play features, such as logs, boulders, seating, landform, wildflowers.

Working with communities

Reshaping play provision will be a gradual process, carried out in partnership with local communities. There are a number of examples where this is already happening.

In Kinghorn, Council officers have discussed the play spaces categorisation with the community council, along with a proposal to replace the six existing sites with three local play parks and three greenspaces for play.

3.2.1 The categorisation applied to three settlements

Councillors on Levenmouth and Glenrothes Area committees have approved investment and non-replacement of sites in line with the categorisation. There are over 80 towns and villages in Fife with sites with play equipment. In this section, three differently sized settlements have been used to illustrate how the categorisation works. The categorisation is currently being applied in these settlements.

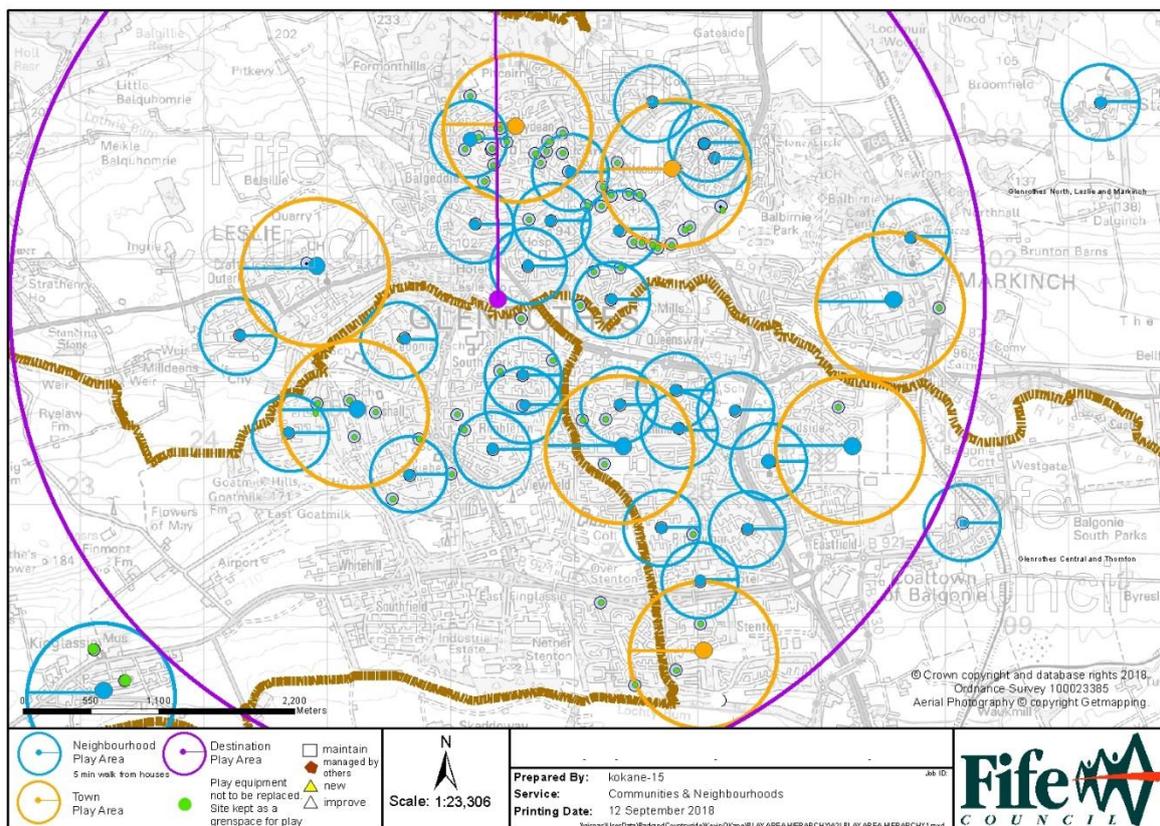
Glenrothes (population 39,277)

Glenrothes previously had the highest number of sites with play equipment in Fife, compared with other towns. There are currently 83 sites in the town. Many of the sites in the north of the town, such as Elrick Path (Figure 3), had fewer than three pieces of equipment.

Under the strategy, it is proposed that the town should have 32 play parks:

- One destination play park;
- Five town play parks;
- 26 neighbourhood play parks.

The 51 other sites will be transformed into greenspaces for play.



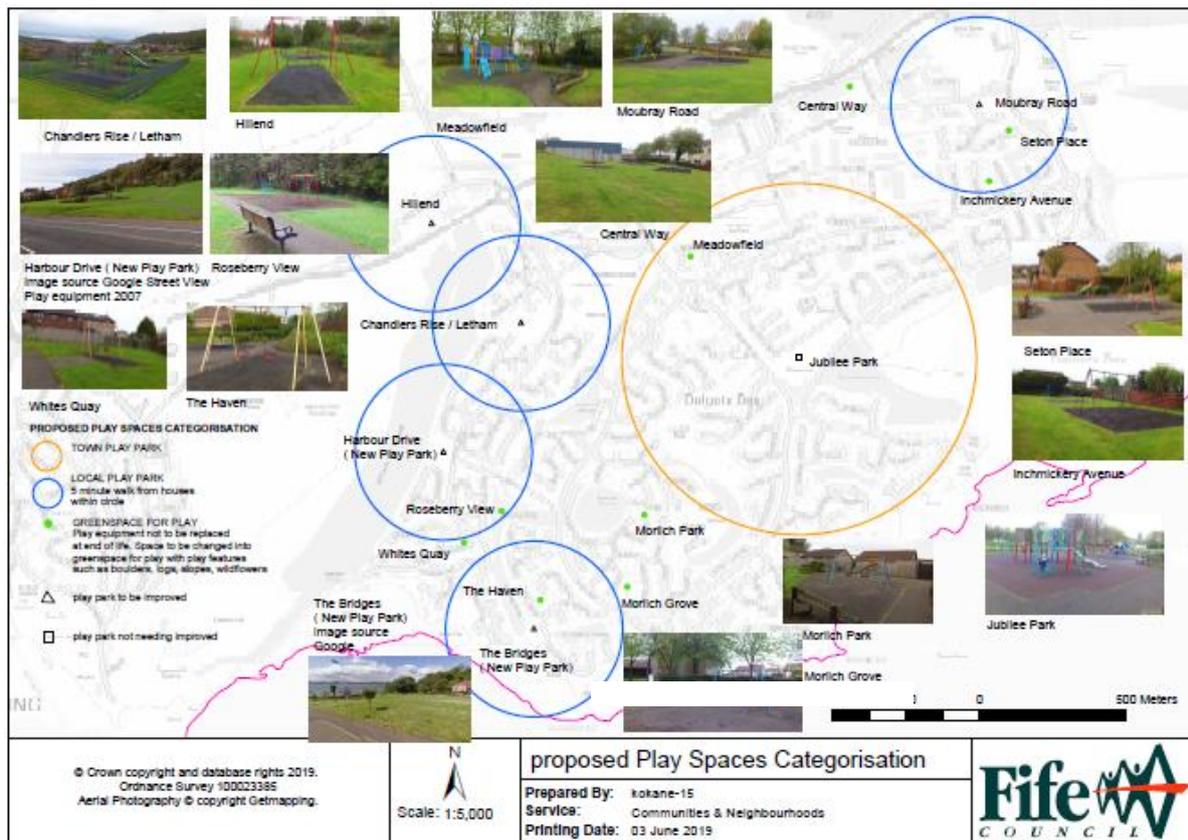
The categorisation is also starting to be applied to Glenrothes. In January 2018 the Glenrothes Area Committee approved investment of £500,000 in eight play parks in order to bring many up to local play park standard. 14 sites are in the process of being changed to greenspaces for play.

Dalgety Bay (population 10,030)

There are currently 13 sites with play equipment in the town. All have fewer than three pieces of equipment.

The strategy, it is proposed to have six well-equipped play parks.

- **One town play park**
- **Five local play parks – including 2 new local play parks**
- **8 Greenspaces for play**

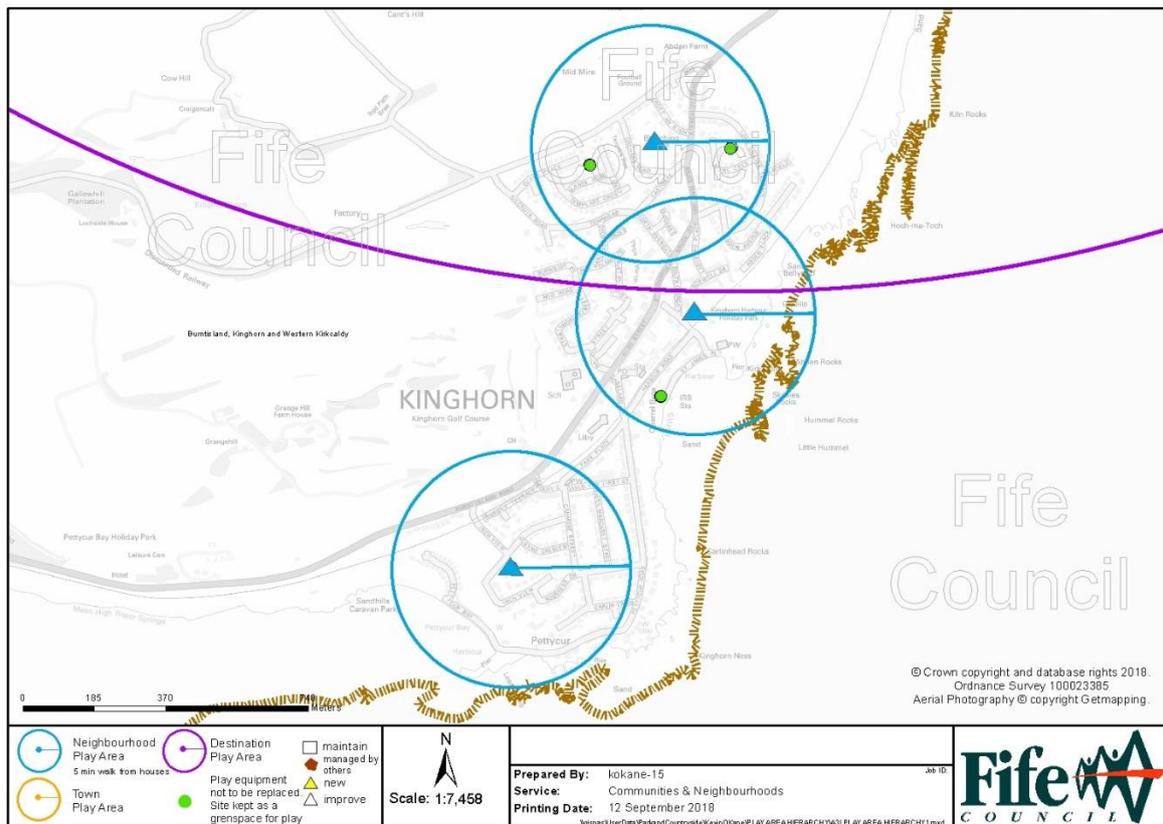


Work has been undertaken with a community group in the town, and funds are being raised to transform the site with play equipment in Jubilee Park into a Town Play Park.

Kinghorn (population 2,930)

There are currently six sites with play equipment in the village. Most of these are not fit for purpose, having only a few pieces aimed at toddlers. We propose:

- **3 Local Play Parks.**
- **3 Greenspaces for play**



4 Play Spaces Strategy

4.1 Vision

That children can play in good quality play spaces. Play parks will have a larger range of equipment for children of different ages and abilities. We want our play spaces to help children to play outdoors more often, which will improve their health and wellbeing.

4.2 Objectives

Objective 1 - Implement the play spaces categorisation

Objective 2 – Create a play spaces network

Objective 3 – Ensure there are greenspaces for play

Objective 4 – Ensure better future provision through land use planning.

Objective 1 – Implement the play spaces categorisation.

The new categorisation of play spaces will be implemented following community consultation in each area. Local provision will be approved by the relevant committee following consultation with elected members.

Objective 2 – Creating a play spaces network

Play spaces are not only located in Fife Council land, and there is a need to work with other providers to design provision across Fife.

In Dunnikier, Kirkcaldy, there is currently no play park in the housing estate. However, there is play equipment in the school grounds.

In private housing developments, there are often play parks that have been funded by residents and that are maintained by factor companies. For example, the Ministry of Defence provide a play park in Leuchars which is accessible to residents of the village.

It is therefore proposed to map all non-Fife Council greenspace play spaces and determine who is responsible for maintaining them, along with their condition. Potential ways of supporting other providers will then be considered.

Objective 3 – Ensure there are greenspaces for play

Non-equipped greenspaces can also be good for play. For example, playing tig, picking a daisy or climbing a tree are all play opportunities that can take place in greenspaces. Building sandcastles on the beach and building dens in woods are also valuable play activities.

The strategy is therefore designed to ensure there are enough play spaces in a short walking distance from homes. It also aims promote play in greenspaces, to increase play activities and ensure that greenspaces are of good quality for play.

Objective 4 - Better future provision through land use planning.

Land use planning has a big impact on play park provision in new housing developments. Decisions taken as part of the land use planning process can have an impact for many years. Many of Fife's existing play parks with fewer than three pieces of equipment were installed because of planning conditions.

For example, in Dalgety Bay all twelve play parks in the town have been provided as a result of planning conditions.

As part of the strategy it will be important to address past decisions. There is a need for better play park provision in new housing developments. Where possible, external contributions will be sought to improve existing play parks.

4.3 Action plan

As this is a draft strategy for consultation, no timescales have been included. These will be included in the final strategy for approval.

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Service will review and update the action plan on an annual basis.

Code	Action	Lead, partners	Timescales
1.1	Produce plan for improving 180 play parks. This will include prioritisation and outline costs for fund raising.	(Lead) Community Projects, Communities and Neighbourhoods Fife Council	
1.2	Produce plan for create 8 new play parks. This will include outline costs for fundraising.	(Lead) Community Projects, Communities and Neighbourhoods Fife Council	
1.3	Produce plan for repurposing 152 existing sites into greenspaces for play. This will include community consultation on redesign and fundraising for improvements.	(Lead) Community Projects, Communities and Neighbourhoods Fife Council	
1.4	Produce procedures for community organisations managing existing Fife Council sites.	(Lead) Community Projects, Communities and Neighbourhoods Fife Council	
2.1	Map all play spaces in Fife.	(Lead) Community Projects, Communities and Neighbourhoods Fife Council	
2.2	Ascertain ownership of all play spaces in Fife.	(Lead) Community Projects Communities and Neighbourhoods Fife Council	
2.3	Assess condition of all play spaces in Fife	(Lead) Community Projects Communities and Neighbourhoods Fife Council	
2.4	Assess provision of both Fife Council and non Fife Council play spaces	Lead) Community Projects Communities and Neighbourhoods Fife Council	
2.5	Establish group with other providers to consider play spaces provision	(Lead) Community Projects, Communities and Neighbourhoods Fife Council	

2.6	Carry out community consultation on all play spaces.	Lead) Community Projects, Communities and Neighbourhoods Fife Council	
3.1	Complete second Greenspace audit	(Lead) Community Projects, Communities and Neighbourhoods Fife Council (Partners) Enterprise, Planning, Protective Services	
3.2	Work with Children in Fife Group to increase play activities in greenspaces	(Lead) Children in Fife Group	
4.1	Produce better procedures and guidance for play spaces provision in new housing and affordable housing developments.	(Lead) Community Projects Communities and Neighbourhoods Fife Council (Partners) Enterprise, Planning, Protective Services	
4.2	Produce revised procedures and guidance for developer contributions for off-site play spaces provision.	(Lead) Community Projects, Communities and Neighbourhoods Fife Council(Partners) Enterprise, Planning, Protective Services	



Photograph courtesy of Play Scotland

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