

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

Parks and Play Strategy1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval to undertake a public consultation on the Council's revised Parks and Play Strategy.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the draft Parks and Play Strategy be approved for public consultation and that, following the consultation, the Strategy and consultation findings be reported to the Policy Overview Working Group (POWG) for consideration prior to being submitted to Cabinet for final approval.

3. Detail

Broxtowe Borough Council is undertaking a review and refresh of its Parks and Play Strategy to ensure it reflects current and future needs across the Borough. The existing strategy (2017–2025) has delivered a programme of improvements; however, changing demographics, evolving legislation, and increasing expectations around accessibility, inclusivity, health and wellbeing, and environmental sustainability require a renewed strategic approach.

The refreshed strategy will play a key role in informing and prioritising the Council's Pride in Parks investment programme. It will provide a clear framework for assessing and prioritising sites across the Borough, identifying areas of deficit, and directing future improvements. The strategy will also consider a range of key themes including accessibility and inclusivity, health and wellbeing, biodiversity and climate resilience, and long-term infrastructure and asset management.

The draft Parks and Play Strategy is attached at **Appendix 2**. This represents a working document which continues to be refined following internal review, and it is anticipated that a further updated version will be presented to Cabinet in due course. To support its development, a public consultation exercise will take place from 22 July to 30 September 2026. The consultation questions are included at **Appendix 1**, and will seek feedback from residents, stakeholders and user groups to inform the final version of the strategy.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed to support the development of the strategy and is attached at **Appendix 3**. This ensures that the strategy considers the needs of all users and supports inclusive access to parks and play spaces across the Borough.

Following the consultation, an updated draft of the strategy will be brought back to the Policy Overview and Working Group in November for fuller consideration. At that stage, the Working Group will be asked to recommend adoption of the strategy to Cabinet, with a view to formal approval in December 2026.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

The proposed consultation questions for the Parks and Play Strategy were considered by POWG. At this stage, feedback was sought on the consultation approach and questions rather than the content of the draft Strategy itself. Members recommended that the consultation period be extended by one month to take account of the summer holiday period and maximise opportunities for participation. Additional consultation questions were suggested and have been incorporated. POWG also identified further locations where paper copies of the consultation materials should be made available to improve accessibility and provided comments on the range of stakeholders who should be contacted and encouraged to take part in the consultation.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications to consider at this stage. Any significant budget implications going forward, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

Legal comments will be provided at the meeting.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

Whilst the consultation does not have any direct climate change implications, it supports the Council's wider objectives in relation to health and wellbeing, as set out in the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy. The promotion and enhancement of parks and play spaces contributes to increased physical activity, improved mental wellbeing, and greater use of green infrastructure, all of which support more sustainable and resilient communities across the Borough.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

Not applicable.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

An equality impact assessment has been completed and is found in **Appendix 3**.

13. Background Papers

Nil