

**Date:** Thursday 9 November 2023 at 4.30 pm

**Venue:** Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library, Stockton-on-Tees,  
TS18 1TU

**Cllr Pauline Beall (Chair)**  
**Cllr Paul Rowling (Vice-Chair)**

Cllr John Coulson  
Cllr Jason French  
Cllr Sylvia Walmsley  
Cllr Sally Ann Watson

Cllr Richard Eglington  
Cllr Barbara Inman  
Cllr Alan Watson

## **AGENDA**

**5 Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility**

To receive information from relevant Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council departments in relation to this scrutiny topic.

(Pages 7 - 46)

**Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting**

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please

Contact: Scrutiny Support Officer Rachel Harrison on email [rachel.harrison@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.harrison@stockton.gov.uk)

**KEY - Declarable interests are:-**

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

**Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance**



**Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation</b>	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
<b>Sponsorship</b>	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
<b>Contracts</b>	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
<b>Land and property</b>	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
<b>Licences</b>	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
<b>Corporate tenancies</b>	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
<b>Securities</b>	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

\* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

\* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

## Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

- a) any unpaid directorships
- b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- c) any body
  - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
  - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
  - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

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## Agenda Item

### Crime and Disorder Select Committee

9 November 2023

## **SCRUTINY REVIEW OF OUTDOOR PLAY PROVISION: QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION, MAINTENANCE, AND PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY**

### **Summary**

The first evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility will comprise opening submissions from relevant Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) departments.

### **Detail**

1. Following agreement of the scope and plan for this review at the last Committee meeting in October 2023, initial presentations from SBC Environment, Leisure and Green Infrastructure and SBC Community Services have been prepared to cover the following:
  - Existing portfolio
  - Classification of play areas: destination, neighbourhood and doorstep
  - Play value
  - Types of informal sport provision
  - Inequalities in provision
  - Inspection and maintenance
  - Risk management
  - Costs associated with inspection and maintenance programme

The presentations are included within these meeting papers.

2. Supplementing the two presentations are maps and lists of existing informal sports facilities and play areas – these are also included within the meeting papers, and larger hard-copies of the two maps will be available for Members during the evidence session for ease of reference.
3. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

**Name of Contact Officer:** Gary Woods

**Post Title:** Senior Scrutiny Officer

**Telephone No:** 01642 526187

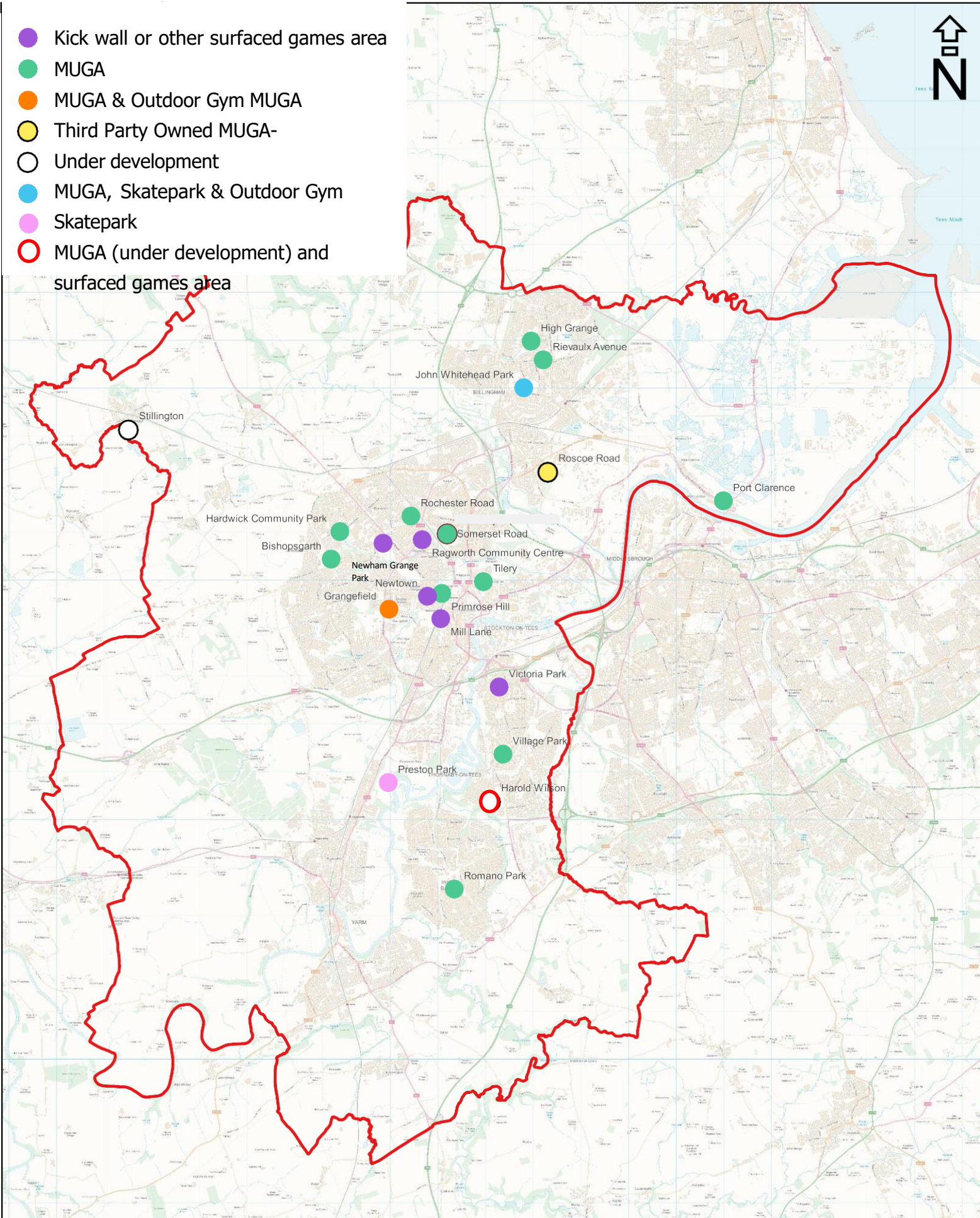
**Email Address:** [gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk)

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- Kick wall or other surfaced games area
- MUGA
- MUGA & Outdoor Gym MUGA
- Third Party Owned MUGA-
- Under development
- MUGA, Skatepark & Outdoor Gym
- Skatepark
- MUGA (under development) and surfaced games area



**Stockton-on-Tees**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Map Produced by Planning and Performance

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council  
Municipal Buildings, Church Road,  
Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1LD  
Telephone: (01642) 393939

Title

Informal Sport Facilities

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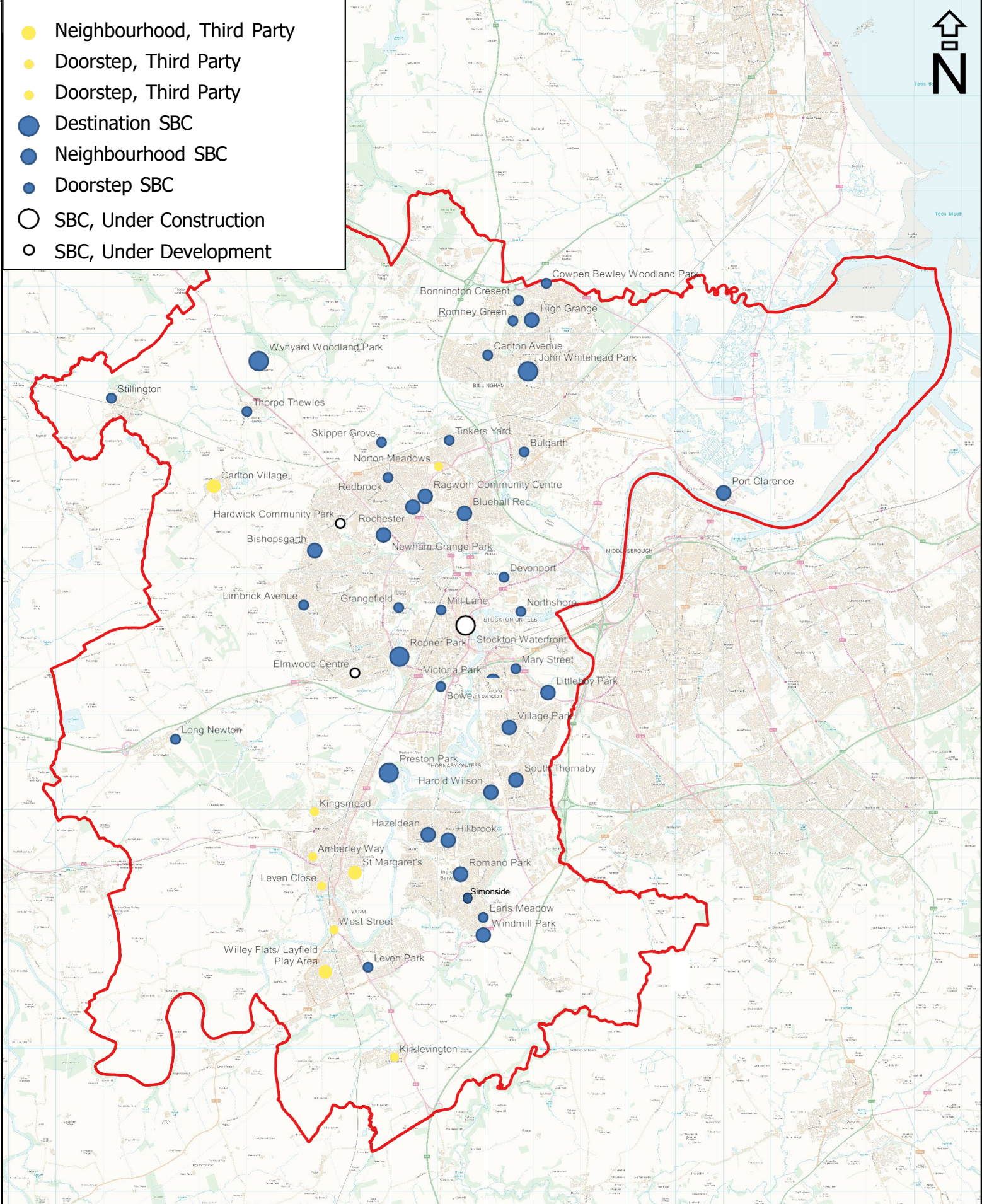
## Informal Sport Facilities (2023)

Location	Type	Owner
Bishopsgarth, Stockton	MUGA	SBC
Grangefield Road Stockton	Muga & Outdoor Gym	SBC
Hardwick Community Park, Stockton	MUGA	SBC
Harold Wilson	MUGA (under development) & other surfaced games area	SBC
High Grange, Billingham	MUGA	SBC
John Whitehead Park, Billingham	MUGA, Skatepark & Outdoor Gym	SBC
Mill Lane, Stockton	Kick wall or other surfaced games area	SBC
Newham Grange Park, Stockton	Kick wall or other surfaced games area	SBC
Newtown, Stockton	Kick wall or other surfaced games area	SBC
Port Clarence, Billingham	MUGA	SBC
Primrose Hill, Stockton	MUGA	SBC
Ragworth Community Centre, Stockton	Kick wall or other surfaced games area	SBC
Rievaulx Avenue, Billingham	MUGA	SBC
Rochester Road, Stockton	MUGA	SBC
Romano Park, Ingleby Barwick	MUGA	SBC
Roscoe Road, Billingham	MUGA	Third party
Somerset Road Norton	MUGA	SBC
Stillington	MUGA (under construction)	SBC
Tilery, Stockton	MUGA	SBC
Victoria Rec, Thornaby	Kick wall or other surfaced games area	SBC
Village Park, Thornaby	MUGA	SBC

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- Neighbourhood, Third Party
- Doorstep, Third Party
- Doorstep, Third Party
- Destination SBC
- Neighbourhood SBC
- Doorstep SBC
- SBC, Under Construction
- SBC, Under Development



Map Produced by Planning and Performance

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council  
 Municipal Buildings, Church Road,  
 Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1LD  
 Telephone: (01642) 393939

Title  
 Play Areas

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## Play Areas (2023)

Name	Ownership	Designation	Play Value (2018 assessments)		
			Toddler	Junior	Teen
Amberley Way	Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe PC	Doorstep	Poor	Poor	N/A
Bishopsgarth	SBC	Neighbourhood	Average	Average	Average
Bluehall Rec	SBC	Neighbourhood	Average	Good	Good
Bowesfield	SBC	Doorstep	Poor	Poor	Poor
Bullgarth	SBC	Doorstep	Poor	Poor	N/A
Carlton Avenue	SBC	Doorstep	Poor	Below Average	Poor
Carlton Village	Carlton PC	Doorstep	Not available		
Cowpen Bewley W'land Park	SBC	Doorstep	Average	Below Average	Average
Devonport	SBC	Doorstep	Improvements made since 2018		
Earls Meadow	SBC	Doorstep	Below Average	Poor	Poor
Elmwood Centre	SBC	Doorstep	Planned for 2023		
Grangefield	SBC	Doorstep	Good	Below Average	Below Average
Hardwick Community Park	SBC	Doorstep	Planned for 2023		
Harold Wilson	SBC	Neighbourhood	Excellent (2023)	Good (2023)	N/A
Hazeldean	SBC	Neighbourhood	Average	Average	Below Average
High Grange	SBC	Neighbourhood	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average
Hillbrook	SBC	Neighbourhood	Below Average	Average	Below Average
John Whitehead Park	SBC	Destination	Good	Excellent	Excellent
Kirklevington	Kirklevington & C Leavington PC	Doorstep	Improvements made since 2018		
Kingsmead	Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe PC	Doorstep	Poor	Poor	Poor
Leven Close	Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe PC	Doorstep	Poor	Poor	Poor
Leven Park	SBC	Doorstep	Average	Average	Average
Limbrick Avenue	SBC	Doorstep	Poor	Poor	poor
Littleboy Park	SBC	Neighbourhood	Good	Average	N/A
Long Newton	SBC	Doorstep	Poor	Poor	Below Average
Mary Street	SBC	Doorstep	N/A	Poor	Poor
Mill Lane	SBC	Doorstep	Below Average	Poor	Poor
Newham Grange Park	SBC	Neighbourhood	Average	Below Average	Below Average
Northshore	SBC	Doorstep	Not available		
Norton Meadows	Developer	Doorstep	Not available		
Port Clarence	SBC	Neighbourhood	Poor	Average	Good
Preston Park	SBC	Destination	Excellent	Excellent	Good
Ragworth Community Centre	SBC	Neighbourhood	Poor	Poor	Poor

Redbrook	SBC	Doorstep	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average
Rochester	SBC	Neighbourhood	N/A	Below Average	Average
Romano	SBC	Neighbourhood	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Romney Green	SBC	Doorstep	Not available		
Ropner Park	SBC	Destination	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Simonside	SBC	Doorstep	Below Average	Poor	Poor
South Thornaby	SBC	Neighbourhood	Poor	Below Average	Below Average
Stillington	SBC	Doorstep	Below Average	Poor	Poor
Stockton Waterfront	SBC	Destination	Planned as part of new park		
St Margaret's	Egglescliffe & Eaglescliffe PC	Neighbourhood	Not available		
Thorpe Thewles	SBC	Doorstep	Below Average	Below Average	Poor
Tinkers Yard	SBC	Doorstep	Constructed since 2018		
Victoria Park	SBC	Neighbourhood	Good (2023)	Good (2023)	Average (2023)
Village Park	SBC	Neighbourhood	Average	Average	Average
West Street	Yarm TC	Doorstep	Poor	Poor	N/A
Windmill Park	SBC	Neighbourhood	Below Average	Average	Below Average
Willey Flatts / Layfield	Yarm TC	Neighbourhood			
Wynyard Woodland Park	SBC	Destination	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent



# Play areas and informal sport facilities – current position

Neil Mitchell – Head of Environment, Leisure & Green Infrastructure



# Introduction

- Existing portfolio
- Classification of play areas: destination, neighbourhood and doorstep
- Play value
- Types of informal sport provision
- Inequalities in provision

# Existing portfolio

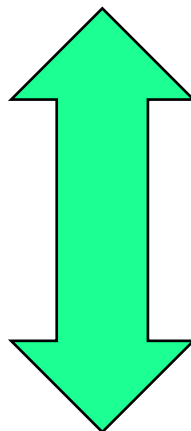
- The Borough currently has 48 publicly accessible play areas, and 20 sites with informal sport facilities (some of these are located at the same sites).
- Stockton Borough Council owns and manages the vast majority of these sites, and also manages 5 sites on behalf of town/parish councils.
- Any facilities not freely accessible to the public (such as those located within school grounds, sports centres or locations such as RSPB Salthome) are not within scope of this review.
- Plans and tables listing all play areas and informal sport facilities across the Borough have been circulated to Committee Members. *Note: these do not include all play areas or informal sport facilities that are planned (or under development) as part of new housing developments*

# Classification of play areas

The Council categorises play areas as follows. These classifications are based mainly on the quantity and size of play equipment, but also take into consideration the provision of other facilities and services:

*Larger sites serving wider catchment areas*

- **Destination**
- **Neighbourhood**
- **Doorstep**



*Smaller sites serving local areas*

# Destination sites

- Sites with a significant quantity of equipment (suitable for a wide range of users, including toddlers, juniors and teenagers)
- Located within parks and generally well-landscaped.
- Refreshments and toilets available at peak times
- Generally located close to other facilities which add to the overall recreational value



Four destination play areas:

- Preston Park (*below*)
- Wynyard Woodland Park (*left*)
- John Whitehead Park
- Ropner Park



# Neighbourhood sites

- Sites with a moderate quantity of equipment (generally suitable for a range of users, which may include toddlers, juniors and teenagers)
- Often located within larger green spaces.
- Preferably with access to toilets and refreshments and close to other facilities which add the other overall recreational value of the site – but this is not essential.



*e.g. Victoria Park, Thornaby*

# Doorstep sites

- Sites with a small quantity of equipment (not suitable for all age ranges, and often designed for younger children).
- May be located within a larger green space, but can be small self-contained sites within housing areas.



*e.g. Grangefield Park*

# Play Value

- ‘Play value’ relates to the quality and variety of the play experience.
- RoSPA has developed a methodology of assessing the play value of any site. This considers the play value of the equipment itself for different age (teenagers / juniors / toddlers), as well as the characteristics and quality of the site itself (e.g. landscape, infrastructure, access).
- Equipment and sites are awarded overall scores: excellent / good / average / below average / poor.
- Play Value scores for most locations are included in the list of play areas circulated to Committee Members. However, please note that most of these assessments were carried out in 2018 and may not reflect any changes that have occurred since that date. If Play Value is to be used to inform future decision-making then updated assessments would be required



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# Types of informal sport provision



*Skate park – Preston Park*



*Outdoor gym - Grangefield Park*



*Multi-use games area (MUGA) – John Whitehead Park*



*Other surfaced games area – Victoria Park*

## Page 26 Inequalities in provision – why?

- Many sites have been provided as part of housing developments (or improved with Section 106 contributions). Areas of the Borough where housing development has not taken place have not benefitted in this way.
- The last major Borough-wide investment in play provision was through the government's Play Builder programme, launched in 2008. Schemes were agreed in consultation with ward councillors and local community organisations, but not all areas benefitted from this investment.
- Some Town / Parish Councils have been proactive in supporting the development and management of play provision in their local areas.

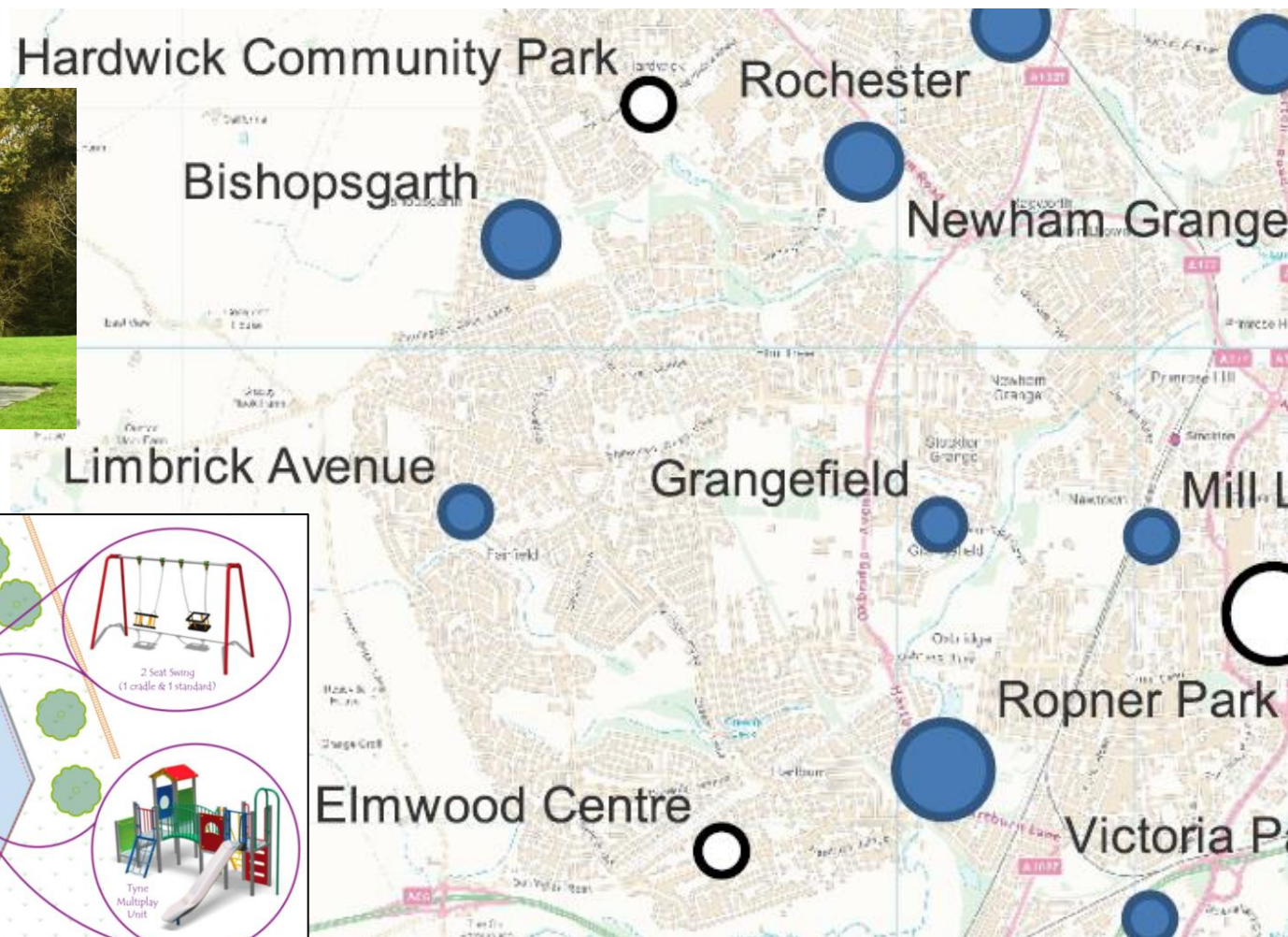
# Inequalities in provision, e.g. South Billingham

The Bulgarth is currently the only play area in south Billingham, comprising just one piece of equipment

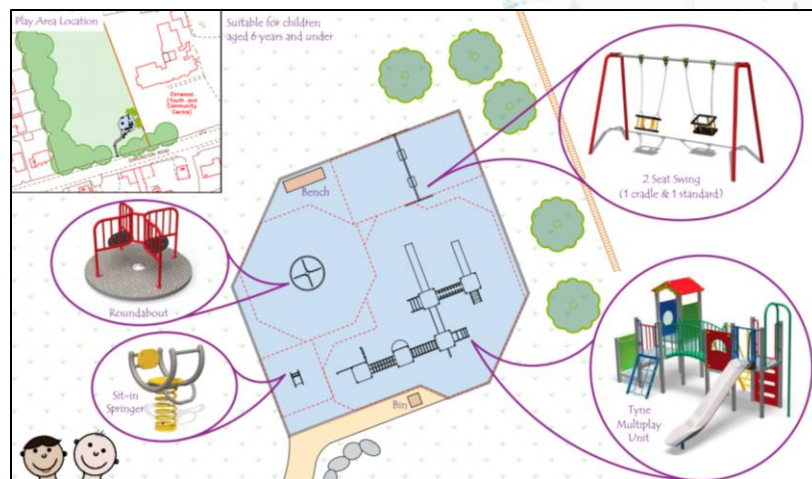


# Inequalities in provision, e.g. West Stockton

Currently the only play provision in Fairfield and Hartburn wards is this single slide at Limbrick Avenue



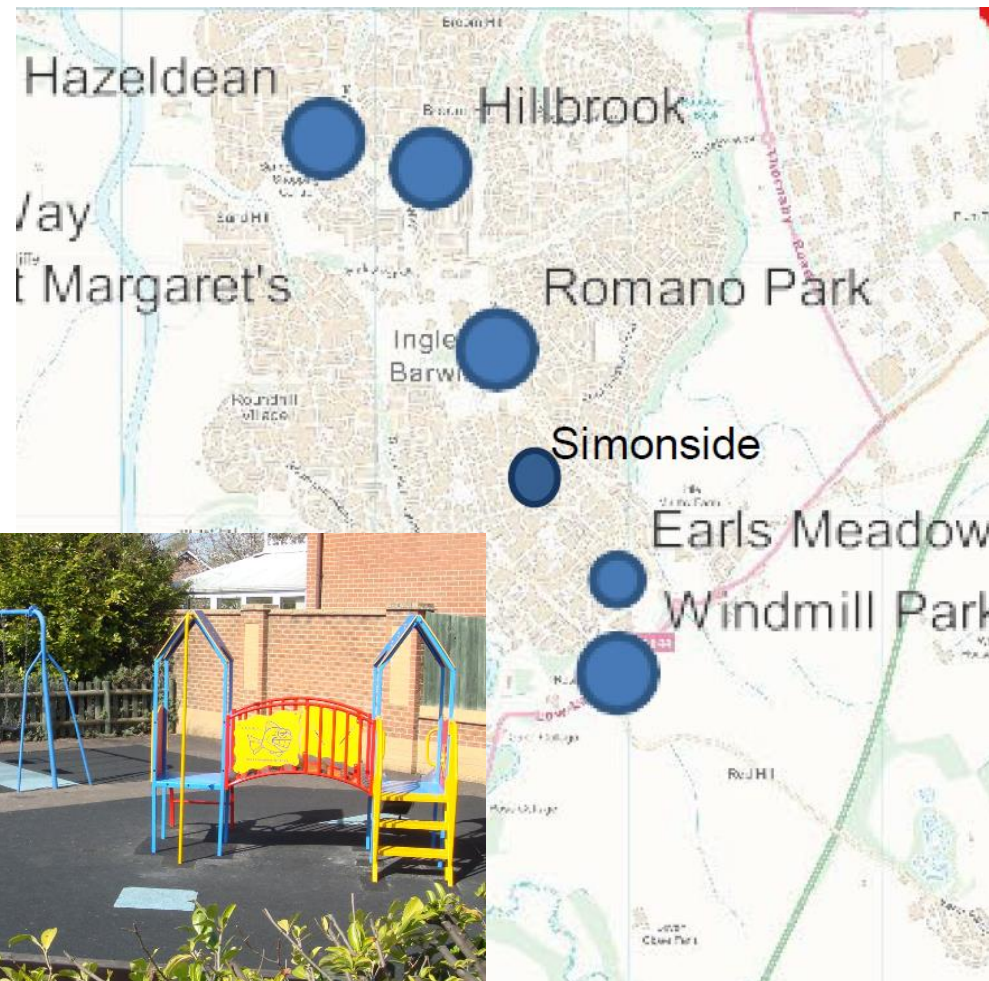
However, a small 'doorstep' play area is planned for the Elmwood Centre, Hartburn



# Inequalities in provision, e.g. Ingleby Barwick

In contrast to the preceding illustrations, Ingleby Barwick is reasonably well provided.

The south-east has a cluster of sites, ranging from 'neighbourhood' play areas at Romano Park (*left*) and Windmill Park (*centre*), through to the small 'doorstep' sites – such as Earls Meadow (*right*).



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# Welcome

- **Andie Mackay** – Construction & Facility Services Manager.
- **Steve Bowerbank** – Asset Manager.
- **Keith Jackson** – Senior Technician.

# Why do we Inspect and Maintain ?

- **Playground inspections are recommended to ensure that the playground equipment remains safe and compliant with relevant standards.**



# Why do we Inspect and Maintain ?

- **Legal Requirements:**

- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974
- Management of Health & Safety at Work Reg 1999
- Occupier's Liability Act (Revised 1984)

# Why do we Inspect and Maintain?

(Best Practice)

- **EN 1176** – Playground Equipment Standard
  - Equipment not safe then public access should be prevented.
  - Equipment must be inspected and maintained.
  - Inspection records maintained for 21 years.
- **EN1177** – Safety Surfaces Standard
  - “Impact Absorbing” Playground Surfaces.



# Stockton Councils Aim

- **Comply with the Playground Inspection & Maintenance Policy.**
- **Provide and Maintain High Quality - recreational playground facilities.**
- **Provide funding each year to meet Maintenance requirements where possible.**

# Inspections

- **Scheduled Routine (visual) Inspections, Weekly/Fortnightly.**
- **Scheduled Detailed Inspections, Quarterly.**
- **Reactive Inspections, As and when required.**
- **Independent Inspections, Annual.**

# Risk Management

Management procedure for determining the level of risk can be shown in the form of the risk matrix below.

Probability	Very Low (1)	Low (2)	Medium (3)	High (4)
Impact				
Negligible (1)	1	2	3	4
Low (2)	2	4	6	8
Noticeable (3)	3	6	9	12
High (4)	4	8	12	16

Response	Category	Category	Category	Category
Category	2 (L) response	2(M) response	2(H) response	1 response

# Budget Financial Pressures Today

- **The Annual Budget allocation is £114,000.**
- **Covers - Parks, Open Spaces, Cemeteries, and Allotments**
- **Current Spend to date – £83,000**
- **Outstanding Work to do - £92,000**

# Playground Summary

- **Inspect and Maintain to Policy.**
- **No Replacement Funding.**
- **Maintain within Budget.**
- **Manage Risk by repair or removal if necessary.**

# Any Questions



<b>Crime and Disorder Select Committee</b>
<b>Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility</b>
<b>Outline Scope</b>

<b>Scrutiny Chair (Project Director):</b> Cllr Pauline Beall	<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:pauline.beall@stockton.gov.uk">pauline.beall@stockton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager):</b> Gary Woods	<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk">gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk</a> 01642 526187
<b>Departmental Link Officer:</b> Neil Mitchell (SBC Head of Environment, Leisure & Green Infrastructure)	<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:neil.mitchell@stockton.gov.uk">neil.mitchell@stockton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?</b>	
<p>The review will contribute to the following Council Plan 2023-2026 key objectives (and associated 2023-2024 priorities):</p> <p><i>A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop and enhance provision and support for children and young people with additional needs or accessing alternative provision.</li> <li>• Support people to live healthy lives and address health inequalities through a focus on early prevention, long-term conditions, substance misuse, smoking, obesity, physical activity and mental health.</li> <li>• Work with our communities and partners to develop our approach to healthy places, in the context of regeneration plans and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.</li> </ul>	
<b>What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?</b>	
<p>It is widely accepted that play is an essential part of every child's life and is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. Play facilities are therefore seen as an essential element to allow people to live healthy lives and help ensure activity is established at an early age, thus reducing long-term health conditions.</p> <p>Previous analysis has indicated that outdoor play provision is uneven across the Borough, with significant variations in the play value, age and accessibility of equipment and sites. Many older play areas are in decline and, as is being felt by Local Authorities up and down the country, there is insufficient budget to maintain all the current sites.</p> <p>In terms of new sites, the majority of these are established through planning obligations and consequently increase provision in areas where new development is taking place. Conversely, there are limited opportunities to establish or improve play areas in existing residential areas. In either case, it should be noted that all sites are subject to challenge relating to accessibility and play value.</p>	

Play areas can be an emotive topic and have elicited a range of comments (both positive and negative) from the public with regards the existing offer. Like so many other Council-related activities, balancing public expectation with the realities of deepening Local Authority funding pressures is becoming an increasing challenge. There is a well-established need to maintain an effective portfolio of high-quality play area assets within the Borough's communities, but this must be sustainable, provide value-for-money, and be accessible to as many people as is feasibly possible.

The main aims for this review will be to:

- Examine the Borough's existing outdoor play offer in terms of play value and distribution, and identify locations where there is currently an imbalance in provision.
- Ascertain who is responsible for individual facilities and what the management / maintenance and sustainability requirements are now, and are likely to be in the future (including revenue costs).
- Consider accessibility / inclusivity factors in relation to play provision so practical and financial implications are understood and factored into decisions around existing and future plans.
- Contribute to future policy around play area provision, giving an appraisal of potential options.

**The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:**

What is meant by the term 'outdoor play provision' – what does this encompass (what does it not)?

How is 'meaningful play' determined – what are its characteristics and how does / should this impact upon play provision?

Are there any legislative requirements around outdoor play provision?

What is the Borough's existing outdoor play offer – where are these sites located, what do they provide, what is their play value, and where are the identified gaps in provision?

How should the provision of major new play facilities planned for Stockton Waterfront influence decisions around the distribution and management of play provision elsewhere in the Borough, and will it have any impact on budgets to maintain existing facilities?

How are existing sites managed / maintained and what is the cost of this to the Council? How has this changed over time and what are the future projections based on the current offer?

What is the process around new play provision created as part of new developments? What are the responsibilities of developers and the Council, how does this change over time, and what are the implications of this?

What are the accessibility / inclusivity requirements around outdoor play sites? Has the Council been challenged regarding this and what is realistically achievable in the context of available space and financial constraints?

What feedback has been received from the public regarding outdoor play provision?

Can we learn anything from other Local Authorities who are likely to be wrestling with similar challenges regarding outdoor play provision?

What are the potential future options around outdoor play provision (including alternative funding possibilities)? How does / might this feed into key corporate policies such as Fairer Stockton-on-Tees / Powering Our Communities?

**Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?**

Council, Cabinet, developers, public.

**Expected duration of review and key milestones:**

5 months (report to Cabinet in April 2024)

**What information do we need?**

Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):

- SBC review of outdoor play and informal sport provision (2019)
- RoSPA Play Value Assessments (available for specific play area sites in the Borough)
- Resources available from the charity Play England: [www.playengland.org.uk](http://www.playengland.org.uk)

*Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)*

*What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?*

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

- Environment, Leisure & Green Infrastructure
- Care For Your Area
- Town Centres Development
- Planning / Place Development

- 'Outdoor play' terminology / definitions
- Existing outdoor play provision offer
- Process / implications of new sites
- Maintenance of existing assets
- Plans for play provision in town centres
- Role of these SBC teams around this topic

Association of Play Industries (API)

- Equal play campaign
- Best practice / Local Authority engagement

RoSPA

- Safety and management of play areas
- Previous analysis of the Borough's offer

Play England

- Design / Quality in Play approaches

Stockton Parent Carer Forum

- Resident views on the existing play area offer

Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF)

- Young people views on existing provision

Local Government Association (LGA) / Other Local Authorities

- Experience of this issue

<p><b>How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)</b></p> <p>Committee meetings, reports, research, site visits (TBC).</p>
<p><b>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</b></p> <p>Committee meetings, information submissions.</p>
<p><b>How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?</b></p> <p>The Public Sector Equality Duty requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. This review will be mindful of these factors.</p>
<p><b>How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?</b></p> <p><u>Stockton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): Physical inactivity:</u> recommended levels of physical activity significantly worse than the national average; specific sectors of the community less physically active than the general population; not all residents derive the same level of physical activity opportunities from the Borough's outdoor public spaces due to variations in quality, quantity, accessibility and connectivity (Dec 2018).</p> <p><u>Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023: All people in Stockton-on-Tees live well and live longer.</u> We know that socio-economic and environmental factors influence health-related behaviours. Therefore working with partners to shape the infrastructure across the Borough which can impact on whether or not a healthy lifestyle is an easy and accessible choice is key.</p> <p><u>All people in Stockton-on-Tees live in healthy places and sustainable communities:</u> We know that a range of factors including; good housing, warm homes, access to green space and healthy food, opportunities for physical activity, good transport links, air quality, antisocial behaviour and crime are all linked to physical, mental health and wellbeing outcomes. Planning policies and subsequent decisions can have a significant impact on health and wellbeing through the design of neighbourhoods, buildings and public space in the way they encourage people to be socially integrated, physically active or limit the growth of take-away and alcohol outlets.</p>
<p><b>Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clear strategic guidance upon the development of new play facilities and priorities and rationalisation of existing play provision.</li><li>• Budgetary provision for maintenance of play provision is proportionate to the number of play areas that are retained.</li></ul>

<b>Project Plan</b>
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<b>Key Task</b>	<b>Details/Activities</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>Scoping of Review</b>	Information gathering	<b>September 2023</b>	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	<b>09.10.23</b>	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
<b>Agree Project Plan</b>	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	<b>19.10.23</b>	Select Committee
<b>Publicity of Review</b>	Determine whether Communications Plan needed	<b>TBC</b>	Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
<b>Obtaining Evidence</b>	SBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment, Leisure &amp; Green Infrastructure</li> <li>Community Services</li> </ul> SBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusive Growth and Development (Planning / Place Development)</li> <li>Town Centres Dev.</li> </ul> TBC	<b>09.11.23</b>  <b>21.12.23</b>  <b>25.01.24</b>	Select Committee
<b>Members decide recommendations and findings</b>	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	<b>22.02.24</b>	Select Committee
<b>Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders</b>	Circulation of Report	<b>February 2024</b>	Scrutiny Officer
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	<b>TBC</b>	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
<b>Final Agreement of Report</b>	Approval of final report by Committee	<b>21.03.24</b>	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
<b>Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee</b>	Consideration of report	<b>[07.05.24]</b>	Executive Scrutiny Committee
<b>Report to Cabinet / Approving Body</b>	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	<b>18.04.24</b>	Cabinet / Approving Body

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