

MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 18 September 2023

Title of Motion:

Recognizing the Importance of Outdoor Play in Child Development and the Need for a City-Wide Play Strategy

Motion Narrative and Action Required:

This Council notes that:

- A central aim of our current Corporate Plan is 'to make Plymouth a great place to grow up and grow old'
- Outdoor play is crucial for children's overall development, fostering physical fitness, cognitive abilities, social skills, and emotional well-being. It promotes creativity, problem-solving, and resilience, while also encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle.
- Plymouth currently benefits from over 125 play parks, which cater to diverse age groups and offer various types of play equipment. These play areas are an essential community asset, contributing to the well-being of children and families across the city.
- There is a need to build upon legacy schemes (Improving Plymouth Play and Improving Outdoor Play Programme) to ensure that we continue to improve and expand outdoor play opportunities for all children in Plymouth.

This Council notes that by adopting a city-wide play strategy:

- Plymouth City Council would reaffirm its commitment to prioritise outdoor play as a key component of child development and well-being. And;
- By demonstrating a comprehensive and well-considered city-wide play strategy, the Council can attract external funding from various sources, maximizing the potential for investment in new and existing play facilities.

Therefore, this Council resolves that a Plymouth-wide play strategy is established and published by the end of January 2024, with this action being included in the work programme of the relevant scrutiny committee.

The strategy should, amongst other aims:

- Reaffirm our commitment to play in the Plymouth;
- Set out our priorities for continuing to improve the quality of current and future play opportunities in Plymouth;
- Highlight the links between play and other local and national policies and strategies for improving outcomes for our children and young people;
- Outline the case to ensure that adequate attention and resources are allocated to maintain and enhance existing play areas while creating new ones where necessary;

- Be informed by children's voices. Their voices, preferences, and ideas are crucial in creating play spaces that truly meet their needs and reflect their aspirations. As such, the strategy should incorporate mechanisms for meaningful engagement with children and their responsible adults, such as consultations, surveys, and involvement in decision-making processes.

Proposer: Cllr Lauren McLay

Seconder: Cllr Ian Poyser