



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

MID ULSTER

Position Paper Seven

Open Space, Recreation and Leisure

2 June 2015

Open Space, Recreation and Leisure

Purpose: To provide the Council with an overview of matters relating to open space, recreation and leisure and implications for land use in the Mid Ulster District. To provide information to help determine the need to formulate an open space strategy to provide adequate provision for green and blue infrastructure in towns, neighbourhoods and new developments.

Content: The paper provides:

- (i) The regional policy context for recreation and leisure in the Mid Ulster Area
- (ii) A review of the existing area plans and masterplans
- (iii) An assessment of existing open space provision and the future needs of the council area over the plan period

Recommendation: That the Council notes the findings and considers how this preparatory study shall be used to inform subsequent policies and proposals in the Local Development Plan.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform the Mid Ulster District Council on the provision of open space, recreation and leisure in the council area and the future needs of the council area to 2030. The paper sets out the regional policy context for open space, recreation and leisure and examines initial responses from various public bodies with a responsibility for these topic areas. Consideration of indoor leisure activities is also provided. Other less formal, passive complementary areas of open space in the Mid Ulster District such as woodlands, historic parks, gardens and demesnes are also considered in so far as they also contribute to the overall provision of areas of open space, recreation and leisure in Mid Ulster. This includes an assessment of existing open space provision against the Fields in Trust (National Playing Fields Association- NPFA) recommended minimum standard for playing pitches and children's play areas. Consideration of indoor leisure activities is also provided within the paper. In conclusion options for the plan strategy for open space, recreation and leisure are considered and the key tasks for the LDP are set

2.0 Open Space, Recreation and Leisure

2.1 Open space is defined in Planning Policy Statement 8 (PPS 8), Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation as:

“all open space of public value, including not just land, but also inland bodies of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as a visual amenity.”

2.2 Open space, sport and outdoor recreation are important components of life providing many cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits. Open space can enhance the character of residential areas, civic buildings, conservation areas, and archaeological sites. It can also help to attract business and tourism and thereby contribute to the process of urban regeneration. The use being made of the countryside for a range of sporting and outdoor recreational activities, particularly where these are associated with farm diversification, can contribute to the process of rural regeneration and help promote natural resource tourism.

2.3 Sport is defined as “all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels”. This paper focuses mainly on outdoor recreation, but it also briefly considers provision of both current and future forms of indoor recreation in the Mid Ulster District.

2.4 District Councils are obliged to make provision for recreational facilities under the Recreation and Youth Service Order 1986. There are a number of other bodies who contribute to the provision of such facilities. These include the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), the Education and Library Boards (Education Authority).

Table 1: Benefits of Sport in Northern Ireland

Growing the Economy	<p>In 2010, Sport NI commissioned the Sport Industry Research Centre to re-assess the economic contribution of sport. The picture of NI is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer's expenditure on sport in 2008 was £688m. This represents an increase of 54% over the 2004 figure. • Sport and associated industries are estimated to employ in excess of 17,900 people corresponding to 2.3% of total employment in the region. • Furthermore, the gross value added of 2.3% is greater than that of a similar UK region, North West England (1.7%) and North East England (2.0%).
Public Health & Well Being	<p>Sport can play a vital role in improving public health and wellbeing. Evidence suggest regular participation in sport and physical activity can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the reduction of illnesses; such as diabetes, some types of cancer, osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease • Promote mental well-being; having a positive effect on anxiety, depression, mood and emotion and self-esteem • Help tackle obesity; obesity has become a major public health concern, not only in Northern Ireland, but globally. Rising levels of obesity rates, particularly among children has led the situation being described as an "epidemic".
Community Cohesion & Social Inclusion	<p>In recent years recognition has grown of the 'added value' that sport can bring to communities, promoting social inclusion, contributing to stronger communities and as a key generator of social capital. Sporting activities and events can contribute to the development of stronger social networks and more cohesive communities by providing opportunities for social interaction, which strengthens community involvement, identity and civic pride. When there is an affinity with a team or individual the power of sport makes people feel good and a sense of sharing in the success of others from their country, county, town or community, which can be celebrated collectively</p>
Improving Northern Ireland's Image	<p>NI is striving to improve its image at home and abroad following decades of civil and political unrest. Government is using a range of initiatives set in the context of a broader vision for a more sustainable, cohesive and prosperous society, which, in turn offers the visitor a world-class experience.</p> <p>Sports events and activity tourism provide numerous opportunities for promoting NI as a flourishing society, proud of its cultural identity. Major sporting events such as London 2012 Pre Games Training Camps (2011/2012) World Police and Fire Games (2013) and Giro D'Italia Big Start (2014) have all attracted international competitors, spectators, officials and media coverage.</p>

Source: Sport NI Response to Proposed 2015-16 Exchequer Budget Reductions

3.0 Regional Policy Context

- 3.1** The Regional Policy Context is provided by the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035, the draft Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and Regional Planning Policy Statements. A summary of these documents as they

pertain to plan making in relation to open space, recreation and leisure development is provided in the following sections.

(a) The Regional Development Strategy 2035

- 3.2** The RDS highlights the need to provide adequate provision for green and blue infrastructure in cities, towns, neighbourhoods and new developments. The RDS sets out clear policy aims and objectives regarding open space, recreation and leisure including:

Table 2: RDS Aims and Objectives:

<p><u>Policy RG 7:</u> Support urban and rural renaissance. The RDS recognises that regeneration is necessary to create more accessible, vibrant city and town centres which offer people more local choice for shopping, social activity and recreation. It aims to ensure that environmental quality in urban areas is improved and maintained, particularly with adequate provision of green infrastructure. Part of the process of urban and rural renaissance requires even greater significance being given to the design and management of the public realm. It is important to promote recreational space within cities, towns and neighbourhoods, and new developments or plans should make provision for adequate green and blue infrastructure. This is important near designated nature-conservation sites as it will help reduce recreational pressures on these sites.</p>
<p><u>Policy RG 11:</u> Conserve, protect and where possible, enhance our built and natural heritage. The policy recognises that built heritage is a key tourism and recreational asset and that it makes a valuable contribution to the environment, economy and society. Regarding built heritage the key policy aim is to identify, protect and conserve the built heritage and maintain the integrity of built heritage assets including historic landscapes. With regard to the natural heritage the key aim is to sustain and enhance biodiversity, protect and encourage green and blue infrastructure¹ within urban areas, and conserve, protect and enhance areas recognised for their landscape quality. This policy aims to identify, establish, protect and manage ecological networks. It states that such networks could also be of amenity value if linked to the green infrastructure provided by walking and cycling routes to heritage and other recreational interest. This policy also considers the establishment of one or more National Parks which would conserve and enhance the natural, built and cultural heritage of areas of outstanding landscape value while promoting the social and economic development of the communities they support.</p>
<p><u>Policy SFG 13:</u> Sustain rural communities living in smaller settlements and the open countryside. This includes establishing the role of multi-functional town centres for business, housing, administration, leisure and cultural facilities for both urban and rural communities.</p>

¹ Green and blue infrastructure is defined by the European Commission as “the use of ecosystems, green spaces, and water in strategic land use planning to deliver environmental and quality of life benefits”

(b) Draft Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)

- 3.3** A draft SPPS was launched for consultation in February 2014 and is intended to combine 20 different planning policy statements into one policy. One of the SPPS's core planning principles includes improving health and well-being. This is a key priority of the Northern Ireland Executive and this is reflected in the Programme for Government 2011-2015 and in the RDS 2035. The draft SPPS contains objectives in respect of open space, recreation and leisure and sets out the considerations that councils may wish to pursue in the preparation of LDPs. The land use planning system can therefore play an active role in improving the lives of people and communities in Northern Ireland.

Table 3: SPPS Policy Objectives

Policy Objectives:

- safeguard existing open space and sites identified for future such provision;
- ensure that areas of open space are provided as an integral part of new residential development and that appropriate arrangements are made for their management and maintenance in perpetuity;
- facilitate appropriate outdoor recreational activities in the countryside;
- ensure that new open space areas and sporting facilities are convenient and accessible for all sections of society, particularly children, the elderly and those with disabilities;
- achieve high standards of siting, design and landscaping for all new open space areas and sporting facilities; and
- ensure that the provision of new open space areas and sporting facilities is in keeping with the principles of environmental conservation and helps sustain and enhance biodiversity.

LDP preparation: Councils should make adequate provision for green and blue infrastructure in their local assessment of existing open space provision and future needs, and by liaising with other interested bodies such as the Sports Council.

Councils should undertake a survey of existing open spaces, public and private, identifying the different needs they serve, focusing on open spaces within or adjoining urban areas, but can include outdoor recreational facilities in the countryside.

Councils should assess existing provision against the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) recommended minimum standard of 2.4 hectares of 'outdoor playing space' per 1000 population (commonly referred to as the '6 acre standard'). Within the assessment consider the level of 'outdoor playing space' provision in the plan area, and the distribution and accessibility of such land use. Account of the provision and role of other forms of open space and the availability of indoor sports facilities should also be taken. The distribution and accessibility of such spaces and facilities together with the amenity value, environmental assets and linkages they may provide will be important considerations.

LDPs should identify existing open space provision (and any proposals for future development of these areas). A general policy presumption against the loss of open space to competing land uses should be applied. Areas of open space

which perform a strategic function such as community greenways and landscape wedges in urban areas should be identified and designated.

Zonings for future needs should take into account the following:

- Accessibility to and from existing and proposed housing areas.
- The potential for any detrimental impact on biodiversity or on sensitive environmental areas and features.
- The contribution that open space can make to the quality of the environment and community life.
- the importance of protecting linear open spaces such as pedestrian and cycle routes, community greenways, former railway lines and river and canal corridors many of which are valuable in linking larger areas of open space.

Where appropriate, key site requirements for zoned residential land should include guidance on the provision of areas of public open space as an integral part of the development.

Where residential zonings occur in close proximity to existing or zoned open space, plans will normally provide guidance on the need for linkages between the development and these areas in order to facilitate ease of access. LDPs should bring forward policy to require new residential development of an appropriate scale (generally 25 or more units, or on sites of one hectare) to provide adequate and well-designed open space as an integral part of the development. LDPs should also ensure a suitable mechanism is in place to secure the future management and maintenance of open space in new residential developments.

Outdoor Recreation in the countryside: LDP's should contain policy for the consideration of development proposals for outdoor recreation in the countryside. In doing so councils should have regard to a range of issues including:

- Visual and residential amenity.
- Public safety, including road safety.
- Impact on nature conservation, landscape character, archaeology or built heritage.
- Accessibility.

Intensive Sports Facilities: Local planning policy should require as a principle that such facilities are located within settlements in order to maximise the use of existing infrastructure. As an exception this policy may allow for a sports stadium outside of a settlement, but only where clear criteria is established which can justify a departure from this approach.

(c) Existing Planning Policy Statements

- 3.4** The following Planning Policy Statements (PPS's) provide the planning policy context for open space, recreation and leisure. The key issues are addressed in Table 4.

Table 4: PPS's Key Objectives

<p><u>PPS 2: Natural Heritage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to seek to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage • to further sustainable development by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, economic and environmental development • to assist in meeting international (including European), national and local responsibilities and obligations in the protection and enhancement of the natural heritage • to contribute to rural renewal and urban regeneration by ensuring developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment • to protect and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity and the environment
<p><u>PPS 7: Quality Residential Environments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure quality in residential development adequate provision should be made for public and private open space and landscaped areas as an integral part of the development.
<p><u>PPS 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to safeguard existing open space and sites identified for future such provision • to ensure that areas of open space are provided as an integral part of new residential development and that appropriate arrangements are made for their management and maintenance in perpetuity • to facilitate appropriate outdoor recreational activities in the countryside • to ensure that new open space areas and sporting facilities are convenient and accessible for all sections of society, particularly children, the elderly and those with disabilities • to achieve high standards of siting, design and landscaping for all new open space areas and sporting facilities • to ensure that the provision of new open space areas and sporting facilities is in keeping with the principles of environmental conservation and helps sustain and enhance biodiversity
<p><u>PPS 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LDP should play a key role in identifying the countryside assets of different parts of the region and balancing the needs of rural areas/communities with protection of the environment. This is facilitated by the preparation of Countryside Assessments. Arising from the process of Countryside Assessment local policies may be brought forward in the development plan to complement or amplify regional policies on matters specific to the local circumstances of particular countryside areas e.g. Areas of High Scenic Value. This will involve local communities and the public.

4.0 Existing Area Plans covering Mid Ulster

- 4.1** The Area Plans for Cookstown, Magherafelt and Dungannon are the statutory plans for the Mid Ulster District and provide the framework against which to

assess development proposals. The three main towns also have their own specific Town Centre Masterplans which were completed by the Department of Social Development (DSD) in conjunction with the local council and are concerned with urban regeneration initiatives in each respective town centre.

- 4.2 Policies within the respective development plans, which are related to recreation and open space provision, are laid out below, as well as relevant information contained within each town centre master plan.

Cookstown Area Plan 2010 (CAP 2010)

- 4.3 The CAP states that the provision of informal open space, particularly parkland is widespread. Pomeroy forest, Drum Manor, Wellbrook Beetling Mill and the Loughshore at Ballyronan are identified as being of particular importance. Throughout the remainder of the district, further informal recreation facilities exist in association with the natural resources of the area such as rivers, lakes, heritage sites, and disused railway tracks. The district is also rich in terms of its potential for the further development of outdoor activities such as sailing, angling and walking, with the Ballyinderry River, the Sperrins and Lough Neagh providing the major natural resources.

The CAP contains the following policies related to recreation and leisure development:

- 4.4 Plan Policy ROS 1-Recreation and Open Space Zonings:

This policy zoned 4.1 hectares of land for open space and outdoor recreational use in Cookstown. The site at Ballinderry River, Cabin wood, has been developed in partnership with Woodland trust for public access. A 31 hectare site is also zoned at Loughry College, which is suitable for the provision of an outdoors sports complex. This site has been developed as the Mid Ulster Sports Arena.

- 4.5 Plan Policy ARGI 1- Community Woodlands:

Community woodlands were to be established at Dunman, Killymoon and Desertcreat. These woodlands would provide a source of informal recreation, tranquillity and quiet enjoyment for local people. The site contributes to woodland diversity and increase the area of new native woodland. These three community woodlands are established and provide public access.

- 4.6 Plan Policy TRAN 4- Walkways / Cycleways and Routes to Schools:

A network of walkways / cycleways and routes to Schools were identified in Cookstown.

Cookstown Town Centre Masterplan (May 2012)

- 4.7 The masterplan identified a number of regeneration objectives which included:
- Building upon the arts, leisure and entertainment sectors to increase footfall and the vitality of the town centre
 - Cycle provision programme and safer routes to schools to improve permeability and accessibility.

Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan (DSTAP 2010)

- 4.8** The DSTAP states that informal open space in Dungannon is provided by Dungannon Park and Woodmill Wood. Parkenaur Forest and Peatlands Park in the countryside are of particular importance. Further informal recreation facilities exist such as rivers, lakes and heritage sites. The Clogher and Blackwater valleys and Lough Neagh are identified as major natural resources. Major areas of existing open space and recreation, such as parks, playing fields and school facilities are shown for information. The DSTAP states that all existing open space shall be safeguarded for open space and outdoor recreational use in accordance with PPS 8. Policies within the DSTAP include:

4.9 Plan Policy ROS 1- recreation and Open Space Zonings:

A site for recreation and open space is zoned at Castle Hill, Dungannon. The Council undertook a major capital project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council for NI, to provide a town centre heritage park on the site of O'Neill's castle and a new all-purpose arts and exhibition centre in the old Belfast Bank Building, now renamed as Ranfurly House. Works included landscaping the park and building an extension to Ranfurly House providing a direct access to the park from Market Square. Works are ongoing at this site.

4.10 Plan Policy TRAN 3-Pedestrian and Cycling Routes:

Pedestrian and cycling routes are identified throughout the Borough to promote these sustainable forms of movement and in recognition of the wider recreational and health benefits.

4.11 Plan Policy ARG 1- Community Woodlands:

Community woodlands were to be established in Dungannon at Dunlea Vale and Roskeen Road and adjacent to Gortgonis playing fields in Coalisland.

Dungannon Town Centre Masterplan

- 4.12** The masterplan identified an aim to enhance tourism and recreation product development and promotion. This included Castle hill Redevelopment and a review of the current cultural / sport programme for the town. Works at the Castle Hill Redevelopment are ongoing however a review of the cultural / sport programme for the town is ongoing.

Magherafelt Area Plan 2015 (MAP 2015)

- 4.13** The MAP 2015 states that the natural resources of the District, such as the river Bann, Lough Neagh and the Sperrin Mountains, provide a wealth of opportunities for active outdoor pursuits such as sailing, water sports, angling

and walking. The district contains a variety of informal outdoor recreational open space, particularly forests such as Moydamlagh and Portglenone forest. A section of the Loughshore trail (part of Sustrans National Cycle Network) lies within Magherafelt district and provides a leisure cycle route in the district.

Magherafelt Town Centre Masterplan (May 2011)

- 4.14** Building upon the leisure and entertainment offer was identified as one of the key themes of the masterplan. The masterplan addresses this by highlighting key opportunity sites which could provide leisure and entertainment facilities. A cycle provision programme and safer routes to schools initiative were also identified as action plans for delivery.

(a) Other Documents and Strategies

- 4.15** There are a number of Departments, agencies and other bodies who are involved in the development of sport and leisure in Northern Ireland. Many of these organisations have strategies which will could be considered and taken account of as part of the preparation of the LDP. These are summarised below:

4.16 Play and Leisure Policy Statement for Northern Ireland

This policy statement, produced by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister in 2011, aims to improve current play and leisure provision for all children and young people aged between 0-18 years. This statement highlights that facilities used for play are frequently seen as focal points for communities and that good play provision and appropriately designed spaces for children create a positive environment and contribute to the sense of well-being and security children have with their surroundings.

4.17 Sports Facility Strategy for Northern Ireland:

Sport NI is the leading public body for the development of sport in Northern Ireland (previously known as Sports Council for NI). Sport NI have undertaken work in partnership with the District Councils to develop a Sports Facilities Strategy for Northern Ireland. This strategy will identify sports facility needs across Northern Ireland as a whole, and will also prioritise need within the 11 new District Council areas. The strategy will be delivered in two phases:

- 4.18** Phase 1- The Facilities Strategy completed by April / May 2015 (identify overall need for strategic facilities at a Northern Ireland level. Work on this Strategy is still on-going.

Phase 2: The District Council Area Reports completed by September / October 2015 (reflect the local sports facility need in each of the 11 District Council areas).

4.19 Sport Matters- The NI Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019:

Delivered by Sport Northern Ireland working in partnership with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure. The Strategy sets out a new shared sporting vision of 'a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport', as well as the key strategic priorities for sport and physical recreation, and informs the direction of future investment, underpinning three areas, Participation, Performance and Places. It sets out the case for ongoing and increased investment in sport and physical recreation to deliver a range of sporting outcomes and support the wider social agenda in areas such as education, health, the economy and the development of communities over the period 2009-2019. It explains how sport in Northern Ireland will be developed over the next ten years affirming the Government commitment to put in place effective structures and mechanisms in support of the vision.

4.20 Active Places Research Report 2009 & 2014 Update:

This report completed by Sport NI identified unmet demand and shortfalls for sports facilities such as sports halls, swimming pools, tennis courts, athletic facilities and pitches in Northern Ireland. It presents opportunities for facility providers to strategically address key issues and unmet facility demands identified in their existing and proposed geographical areas. Unlike the 2009 Report, the 2014 update presents facility shortfall tables for Pitches and Sports Halls only. The 2014 update does not present tables for Athletics Tracks or Swimming Pools - in both instances the perceived shortfall has either been met, or is so minimal, that it cannot be attributed to one District Council area.

4.21 The facility shortfall tables presented in the 2009 Report excluded school sports facilities due to their limited availability for community use. However, in light of recent Community Use of Schools guidance published by Sport NI and the Department for Education, it is important to recognise the potential value of school sports facilities in addressing the facility shortfalls throughout Northern Ireland.

4.22 Community Use of Schools (January 2014):

This document was produced at the result of collaborative work between Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Sport NI, the Department of Education and other educational and non-educational stakeholders. This document provides practical guidance to achieving community use of schools sports facilities.

4.23 Dungannon and South Tyrone Forests- Tourism and Recreation Scoping Study:

Outdoor Recreation NI were appointed by Dungannon and South Tyrone Council to complete an audit of the tourism and recreation potential of forests within the Council area. This included the assessment of 9 forests as follows; Parkanaur, Brantry, Fardross, Favour Royal, Knockmany, Dunmoyle, Mullaghfad, Crocknagrally and Caledon. It was recognised that whilst some of

the forests in the area provide a range of outdoor recreation and activity tourism opportunities, the potential of the forests in terms of providing for the local population and visitors alike, had not yet been realised. Therefore this scoping study assessed the current tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities available within the Forests and then made recommendations for future development, investment and management arrangements, taking account what is happening at a national level in forests and in the wider area in terms of tourism.

4.24 A study highlighting the current outdoor recreation opportunities across the future Mid Ulster District (November 2014):

This study was prepared by Outdoor Recreation NI on behalf of Dungannon and South Tyrone borough Council. This study assessed the current recreation activities including walking, canoeing, cycling and mountain biking. This study, based on previous studies carried out, states that three sites are recommended as priority sites for outdoor recreation development across the Mid Ulster Council Area. These are Parkanaur Forest, Drum Manor Forest Park and Traad Point.

- Parkanaur Forest- future specific recommendations were made including enhancing visitor services, extend walking trails and enhance the orienteering product available in the forest. However due to budgetary constraints funding was retracted in September 2014. Other funding opportunities are currently being investigated.
- Drum Manor- This Forest Park has a large car park, toilets, gardens, lawn areas, way marked trails and offers extensive facilities for caravans and camping. Specific recommendations were made however in order to progress development to the next stage, a feasibility study including a business case is required.
- Traad Point- Traad Point is a Local Nature Reserve for priority species and habitats of Lough Neagh. Specific recommendations were made for the development of walking, including an off road walking trail between Traad Point and the Marina Complex at Ballyronan, ecotrails and natural play. The Lough Neagh Partnership completed a feasibility project in 2014 and development of the site is dependent on sourcing external funding.

4.25 District Council Play Strategies:

Cookstown District Council Area (Mapping Report, November 2014)- This report maps existing play provision across Cookstown District Council Area with a view to forming a Strategy for the development of play across the District. The outcomes of the mapping exercise point to the appropriateness of a Play Strategy being developed under four broad headings; Principles, Aims, Provision and Implementation.

4.26 *Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council Play Strategy-* This strategy identifies four themes in order to provide a direction for the programme of work

which will be delivered across the 2013-2015 timeframe of the Play Strategy. They are:

- Establishing the vision and leadership for play
- Evidence based decision making
- Provide accessible and inclusive play areas
- Developing awareness and capacity.

4.27 *Magherafelt District Council, Strategic Plan for Play 2013-2016-* Strategic themes, similar to those above, were developed in order to provide focus for the development of the play strategy and its implementation. Detailed action plans were developed for each of the four themes, some work has been completed and much is still ongoing.

4.28 Davagh Forest Trails

This study of priority project proposals was produced in January 2015 by elbow consulting, an independent consultant at the request of Cookstown District Council Leisure Service Department.

4.29 An Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for the Sperrins (Sept 2013):

This action plan was carried out on behalf of Sport NI by Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland in partnership with Sperrins Outdoor Recreation Forum. Its purpose was to undertake an audit of existing outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities in the Sperrins, identifying the gaps in provision and recommending priorities for development over the next 5-10 years which would accommodate both the needs of the local community and visitors to the area. It concluded that the area has seen a notable lack of development in terms of the outdoor recreation product delivered on the ground because of a number of local and national issues. Despite this lack of development in the area, it is recognized that the Sperrins is home to a number of excellent private sector activity providers. As a result of this study 2 action plans were produced.

(A) A 'Strategic Action Plan' with 21 over-arching principles to inform the strategic development of outdoor recreation in the Sperrins and;

(B) A 'Working Action Plan' to guide the Sperrins Outdoor Recreation Forum in their activities over the next 5-10 years and act as a common tool to work from for those stakeholders with a mutual interest in outdoor recreation

5.0 Open Space, Recreation and Leisure Provision in Mid Ulster

Recreation and leisure provision can be categorised into two themes; outdoor and indoor space.

5.1 Outdoor Space

To measure outdoor playing space in the Mid Ulster District, the NPFA Standard was used to assess provision in line with regional policy including the SPPS and PPS 8. This approach was traditionally known as the 'Six Acre Standard (SAS)', which equates to 2.4 hectares per 1000 people. This is a minimum standard for outdoor playing space (pitches and childrens play)

- 5.2** Members should note that the six acre standard mainly highlights quantitative aspects of provision. Governments throughout the four regions of the United Kingdom have called for more clearly defined and adopted policies for planning standards for open space, sport and recreation including outdoor facilities for sport and play¹. Those policies call for the local determination and adoption of standards relating to quantity, quality and accessibility. That said, the nature of the NPFA's own recommendations have been changed to recognise this and are still recognised as a useful for planning authorities to refer to, use or adopt. The SPPS states that Councils should assess the existing provision against NPFA's standards in LDP preparation.
- 5.3** For the purposes of this paper, given the information that has been provided by Sport NI and the Council, the assessment of outdoor open space provision will include formal sports and recreation grounds; playing pitches and children's play space. Other forms of open space in the plan area which are excluded from the definition of outdoor playing space but still provide important informal passive recreation such as parks, country parks and general amenity areas are identified for information but are excluded from the calculations.

6.0 Pitches

Table 5: Quantity of Pitches in the former three District Council Areas.

District Council	2011 Population Projection	Perceived Acres Shortfall (SNI Standard)	Pitches Required
<u>All Sites- Including education synthetic but excluding grass</u>			
Cookstown	35238	-4	-2
Dungannon	50995	6	2
Magherafelt	43682	-17	-7
<u>All Sites- Including education synthetic and including grass</u>			
Cookstown	35238	-30	-12
Dungannon	50995	-48	-19
Magherafelt	43682	-76	-31

Source: Sports NI- 2014 update of the Active Places Research Report.

- 6.1** Taking into account that efficiency can be achieved through the use of synthetic pitches Sport NI have calculated Mid Ulster's pitch provision on 3 acres (1.2 hectares) per 1000 population rather than the old grass pitch NFPA target.

² Planning and design for Outdoor Sport and Play- document published by the Fields in Trust, formerly the National Playing Fields Association.

6.2 From this table it can be seen that Magherafelt is best provided for in terms of pitches and actually has a large surplus of pitches. Cookstown has no pitch deficiency. Dungannon has a shortfall only when educational grass pitches are not included.

6.3 Sport NI have recently completed a 2014 update of these figures quantifying all pitches in the 11 District Council Areas. They have produced two tables:

- Playing Pitches- Including educational synthetic but excluding grass (Table 6 below)
- Playing Pitches- Including educational synthetic and including grass (Table 7 below)

Table 6: 2014 Quantity of playing pitches in District Council Areas (Including education synthetic pitches but excluding education grass pitches).

District Council	2011 Population Projection	Acres Recommended by SAS	EXISTING PROVISION				SHORTFALLS		
			Grass	Synthetic		Total Acres SNI	SNI Standard		
			Total Grass Acres	Existing Acres	SNI by 4		Perceived Acres	Shortfall	Pitches Required
Ards/North Down	155882	468	141	17	69	209	258		103
Lisburn City/Castlereagh	178544	535.632	168.97	19.03	76.12	245.09	290.54		116
Antrim/Newtownabbey	132389	397.167	121.05	15.44	61.76	182.81	214.36		86
Mid Antrim	132378	397.134	162.1	10.83	43.32	205.42	191.71		77
Derry City/Strabane	150592	451.776	206.22	11.41	45.64	251.86	199.92		80
Belfast	263313	789.939	377.41	49.07	196.3	573.69	216.25		86
Armagh City/Bann	190559	571.677	331.79	23.38	93.52	425.31	146.37		59
Causeway Coast	140436	421.308	316.46	14.6	58.4	374.86	46.448		19
Newry City/Down	164514	493.542	370.5	15.15	60.6	431.1	62.442		25
Fermanagh/Omagh	112400	337.2	260.36	6.61	26.44	286.8	50.4		20
Mid Ulster District Council	129915	389.745	316.93	21.97	87.88	404.81	- 15.07		-6
Totals	1750922	5252.77	2772.49	204.65	818.6	3591.09	1661.7		665

Source: Sports NI- 2014 update of the Active Places Research Report.

Parameters:	Dimensions	Sq. Mtrs	Acres
Gaelic Games	146 x 90	13,140	3.29
Soccer	110 x 70	7,700	1.93
Rugby	120 x 70	8,400	2.10

*Six Acre Standard (SAS) - calculates the value of a synthetic surface to be twice that of a grass surface.

**Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) - calculates the value of a synthetic surface to be four times that of a grass surface.

*** Pitches located within the school estate have not been included in this analysis.

**** This analysis calculates the average size of a pitch in Northern Ireland to be 2.5 acres.

6.4 Table 6 was completed based on 2011 population projections which show Mid Ulster to have a population of 129,915. For example if we look at table 6, it

calculated the area recommended to meet the needs of the population was 389.745 acres based on the SAS recommendation of 3 acres per 1000 people. Using Sport NI data it then outlined 404.81 as the total acres of existing pitch provision. The difference between the recommend provision and existing provision is 15.07 acres surplus which when divided by 2.5 acres (average pitch size) equates to Mid Ulster having a surplus of 6 pitches.

However NIRSA have recently released Northern Ireland 2011 Census population figures (March 2015). And using the updated figures, the provision of playing pitches in the Mid Ulster District, including education synthetic pitches but excluding education grass pitches can now be assessed more accurately against the NPFA standards. Following Sport NI's methodology and there existing total pitch provision acreage in table 6 this calculation is set out below:

2011 Census Mid Ulster population = 138,590

(NISRA, March 2015)

Acres recommended by SAS $(138,590 \div 1000) \times 3$ = 415.77

Acres existing = 404.81

Required Acres $(415.77 - 404.81)$ = 10.96

Required Pitches $(10.96 \div 2.5 \text{ (average pitch size)})$ = 4.384

Overall NPFA Standards Audit Result = 4 pitches required

- 6.5** Mid Ulster District presently requires 4 additional pitches when including education synthetic pitches but excluding education grass pitches in the analysis of pitch quantity. And therefore would not presently be considered to be adequately catered for.

Table 7: 2014 Quantity of playing pitches in District council Areas. (Including education synthetic pitches and including education grass pitches)

District Council	2011 Population Projection	Acres Recommended by SAS	EXISTING PROVISION				SHORTFALLS	
			Grass	Synthetic		Total Acres SNI	SNI Standard	
			Total Grass Acres	Existing Acres	SNI by 4		Perceived Acres Shortfall	Pitches Required
Ards/North Down	155882	468	180	17	69	249	219	88
Lisburn City/Castlereagh	178544	535.632	241.57	19.03	76.12	317.69	217.94	87
Antrim/Newtownabbey	132389	397.167	214.25	15.44	61.76	276.01	121.16	48
Mid Antrim	132378	397.134	257.79	10.83	43.32	301.11	96.024	38
Derry City/Strabane	150592	451.776	293.51	11.41	45.64	339.15	112.63	45
Belfast	263313	789.939	520.21	49.07	196.3	716.49	73.449	29
Armagh City/Bann	190559	571.677	460.27	23.38	93.52	553.79	17.887	7
Causeway Coast	140436	421.308	498.64	14.6	58.4	557.04	-135.7	-54
Newry City/Down	164514	493.542	546.55	15.15	60.6	607.15	-113.6	-45
Fermanagh/Omagh	112400	337.2	352.45	6.61	26.44	378.89	-41.69	-17
Mid Ulster District Council	129915	389.745	456.19	21.97	87.88	544.07	-154.3	-62
Totals	1750922	5252.77	4021.35	204.65	818.6	4839.95	412.82	165

- 6.6** Table 7 was also completed based on 2011 population projections which show Mid Ulster to have a population of 129,915. For example if we look at table 7, the area recommended to meet the needs of the population remains at 389.745. However using Sport NI data it then outlined 544.07 as the total acres of existing pitch provision the increase is the result of the inclusion of education grass pitches. The difference between the recommend provision and existing provision is 154.3 acres surplus which when divided by 2.5 acres (average pitch size) equates to Mid Ulster having a surplus of 62 pitches.
- 6.7** Again using the updated 2011 population figures, the provision of playing pitches in the Mid Ulster District this time including education synthetic pitches and education grass pitches can now be assessed more accurately against the NPFA standards. Following Sport NI's methodology and there existing total pitch provision acreage in table 7, this calculation is set out below:

2011 Census Mid Ulster population	=	138,590
(NISRA, March 2015)		
Acres recommended by SAS $(138,590 \div 1000) \times 3$	=	415.77
Acres existing	=	544.07
Surplus Acres $(544.07 - 415.77)$	=	128.3
Surplus Pitches $(128.3 \div 2.5 \text{ (average pitch size)})$	=	51.32

Overall NPFA Standards Audit Result = 51 pitches surplus

- 6.8** In applying the NPFA standards to the NISRA 2011 population figures, including both the educational synthetic and grass pitches, Mid Ulster District has a surplus of 51 pitches and is considered to be presently adequately catered for.

7.0 Future needs

- 7.1** Assuming the population in Mid Ulster District grows to 173,417 in 2030 (population projections as identified in Position Paper One, Population and Growth, Table 18) an assessment of the future needs of the council area over the 15 year plan period can be calculated. Continuing to use Sport NI's methodology and total existing pitch data (acreage) from tables 6 and 7 we can continue to look at the future needs of the District firstly in calculation 1, including education synthetic pitches but excluding education grass pitches. And secondly in calculation 2, including education synthetic pitches and education grass pitches. Both calculations are as follows:

Calculation 1:

Projected 2030 population = 173,417

Acres recommended by SAS ($173,417 \div 1000$) x 3 = 520.251

Total acres existing when including education synthetic
pitches but excluding education grass pitches, taken

from table 6 = 404.81

Required Acres ($404.81 - 520.251$) = 115.441

Required Pitches ($115.441 \div 2.5$ (average pitch size)) = 46.176

**Overall NPFA Standards Audit Result = 46 pitches required when
education grass pitches are excluded**

Calculation 2:

Projected 2030 population = 173,417

Acres recommended by SAS ($173,417 \div 1000$) x 3 = 520.251

Acres existing when including education synthetic

Pitches and including education grass pitches taken

from table 7 = 544.07

Surplus Acres ($544.07 - 520.251$) = 23.819

Surplus Pitches ($23.819 \div 2.5$ (average pitch size)) = 9.528

**Overall NPFA Standards Audit Result = 10 pitches surplus when education
grass pitches are included**

- 7.2** However members should note that care needs to be taken when considering the quantum of pitches in the Mid Ulster District as it is a largely rural area, containing a large number of GAA Clubs and pitches. The above calculations are based on the Sport NI pitch parameters which take the average size of a pitch to be 2.5 acres. For example a GAA pitch is 3.29 acres and a soccer pitch is 1.93 acres. Therefore the District of Mid Ulster's pitch provision may appear to have no deficiencies but given the large number of GAA pitches, this may be to the detriment of other sports such as soccer or rugby

8.0 Children's Play Space Provision

- 8.1** Throughout the Council area, there are a number of outdoor play areas. Most of these are located within the towns, although some of the villages also benefit from equipped children's playgrounds. The total number of children's play areas provided by Mid Ulster Council are identified in Table 8. The locations of the

children's play areas provided by Mid Ulster District council are identified in the Appendix 6 map.

Table 8 : No. of Children's Playing Equipped Play Areas in Towns, Villages, Small Settlements and Countryside in Mid Ulster

Cookstown		Dungannon		Magherafelt	
Settlement	Number	Settlement	Number	Settlement	Number
Cookstown	17	Dungannon	13	Magherafelt	1
		Coalisland	4	Maghera	2
Villages	15	Villages	19	Villages	3
				Small Settlements	10
Countryside	6	Countryside	4	Countryside	4
Total No. Play Areas	38	Total No. Play Areas	40	Total No. Play Areas	20

Source: Mid Ulster Council Outdoor Recreation Audit 2015

- 8.2** In assessing the Children's existing play space provision it needs to be analysed on two tiers: the overall quantum and the spatial distribution. The NPFA standard for children's play space is 0.80 hectares per 1000 population. Relative to each other, the spatial distribution is seen as more important as it relates to access to provision within the various settlements – in relation to children's homes. The NPFA standard has been formulated essentially for urban areas, therefore this paper will assess spatial distribution in the three regional towns of Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt and the smaller towns of Coalisland and Maghera.
- 8.3** As identified in position Paper One; Population and Growth, the three districts comprising Mid Ulster are relatively rural with around half the population living in designated settlements while the remainder lived in the open countryside. Therefore as half the population live in either villages, small settlements of the countryside where population densities are low, these children benefit from access to the countryside for play purposes.
- 8.4** The NPFA recommends different travel times, dependent upon the nature of the facilities and defines a three-tier hierarchy, each tier influencing a different catchment area (Table 9):
- 8.5** Local Area for Play (LAP) - These are unsupervised small open spaces specifically designed for young children for play activities close to where they

live. Although without play equipment, LAPs have characteristics that make the area conducive to children's play. Such characteristics include ease of access, a relatively level site, informal surveillance and modest provision of landscaping so that play is not inhibited. The NPFA consider that LAPs should be within 1 minute walking time of home.

8.6 *A Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)* - These are unsupervised play areas that are equipped for children of early school age. While sharing similar characteristics to LAPs, LEAPs feature a range of different types of play equipment. The NPFA consider these should be located within 5 minutes walking time of home.

8.7 *A Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)* - These are also unsupervised but they are intended to service a substantial residential area. While sharing similar characteristics to LEAPs, NEAPs feature a significant range of different types of play equipment. It is equipped mainly for older children but also having opportunities for play for younger children. The NPFA recommend these should be located within 15 minutes walking time of home.

Table 9: Walking Times to Children's Playing Space

Children's Playing Space	Walking Time	Pedestrian Route	Straight Line Distance
LAP	1 minute	100 metres	60 metres
LEAP	5 minutes	400 metres	240 metres
NEAP	15 minutes	1000 meters	600 metres

Source: NPFA 2008

Table 5 in appendix 2 provides a list of District council play areas within the Mid Ulster towns in terms of their overall size and classification given to them in terms of their children's play element.

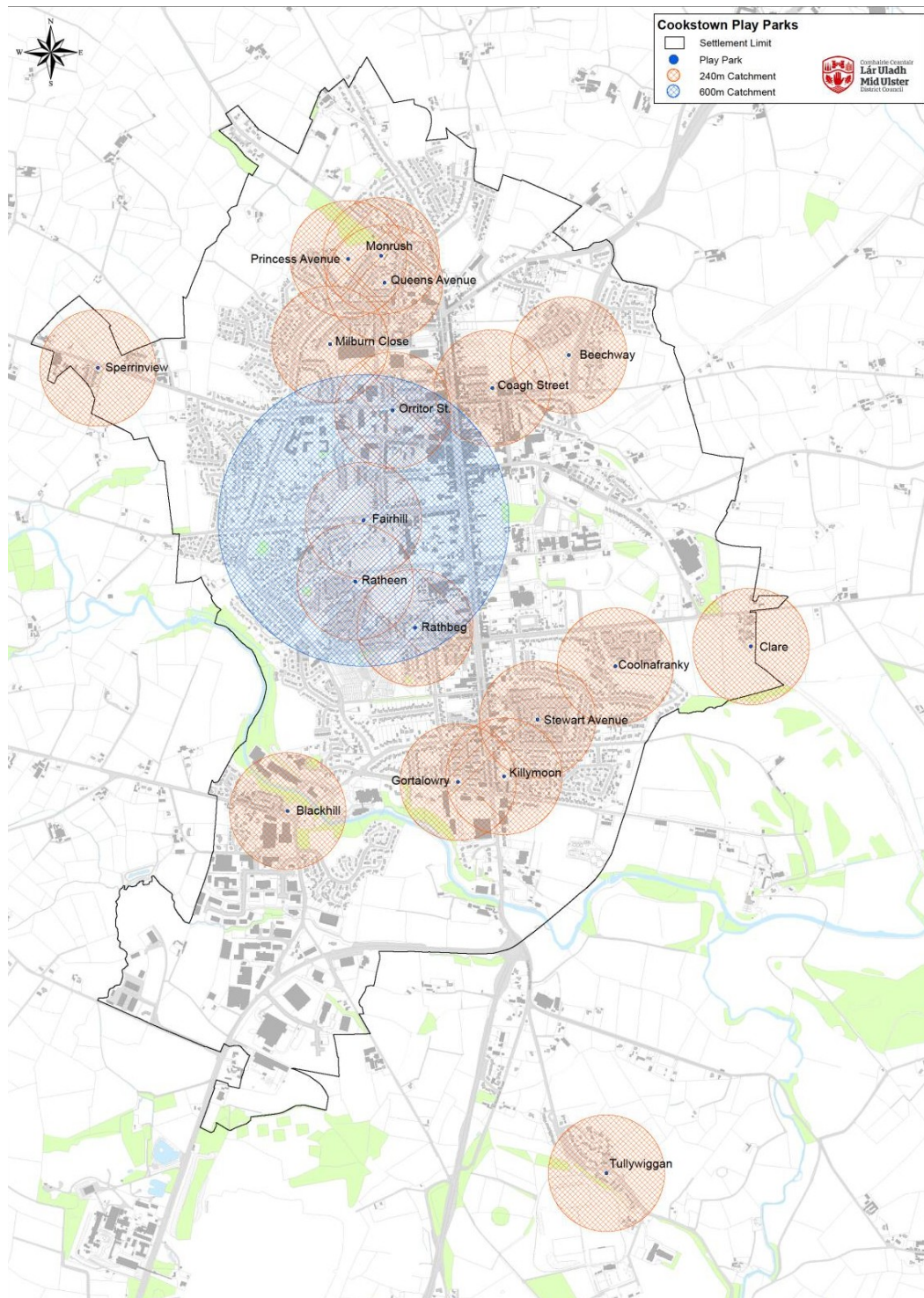
Cookstown

8.8 Cookstown has 17 equipped children's play areas. An analysis of accessibility to the two larger classifications LEAP's and NEAPS's has been undertaken and is displayed in MAP 1. Local Areas of Play have not been analysed because, with a catchment of 60 metres, they cannot be considered to be of strategic importance other than for serving the housing areas within their immediate vicinity.

8.9 From this analysis it can be seen that the east and north-eastern section of the town lacks provision for children's play space (both LEAP's and NEAP's). Out of the 17 equipped play areas only 6 are located on the east section of the town. There is a reasonable network of equipped areas in the west section of the town.

- 8.10** The Play Park at Fairhill, Ratheen, Rathbeg and Orritor Street are all located in close proximity to the town centre. These areas are easily accessible by foot and are areas of play space that are supervised by surrounding residential properties.

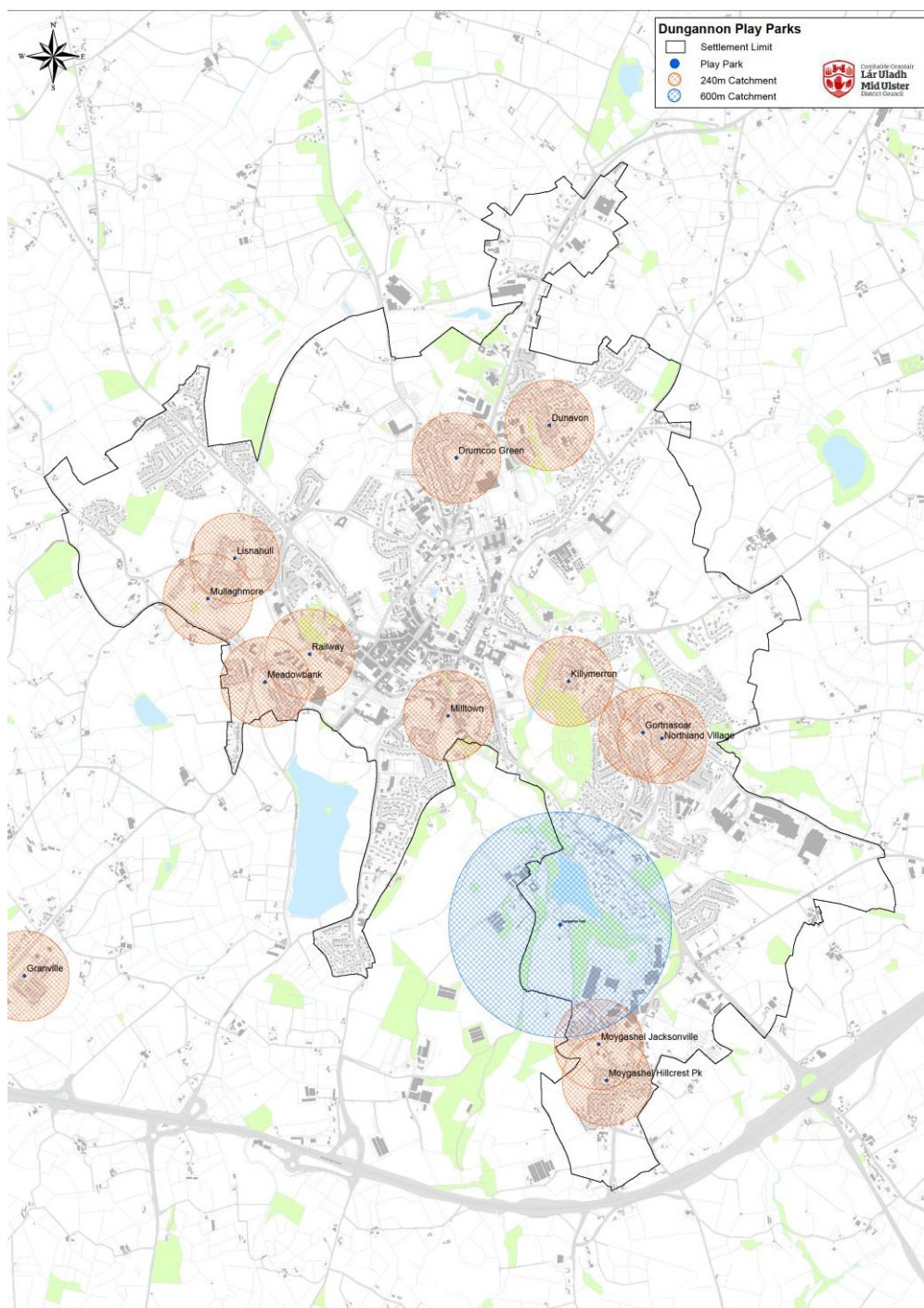
Map 1- Cookstown Play Areas



Dungannon

- 8.11** Dungannon has 13 equipped play areas. From this analysis it can be seen that much of Dungannon is deficient in terms of equipped played provision (See Map 2). There are no play areas that are easily accessible from the town centre by foot. Most of the peripheral areas of the town are also deficient in play provision, particularly the residential areas in the south and west section of the town.

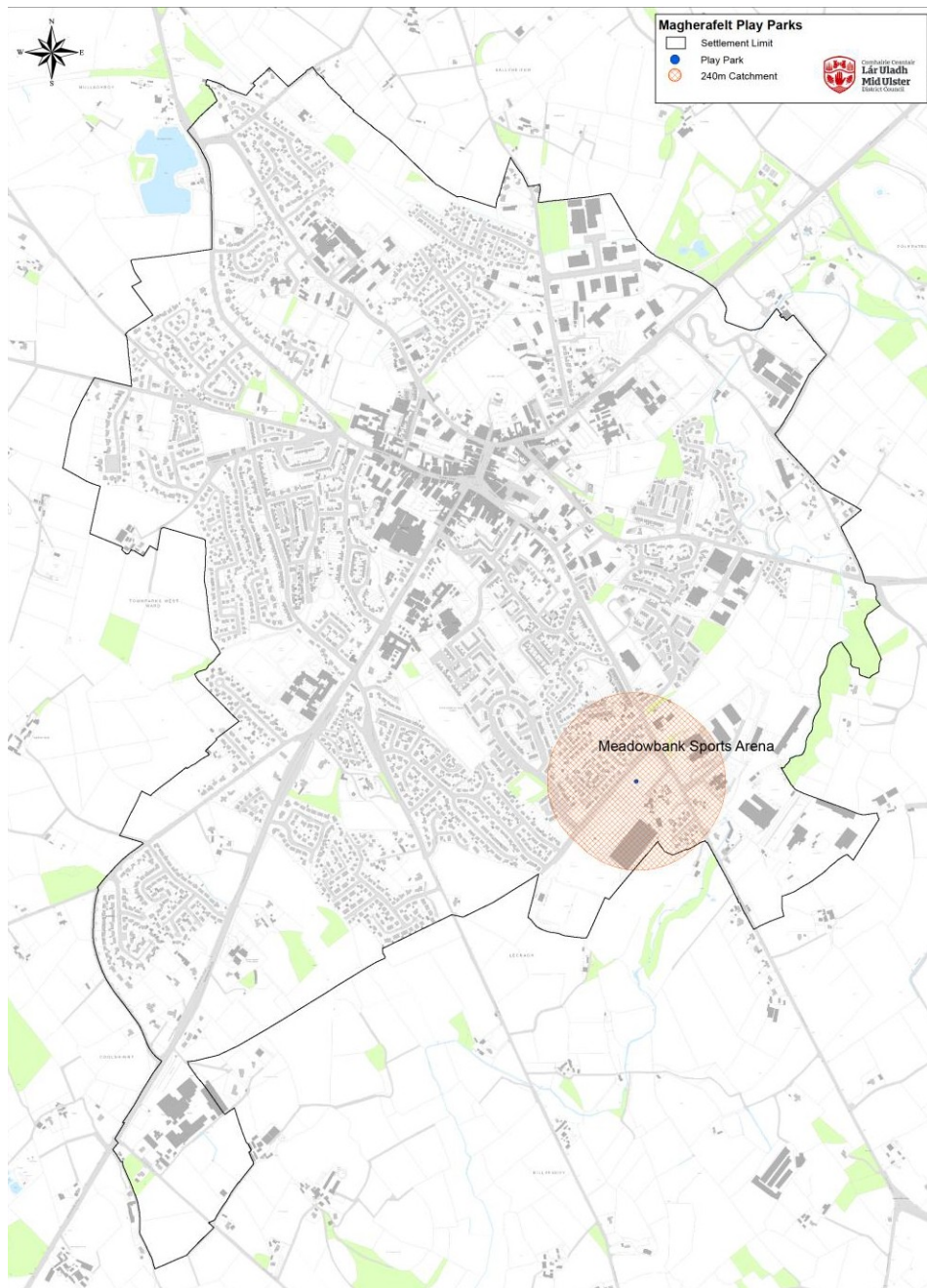
Map 2- Dungannon Play Areas



Magherafelt

- 8.12** Magherafelt has only one equipped play area. Map 3 clearly shows that Magherafelt is almost entirely deficient in terms of equipped children's play space. The one play area identified at Meadowbank is located at the southern periphery of the town and is not easily assessable from the town centre or from many of the existing residential areas within the town.

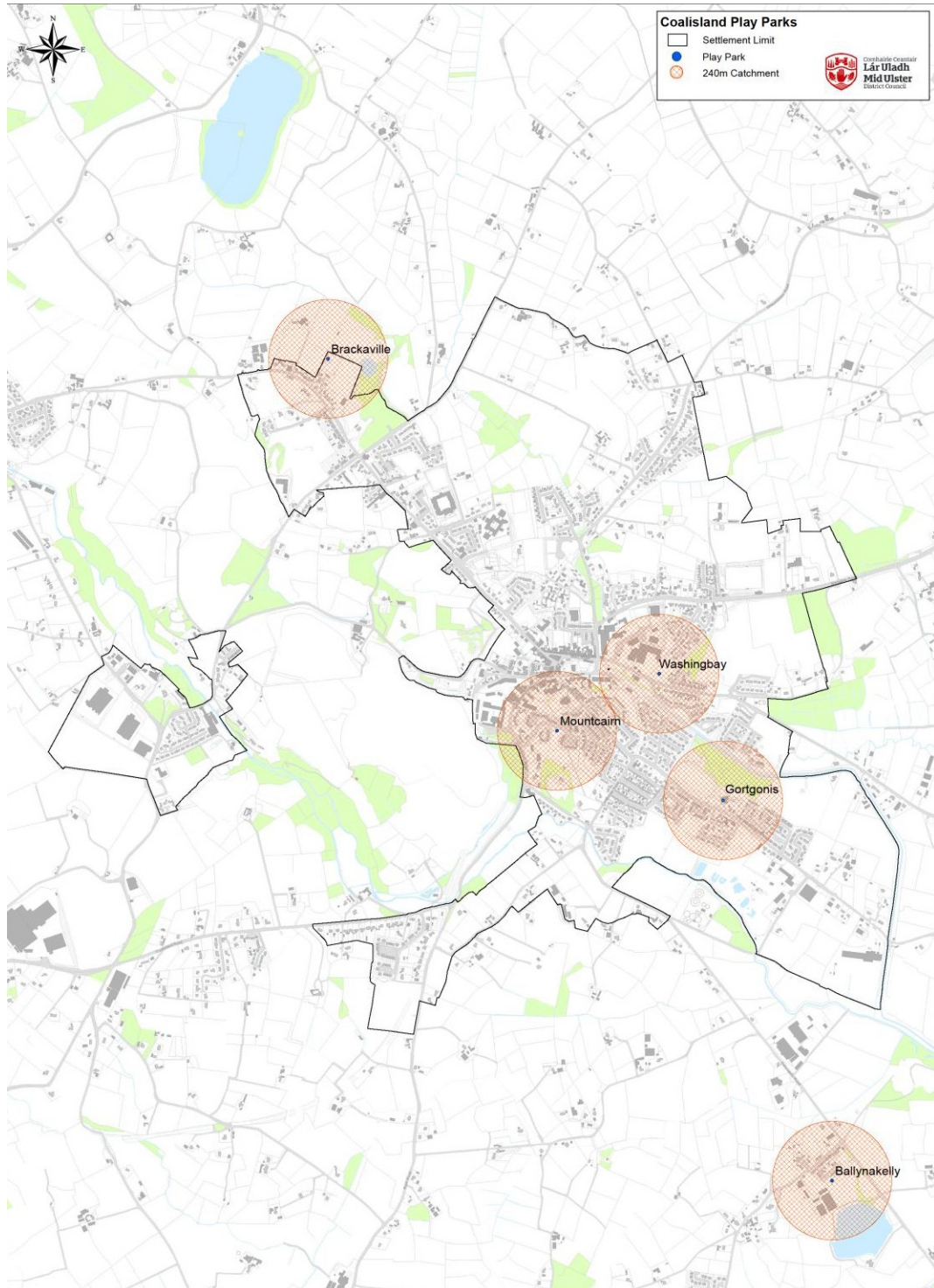
Map 3- Magherafelt Play Areas.



Coalisland

- 8.13** Coalisland has 4 equipped play areas. However Map 4 shows that the north, south and south- western section of the town lacks children's play space provision.

Map 4- Coalisland Play Areas



Maghera

- 8.14** Maghera has 2 equipped play areas. Map 5 shows that the outer areas of the town are deficient in terms of play space provision.

Map 5- Maghera Play Areas



Table 9: Settlements without District Council Children's play Facilities

Cookstown		Dungannon		Magherafelt	
Ardtrea	Gortacladdy	Brockagh / Mountjoy	Dyan	Ballymaguigan	Glen
Ballylifford	Grange		Edendork	Ballynease	Glenone
Churchtown	The Loup	Cappagh	Tamnamore*	Creagh	Gracefield
Desertcreat	Sandholes	Carland	The Bush	Curran	Straw
Donaghy	Killeenan	Carnteel	Tullyallen		The Woods
Drapersfield		Dernagh / Clonoe			
Dunamore					
Dunman					

*Play area is located within Tamnamore. However Tamnamore is divided between Mid Ulster and Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon (ABC) District Council areas & play area is located within ABC District.

8.15 Table 9 shows the settlements within Mid Ulster District that do not benefit from children's play provision. Map 1 in Appendix 6 shows the location and distribution of all the District Councils children's play facilities throughout the plan area. This distribution map shows that children's play facilities are well spread throughout the District. Many of the most peripheral settlements in the plan area including Fivemiletown, Benburb, Pomeroy, Swatragh and Moortown all benefit from Children's play space areas. Many of these play areas, particularly in the villages, are located surrounded by existing residential development. Therefore these areas are convenient and accessible for most sections of society, particularly children and the elderly and benefit from natural neighbourhood surveillance. These outdoor play spaces should be identified in the LDP and a general policy presumption against the loss of open space to competing land uses should be applied in compliance with the SPPS objectives.

9.0 Other Outdoor Facilities

9.1 In addition to playing pitches and children's play areas, there are many opportunities in the District for other less formal recreation activities. These include walking, cycling, canoeing and passive recreational activities. Table 10 below outlines various trails within Mid Ulster which are owned and maintained by the District Council.

Table 10: Council Trails within Mid Ulster

	Trails (Kilometres)		
	Cycling	Walking	Canoeing
Cookstown			
Ballyronan Marina		1.2	
Ballyronan Wood		1.2	
Cabin Wood		1.4	
Cot Lane		2	
Davagh Trails	26.5	3	
Dunamore Riverside		3.2	
Gort Moss		7.3	
Innevall		1.8	
Lough Fea		4	
MUSA		1.4	
Total	26.5	26.5	0
Dungannon			
Augher Riverside Walk		1.5	
Bantry Trail		1.25	
Benburb Eco Trail		2	
Blackwater Canoe Trail			20
Blessinbourne MTB	14	5	
Caledon Riverside Walk		1	
Carleton Trail	60	60	
Dungannon Park	3.5	5	
Fivemiletown	1		
Loughshore Trails		11	
Park Lake		0.75	
US Grants	4.5	4.5	
Washingbay		2	
Windwill Wood		3	
Total	83	97	20
Magherafelt			
Glenone		3	1
Moykeeran		1.2	
Newferry			1
Swatragh		0.5	
Total (kilometres)	0	4.7	2
Total (Kilometres) Across District	109.5	128.2	22

Source: Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Audit 2015

- 9.2** The Ulster Way walking route passes through the west of the Mid Ulster District, off road for some 13kms, entering at the Glenelly Valley, via Crockbrack, Crockmore, Moneyneaney and exiting via Moydamlagh Forest to Glenshane Forest. Along the southern boundary of the Mid Ulster District, a 'link section' is located from Caledon to Aughnacloy. Another 'quality section' of the Ulster Way leaves Aughnacloy and is in two parts along the southern boundary of Mid Ulster District. There are some 160 miles of the National Cycle Network in the Sperrins with part of this network located in the Mid Ulster District. These networks provide important linkages to other villages and areas of open space and should be identified and protected in the LDP.
- 9.3** The safer routes to schools are also important linkages that should also be identified and protected in the relevant Mid Ulster Towns. One of the Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government priorities³ is to create the conditions to facilitate at least 36% of primary school pupils and 22% of secondary school pupils to walk or cycle to school as their main mode of transport by 2015. Sixty seven schools were selected to join year two of the Active School Travel (AST) Programme bringing the total number of schools involved in years one and two to 127 schools. Schools invited to participate in current year two of the AST Programme have begun their walking and cycling skills training. A detailed and independently commissioned evaluation and assessment exercise of the impact of the AST programme is underway. DRD has been allocated £1 million for infrastructure improvements at the schools participating in the AST Programme which will complement the impact of the walking and cycling skills delivery already underway.
- 9.4** Railway Park in Dungannon is proposed to accommodate both peripheral and national cycle routes as identified in the DSTAP (2010). The peripheral route will connect council open space around the town. Part of this will be used for the National Cycle route which aims to connect Dungannon with other main towns in the region. This project meets the aims of the SPPS in providing linear open spaces, pedestrian and cycle routes, which are valuable in linking larger areas of open space and should therefore be protected. Under the Council's EARLS project funding has been secured to link the recreational spaces of Dungannon Park, Windmill Wood, Drumcoo Wood and Playing Fields and Railway Park. A contract for this has recently been awarded.
- 9.5** There are a number of public bodies including the Council who own and/or manage significant land holdings and provide public access to site based facilities such as forest parks, urban parks and lakes. These are listed for information in Table 1 in Appendix 5. This shows that there is a good distribution of informal and passive recreational opportunities spread across the plan area in locations such as Augher (Favour Royal) and Pomeroy Forest Park on the peripheral west, Caledon Forest Park to the south and numerous parks to the north including Moyola Forest Park. Mid Ulster District also benefits from being located along the water's edge of Lough Neagh. Various water recreational facilities are provided including at Ballyronan Marina and Battery Harbour (canoe trail access points). These areas are assessable to the public and

³ Northern Ireland Executive, Programme for Government Priority 3- Protecting Our people, the Environment and creating Safer Communities

provide important amenity value to both the local residents and the wider public thereby contributing to the quality of the environment and community life.

10.0 Existing Indoor Recreation and Leisure

- 10.1** Outdoor recreation and leisure facilities are also supplemented by indoor facilities. There is a leisure centre located within each of the three regional towns. These leisure centres all contain a swimming pool, sports hall, squash court and health suites. There is also a leisure centre in Maghera and Sports Arenas in Cookstown (Mid Ulster Sports Arena) and Magherafelt (Meadowbank Sports Arena). Details of all the facilities are identified in Appendix 3, Tables 1-3. However these District council owned facilities are located in the main urban areas only. Public provision of indoor recreation and leisure facilities in the villages and rural areas are mainly supplemented by various community halls and private football / GAA clubs.
- 10.2** The Mid Ulster District benefits from numerous passive recreational and leisure facilities including cinemas, snooker clubs, night clubs, pubs and restaurants. There is a cinema in Maghera and Cookstown. Dungannon cinema has recently closed. Therefore the central and northern sections of the Mid Ulster District are within a reasonable travel distance of a cinema. Those living in the Dungannon town and hinterland areas would be within a reasonable travel distance of Cookstown cinema. However, those residing in the peripheral south and west areas such as Benburb, Aughnacloy and Clogher areas would have a considerable distance to travel to a cinema located within the Mid Ulster Area, given Dungannon cinemas closure. Those residing in the south and west are likely to travel to cinemas outside the Mid Ulster District including that in Armagh City, Monaghan and Omagh.
- 10.3** In terms of other sources of evening leisure and entertainment, there is also the Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor centre in Dungannon and Buranvon Centre in Cookstown. These centres offer various events including art exhibitions, history talks, music evenings and theatre / performing arts. Such types of recreational activities are of importance to the evening economy. Theatre is Northern Ireland's most popular art form, accounting for annual ticket sales revenue in excess of £10 million.⁴

11.0 Conclusion and Key Findings

The purpose of this paper has been to provide an overview of open space provision within Mid Ulster District incorporating pitch provision and children's play space provision. This paper has assessed the future needs of the Council area over the plan period to 2030. The distribution and accessibility of such provision has also been assessed.

⁴ NISRA- Northern Ireland Tourism Statistics April 2013 to March 2014.

11.1 The evidence presented provides the basis for considering an open space strategy which takes into account the objectives of the RDS and SPSS to provide adequate provision for green and blue infrastructure in towns, neighbourhoods and new developments.

11.2 A summary of the key findings are as follows:-

- Application of the NPFA standards, as required by the SPSS, demonstrates that at this point, when excluding education grass, Mid Ulster would require 4 additional playing pitches however if education grass was included it would in fact have a surplus of 51 pitches. Given the recent Community Use of Schools guidance published by Sport NI and the Department for Education, it is important to recognise the potential value of school sports facilities in addressing any current shortfall and it is considered that no immediate action is necessary at this time.
- In terms of future need over the plan period when excluding education grass 46 additional pitches would be required, however when including education grass there would be a surplus of 10 pitches over the period up to 2030. The dual use of education facilities is again an important consideration in this finding.
- Outdoor space in terms of children's play provision is deficient. The three regional towns do not adequately provide equipped play areas. In terms of overall quantum, Cookstown is best provided for. However in Cookstown, most play areas are located on the west section of the town. This distribution means that many people, particularly children, do not have convenient access to such play areas.
- Dungannon and in particular Magherafelt town are both deficient in terms of both quantum and distribution children's play provision.
- The smaller towns of Coalisland and Maghera do have play areas however in terms of convenience, these would not be easily assessed by all section of the community, particularly by foot.
- Many childrens play areas are located within residential developments and provide safe, easily accessible facilities particularly to young children and the elderly.
- The Mid Ulster Area benefits from numerous informal and passive recreation facilities which are well distributed throughout the plan area, in both urban areas and in the countryside. These are not included in the open space calculations but do provide invaluable recreational spaces.
- Mid Ulster District also benefits from indoor recreational and leisure facilities. However the Council owned facilities are located within the regional and small towns only. Villages in the District do not benefit from any such council owned indoor leisure facilities.

12.0 Recommendation

- 12.1** It is suggested that there are three options to address the open space, recreation and leisure needs of Mid Ulster:

Option 1- Leave it as it is

This option would not be unduly problematic for playing pitches however there would be a shortfall of playing pitches if the population continues to grow at the rate anticipated and education facilities were not utilised. Given the fact that Sport NI are undertaking work in partnership with the District Councils to develop a Sports Facilities Strategy for Northern Ireland which will identify sports facility needs across Northern Ireland it is recommended that the need for future pitch provision can be considered further once the outcome of that strategy is completed. This option would not be suitable however for children play parks. If we took no action in respect of the provision of childrens play then we could raise equality issues under Section 75 of the Human Rights Act in respect of Magherafelt and Dungannon in particular in relation to the rights of children and the rights of families. In relation to indoor leisure given the range of facilities that exist, it does not appear that there will be a shortage in the three main towns. However leisure facilities in themselves can be an economic activity generator and job creator.

Option 2- Plan Intervention

This option would zone land for pitches and children's play and reserve sites for leisure development in accordance with achieving at least the standards set. The problem with this approach is that the Council would have to be able to buy land at alternative development market value. Thus if such zonings aren't underpinned by a programme for providing facilities this would result in planning blight and it is unlikely that any such policy would satisfactorily withstand challenge.

Option 3- Balanced Approach

This option would protect existing open space in planning policy and zone land for new open spaces or indoor leisure where the Council is financially committed to acquiring the land. Also, given that the desire for dual use of education facilities the findings show that there would not be a shortfall if education grass facilities were to be used however there would be a shortfall if they were not utilised. It will be necessary to take a careful examination of existing open spaces to see whether more efficient use of the land can be achieved providing additional pitches and children's play. The Housing Executive has in the past been willing to facilitate these on land in their ownership. The private sector should be required to provide open space on housing and other land proportionate to the size of the development and where appropriate equipping it for children's play and recreational use. In terms of leisure, given that it is primarily developer/privately led it is difficult to foresee exactly the needs of the area and therefore a policy which focuses large scale

commercial leisure on opportunity sites within or near town centres, accessible by a range of transport modes is wise, and smaller scale leisure would be accommodated within settlement limits.

12.2 It is recommended that *Option 3 – Balanced Approach* is the best option for Mid Ulster to address open space, recreation and leisure over the plan period. However, given the fact that Sport NI are undertaking work in partnership with the District Councils to develop a Sports Facilities Strategy for Northern Ireland which will identify sports facility needs across Northern Ireland it is recommended that any need for future pitch provision must be considered further once the outcome of that strategy is completed.

12.3 Therefore the key actions of the local development plan at strategy level need to be as follows:

- (i) provide policy for the protection and safeguarding for public open space;
- (ii) require the provision of open space in housing developments and where appropriate equip it for children play;
- (iii) facilitate large scale leisure on opportunity sites within or near town centres and smaller scale elsewhere within settlement limits.
- (iv) protect environmental open spaces for example parks, gardens and linear open spaces such as pedestrian and cycle routes/walkways and river corridors that have open space value.

12.4 At the Local Policies Plan we will designate important existing open spaces to be protected, zone new sites and offer protection through other means such as Local Landscape Policy Areas.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Table 1: All pitches in Mid Ulster District Council Area

Venue	Ownership	Pitches	Primary Use
Aghaloo Pavillion	Other	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa GAC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Augher Playing Fields	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Aughnacloy High Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Aughnacloy Playing Fields	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC	Club	3 Grass	Gaelic Games
Ballygawley Playing Fields	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Ballynease Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Beechway Playing Fields	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Bellaghy Wolfe Tones	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
Benburb Playing Field	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Benburb Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Boyne Row Football Pitch	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Brackaville Owen Roes GFC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Brockagh Playing Fields	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Cahore Road Football Pitch	District Council	2 Grass	Soccer
Cahore Road Football Pitch	District Council	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Castlecaulfield Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Castlecaulfield Pavillion	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Cill Iseal GAA	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
Clogher Eire Og GFC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Clonmore GFC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Clonoe Comm. Centre	Community	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Coagh Sports Centre	Club	1 Synthetic	Soccer
Coagh Sports Centre	Club	2 Grass	Soccer
Coalisland Fianna GFC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Coalisland Fianna GFC	Club	2 Synthetic	Gaelic Games
Cookstown Fr Rocks GFC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Cookstown High Sch.	Education	2 Synthetic	Hockey
Cookstown High Sch.	Education	2 Grass	Soccer
Cookstown High Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Rugby
Cookstown Rugby Club	Club	1 Grass	Rugby
Crievagh Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Crossroads Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Derrylaughan GFC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Derrytresk Comm. Centre	Community	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
Derrytresk GFC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Desertmartin FC	Club	1 Grass	Soccer
Drumard Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Drumcoo Playing Fields	District Council	3 Grass	Soccer
Drumglass High Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Drumglass High Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Rugby
Dungannon Park and Lake	District Council	3 Grass	Soccer
Dungannon Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer

Dungannon Rugby Club	Club	2 Grass	Rugby
Dungannon Thomas Clarke GFC	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
East Tyrone College	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Edendork GAA	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
Edendork Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Eglis Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Erins Own GAC Lavey	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Erins Own GAC Lavey	Club	1 Synthetic	Gaelic Games
Fairhill Park, Cookstown	District Council	2 Grass	Soccer
Fivemiletown College	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Fivemiletown College	Education	1 Synthetic	Rugby
Fortwilliam Park	Club	2 Grass	Soccer
Galbally Pearses GAC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Greenlough GAC	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
Hagan Park	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Holy Family Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Holy Trinity College	Education	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
Hunters Park Pitch	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Integrated College	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Kildress GAC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Killyman Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
King George 5th Playing Fields	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
King George 5th Playing Fields	District Council	1 Grass	Rugby
Knockloughrim Pitch	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Lissan Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Maghera High Sch.	Education	2 Grass	Soccer
Maghera Leisure Centre	District Council	1 Synthetic	Soccer
Maghera Leisure Centre	District Council	2 Grass	Soccer
Magherafelt Controlled Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Magherafelt High Sch.	Education	3 Grass	Soccer
Meadowbank Sports Arena	District Council	4 Synthetic	Hockey
Meadowbank Sports Arena	District Council	1 Grass	Multi-Sports
Meadowbank Sports Arena	District Council	3 Synthetic	Soccer
Meadowbank Sports Arena	District Council	1 Synthetic	Rugby
Meadowbank Sports Arena	District Council	1 Synthetic	Gaelic Games
Michael Davitts GFC	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
Mid Ulster Sports Arena	District Council	2 Grass	Soccer
Mid Ulster Sports Arena	District Council	1 Grass	Rugby
Mid Ulster Sports Arena	District Council	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
Mid Ulster Sports Arena	District Council	1 Synthetic	Soccer
Millpark	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Moneymore Playing Fields	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Moneymore Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Moneymore Recreation Centre	District Council	1 Synthetic	Multi-Sports
St Malachy's GAC	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
Moy GAC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Moy Regional Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Moyola Park FC	Club	1 Synthetic	Soccer
Newbridge Football Pitch+Pavillion	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
Newmills Playing Fields	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
O'Donovan Rossa GAC	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games

Ogra Colmcille GFC	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
O'Neill Park	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
Orritor Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Pomeroy Plunkett's GAA	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Portglenone Pitch	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Queen Elizabeth 11 Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Rainey Endowed Sch.	Education	5 Grass	Rugby
Rainey Old Boys Rugby Club	District Council	2 Grass	Rugby
Riverside Pitch	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Roan Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Royal School Dungannon	Education	1 Synthetic	Hockey
Royal School Dungannon	Education	1 Grass	Multi-Sports
Royal School Dungannon	Education	2 Grass	Rugby
Slaughtneil GAC	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
Spires Park	Club	1 Grass	Soccer
St Colms GAC Ballinascreen	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Colm's High Sch.	Education	1 Synthetic	Gaelic Games
St Joseph's Primary Sch. Caledon	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
St Joseph's Primary Sch. Dungannon	Education	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Malachy's GAC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Martins GAC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Mary's College Clady	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
St Mary's Grammar Sch. Magherafelt	Education	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Mary's Primary Sch. Pomeroy	Education	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Michael's GAC Lissan	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Patrick's Academy Dungannon	Education	2 Grass	Soccer
St Patricks College Dungannon	Education	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Patrick's Eglishe GFC	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Patrick's GAC Loup	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Patrick's GFC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Patrick's Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Patrick's Youth Club	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Pat's College Maghera	Education	4 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Pius X High Sch. Magherafelt	Education	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
St Treas GAC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Stangmore Park Dungannon	Club	2 Grass	Soccer
Stewartstown Harps GFC	Club	1 Grass	Gaelic Games
Tobermore Golf Driving Range	District Council	1 Grass	Soccer
Upperlands FC	Club	1 Grass	Soccer
Valley Stadium Fivemiletown	Club	1 Grass	Soccer
Walker Memorial Primary Sch.	Education	1 Grass	Soccer
Watty Grahams GAA Park	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
Aughintoher Regeneration	Community	1 Synthetic	Soccer
Ballinderry Shamrocks GFC	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games
Dungannon United Youth FC	Club	2 Synthetic	Soccer
St Patricks GAC	Club	2 Grass	Gaelic Games

Appendix 2

Table 1: Equipped Children's Play Areas in Cookstown District Town, Villages and Countryside for under 12's

Cookstown	The Villages	Countryside
Beechway Blackhill Clare Coagh Street Coolnafranky Fairhill Gortalowry Killymoon Millburn Close Monrush Orritor Street Princess Avenue Queens Avenue Rathbeg Ratheen Sperrin View Stewart Avenue	Ardboe Ardboe, Lakeview Ballinderry, Derrychin Ballyronan, Marina Ballyronan, Lindsayville Coagh, Coagh Park Drumullan, Churchview Moneymore, Recreation Centre Moneymore, Northland Moneymore, Manor Park Orritor, adjacent Primary School Pomeroy, Parkview Stewartstown, Ard Stewart The Rock, Rockdale Tullyhogue, Berkeley Square	Ardtrae (Lisnahull) Battery Harbour * Moortown Conway Close Mourne View, Carnan Lough Fea Tullywiggan

Source: Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Audit 2015 *Play areas are located partially outside or immediately adjacent to settlement limit

Table 2: Equipped Children's Play Areas in Dungannon Districts Towns, Villages and Countryside for under 12's

Dungannon	Coalisland	The Villages	Countryside
Drumcoo Green Dunavon Dungannon Park Gortnasoar Killymerron Lisnahull Meadowbank Milltown Moygashel Jacksonville Mullaghmore Northland village Railway Railway Park	Brackaville Gortgonis Mountcain Washingbay	Ackinduff Augher Augnacloy (2) Ballygawley Ballynakilly Benburb Caledon Castlecaulfield Clogher Donaghmore Eglis Fivemiletown Galbally Granville Killeen Killyman Moy, oakfield Newmills	Killymaddy Redford Roundlake *Fivemiletown US Grant Homestead

Source: Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Audit 2015 *Play areas are located partially outside or immediately adjacent to settlement limit

Table 3: Equipped Children's Play Areas in Magherafelt Districts Towns, Villages and Small Settlements and Countryside for under 12's

Magherafelt	Maghera	The Villages and Small Settlements	Countryside
Meadowbank	Coleraine Road Crawfordsburn	Villages Catledawson, Boyne Row Tobermore, Lisnamuck Tobermore, Mill Park Small Settlements Culnady, Dessertmartin Gulladuff Inishrush, Mill Park Kilross Longfield Moneyneany Swatragh Tamlaght, Church Park Upperlands	Clady * Clady Hunter's Park * Bellaghy Knockcloughrim * K'cloughrim Moykeeran * Draperstown

Source: Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Audit 2015 *Play areas are located partially outside or immediately adjacent to settlement limit

Table 4: Equipped Children's Play Areas in Mid Ulster, Towns, Villages, Small Settlements and Countryside which also cater for over 12's

Cookstown	Dungannon	Magherafelt
Town	Town	Town
Fairhill	Dungannon Dungannon Park Coalisland Gortgonis Washingbay	None
Villages	Villages	Villages / Small Settlements
	Caledon Fivemiletown Moy Oakfield	None
Countryside	Countryside	Countryside
None	None	None
Total No. Play Areas: 1	Total No. Play Areas: 6	Total No. Play Areas: 0

Source: Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Audit 2015

Table 5: Classification of District Council Play Areas located in Mid Ulster towns.

Location	Equipped Play Areas (ha)	Classification
Cookstown Town		
Beechway	3.0	LEAP
Blackhill	0.19	LEAP
Clare	0.11	LEAP
Coagh Street	0.11	LEAP
Coolnafranky	2.56	LEAP
Fairhill	0.13	NEAP
Gortalowry	0.1	LEAP
Killymoon	0.56	LEAP
Millburn Close	0.32	LEAP
Monrush	0.17	LEAP
Orritor Street	0.18	LEAP
Princess Avenue	1.76	LEAP
Queens Avenue	0.13	LEAP
RathbegRatheen	0.19	LEAP
Sperrin View	0.46	LEAP
Stewart Avenue	0.05	LEAP
	0.05	LEAP
Dungannon		
Drumcoo Green	1.1	LEAP
Dunavon	0.02	LEAP
Dungannon Park	?	NEAP
Gortnasoar	0.5	LEAP
Killymerron	0.12	LEAP
Lisnahull	1.23	LEAP
Meadowbank	0.9	LEAP
Milltown	0.42	LEAP
Moygashel Jacksonville	0.46	LEAP
Mullaghmore	1.75	LEAP
Northland village	0.09	LEAP
Railway	3.0	LEAP
Railway Park	1.31	LEAP
Coalisland		
Brackaville	0.41	LEAP
Gortgonis	0.51	LEAP
Mountcairn	0.04	LEAP
Washingbay	0.71	LEAP
Magherafelt		
Meadowbank	0.14	LEAP
Maghera		
Coleraine Road	0.06	LEAP
Crawfordsburn	0.1	LEAP

Source: Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Audit 2015 and Development Plan Survey 2015.

Appendix 3

Table 1: Main Leisure Centres within Cookstown District

Facility	Cookstown Leisure Centre	Mid Ulster Sports	Glenavon Hotel	Moneymore Recreation Centre	Ballyronan Marina
Swimming Pool	•		•		
Sports Hall	•	•		•	•
Fitness Suite	•		•		
Free Weights	•	•	•		
Squash Court	•				
Racketball Court	•				
Health Suite	•		•		
Ten Pin Bowling	•				
Dance / Exercise Studio	•				
Meeting Room	•	•		•	
Children's Soft Play Facility	•				
Children's Interactive Fitness Suite					
Cafe	•				

Table 2: Main Leisure Centres within Magherafelt District

Facility	Greenvale Leisure Centre	Meadow Bank Sports Arena	Maghera Leisure Centre	Magherafelt Bowling Green	Tobermore Golf Centre	Bridewell
Swimming Pool	•					
Sports Hall	•	•	•			
Fitness Suite	•		•			

Free Weights	•	•	•			
Squash Court	•					
Racketball Court						
Health Suite	•		•			
Ten Pin Bowling						
Dance / Exercise Studio	•					
Meeting Room	•	•		•		
Children's Soft Play Facility	•		•			
Children's Interactive Fitness Suite	•					
Cafe	•	•				

Table 3: Main Leisure Centres within Dungannon District

Facility	Dungannon Leisure Centre				
Swimming Pool	•				
Sports Hall	•				
Fitness Suite	•				
Free Weights	•				
Squash Court	•				
Racketball Court					
Health Suite	•				
Ten Pin Bowling					
Dance / Exercise Studio	•				

Meeting Room	•				
Children's Play Facility					
Children's Interactive Fitness Suite					
Cafe					

Appendix 4

Table 1: Main Outdoor Sports Activities available in Mid Ulster District

Activity	Facilities
Bowling	Public bowling green in Cookstown and a number of clubs across the District. Public bowling green in Drumcoo, Dungannon and a number of clubs across the Borough. Magherafelt Bowling Club
Canoeing	Available along the Ballinderry River, Lough Neagh (Ballyronan) and Roughan Lough in Cookstown District Available along the River Blackwater in Dungannon Borough Available on River Bann in Magherafelt District.
Clay Pigeon Shooting	There are currently 16 Clubs in Cookstown District There are a number of ranges in Dungannon Borough with a modern clay pigeon range at Logue's Hill Clay Pigeon shooting is available at The Jungle in Moneymore and there are a number of other ranges across the District.
Cricket	Played at Mid Ulster Sports Arena Cookstown. There are several cricket clubs and grounds in the Borough including Dungannon Park Cricket can be played in Meadowbank Sports Arena in Magherafelt
Fishing	Ballinderry River, Lough Feagh, Lough Bracken, Camlough and Roughan Lough, with private facilities at Altmore Open Farm and Turnaface Fishery. The River Blackwater and its Oona and Torrent tributaries, provide angling opportunities with facilities at Altmore Open Farm, Dungannon Lake and Annaglinny.
Gaelic Football and Associated Sports	Pitches at various locations across Cookstown District including Ardboe, Ballinderry, Drummullan, Kildress, Lissan, Loop, Moortown, Pomeroy, Stewartstown and The Rock. Pitches at various locations across Dungannon Borough including Dungannon Clarkes, Coalisland, Donaghmore, Moy, Pomeroy, Galbally and Errigal Ciaran (Ballygawley) Pitches at various locations across the Borough, Magherafelt, Maghera, Bellaghy, Castledawson, Clady, Creagh, Gulladuff, Straw, Ballymaguigan, Swatragh, Longfield and Slaughtneil
Golf	18 hole course at Killymoon, Cookstown and at Slate Golf Club along main Cookstown-Pomeroy Road. There are also pitch and put facilities at Altmore Open Farm. 18 hole course in Dungannon, with 9 hole par three golf courses at Coalisland, and Aughnacloy. Tobermore driving range, Ronan Valley 9 hole golf course (Magherafelt), Moyola Park course (Castledawson), Traad Ponds course (Ballymaguigan)
Hockey	All weather pitch at Cookstown High School, Coolnafranky Estate, Cookstown. All weather floodlit pitch at Drumcoo, Dungannon Rainey Old Girls Hockey Club in Magherafelt
Horse Riding	Edergole Riding Centre Facilities at the South Tyrone Hunt Club at Castlecaulfield, Moy and Hill Top Riding Schools, Clogher Valley Horses and The Forest Stables, Fivemiletown Marsh Kyfe Riding School and Meadowvale Equestrian Centre in Magherafelt District.

Jet Skiing	Lough Neagh, Ballyronan Marina.
Rugby	Played at Loughry College, Cookstown Pitches in Dungannon and Magherafelt
Sailing and boating	Lough Neagh, with public access at Ballyronan and Curran Quay and private access at the Battery, Moortown
Soccer	Three pitches in Cookstown, one also in Moneymore, Drapersfield and a privately owned pitch in Coagh. Pitches in Drumcoo, West Park and Mullaghanagh, Dungannon, together with Coalisland, Fivemiletown, Ballygawley, Castlecaulfield, Benburb, Aughnacloy and Newmills. Indoor and outdoor at Meadowbank, Magherafelt and Tobermore
Tennis	Two hard courts at Fairhill, Cookstown Clubs in Dungannon and Aughnacloy Courts available at Meadowbank and Tobermore recreation grounds
Water-skiing	Roughan Lough Lough Neagh River Bann

Source: Mid Ulster Council

Note: The above list is not exhaustive but it does indicate the main activities available

Appendix 5

Table 1 : Public Bodies including Council providing additional Informal and Passive Recreation Opportunities within the District

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Forestry)	<p>Forest Parks</p> <p>Altmore, Banagher, Bann Woods South, Caledon, Clabby, Cookstown, Creggan, Crocknagrally, Davagh, Derrynoyd, Drum Manor, Dunmoyle, Fardross, Favour Royal, Glenshane, Goles , Iniscarn, Knockmany , Moydamlaght , Moyola, Mullaghfad, Parkanaur, Pomeroy, Portglenone</p>
Mid Ulster District Council	<p>Water Recreation Facilities</p> <p>Ballyronan Marina, Ballysaggart Lough, Battery Harbour, Benburb Canoe Steps, Blackwater Canoe Trail, Carrick Lough, Coalisland Canal, Creeve Lough, Enagh Lough, Moy Slipway/canoe steps, Park Lake, Tullygiven Lough</p> <p>Parks</p> <p>Aughnacloy, Ballygawley, Benburb, Castlecaulfield, Drumcoo, Dungannon Park, Fivemiletown, Roundlake, Gortgonis, Newmills Railway, U.S. Grants, Washingbay, Castlehill, Windmill Wood, Drumglass Wood, Mullaghanagh, West Park, Fairhill, Meadowbank, Polepatrick, Sperrin View, Greenvale Spires Park, Glenburn, O'Neill Park, Coleraine Road, Moykeeran, Glenelly Villas, Cahore Road, Boyne Row, Riverside, Hunters Park, Newferry Road, Mill Park Tobermore, Swatragh, Clady, Knockloughrim, Glenone, Ballymacombs Road, Maghera Walled Garden</p> <p>Local Nature Reserve's</p> <p>Ballyronan Wood: Accessible to public with surfaced paths, information boards, etc.</p> <p>Traad Point: Although public have informal access, there is no car park and no formal paths through the site. (Have to park at the side of the road and jump a gate). There is a project being put together to try to provide visitor access.</p> <p>Washing Bay Wetlands Park: Fully accessible to public with surfaced paths, information boards, etc.</p> <p>Heritage Sites</p> <p>Ardboe Old Cross, Beaghmore Stone Circles, BellaghyBawn, Coyle's Cottage, Derryloran Old Church and Graveyard, Dun RuadhBroughderg, Grant Ancestral Homestead, Hill of the O'Neill, Knockloughrim Windmill, St Patrick's Chair and Well, Timoney Dolmen, Tirkane Sweathouse, Tullaghoge Fort</p> <p>Campsites</p> <p>Ballyronan Marina, Dungannon Park, Fivemiletown</p>
National Trust	Manages Springhill in Moneymore and Wellbrook Beetling Mill in Cookstown.
Northern Ireland Environment Agency	<p>NIEA manage the following sites on behalf of DOE:</p> <p>Lough Beg National Nature Reserve – Church Island is the focal point of the nature reserve and has the ruins of an old church complete with spire and also an old cemetery, holy well and the site of an old monastery. During the summer access on foot across the nature reserve is possible.</p> <p>Lough Neagh Islands (Lough Neagh islands comprises a series of small Nature Reserves around the shoreline of Lough Neagh. The council boundary splits Lough Neagh into sections).</p> <p>Ballynahone Bog National Nature Reserve – access only with permission from the Ulster Wildlife Trust</p>

Public Right of Ways Accessing Open Countryside	<p>(PROWs) are routes that the public are legally allowed to access, regardless of whether the land is in public or private ownership. PROWs are created through the 'Access to the Countryside (Northern Ireland) Order 1983' and responsibility for implementing this Order lies with District Councils who are also responsible for the management and maintenance of PROWs. Cookstown is the only area with Mid Ulster Council to have asserted PROWs, see below:</p> <p>Old Chapel Road, Warwicks Way, Drum Road Loop, Dunnamore, Loughry Estate, Dungannon Road, Loup Road to Ballyeglish Old Grave Yard, Mullan Road, Gort Moss, Innevall</p>
Waterways Ireland	<p>The Lower Bann Navigation Waterway runs along the eastern Mid Ulster Boundary. The waterway begins at Lough Neagh, travels through Lough Beg and along the Lower Bann till it leaves Mid Ulster Area at Portna Lock Bridge. Angling, boating, jet skiing, canoeing, cycling, rowing and sailing are all available along the Lower Bann waterway. Service facilities along the route are provided at Newferry West Service Block and Jetty, Hutchinson Quay and Portna Lock.</p>

Source: Mid Ulster District Council Survey / Outdoor Recreation Audit 2015

Note: The above list is not exhaustive but it does give an indication of the additional public bodies and the provision they provide for outdoor recreation in the Mid Ulster District

Appendix 6

Map of Children’s Play Space Distribution

