

## **Taunton Town Council**

### **Play Area Assessment Report** *Version 1.0*

Written and Published By:

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This document was produced with a view to providing information, assessments and recommendations to assist in meeting certain objectives of Taunton Town Council. The content is based on the experience of Sports and Play Consulting and any specialist advice and recommendations contributed by third parties or using public information during the time of the agreement.

Any conclusions or recommendations are to be considered guidelines only for making decisions, based on that information, and should not be relied on as the sole source of advice.

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## 1. Introduction to Sports and Play Consulting

Sports and Play Consulting was established in 2017 to provide independent advice and support for Town and Parish Councils in relation to play, fitness and sports projects.

The company is experienced in design, procurement, project management, public consultation and in-depth studies across the country having completed over 100 projects. This includes assessing facilities, budget and technical advice, tendering and the implementation of either new or developing existing facilities, with a primary goal to partner with a council and community to reach specific objectives.

Following discussions with both Craig Stone and Paul Grant, it was agreed in August 2024 for Sports and Play Consulting to undertake an assessment, based on certain criteria and objectives by the Council, of specific play facilities across Taunton. The 12 play areas this report relates to have been transferred to Taunton Town Council in respect to ownership and maintenance from Somerset Council and local Parish Councils.

The report was written by the Managing Director of Sports and Play Consulting, Michael Carter who has over 10 years' experience in advising, procuring and delivering play facilities to Councils across England.

Additionally, Liz Townsend was a key contributor who has over 25 years' experience in playground design & delivery and play research with some of the largest industry organisations in Europe.

The report is to be submitted in September 2024 for an initial review by the facilities team, with a planned presentation at the November Full Council meeting.

## 2. Scope and Objectives

The purpose of this report stems from the original objective of Taunton Town Council to assess and determine whether the play areas they own and operate are accessible and inclusive for users or require design changes and investment. Details of the sites are listed in Section 4, with an expanded assessment provided as separate attachments of each site. Taunton Town Council has set some key objectives for the report which include and will be covered within this document and appendices:

- Assess the existing play equipment for play value.
- Evaluate inclusivity and accessibility of each park.
- Provide recommendations for the town council to support future planning.

There are a number of stages and considerations to reach an optimal outcome for each of the sites in question, which will largely be influenced and determined by:

- **Key stakeholders:** who should be involved in the decision making, which organisations need to be consulted during the process, and when.
- **Assessment of the play areas:** assessing each site for accessibility, play value and inclusivity.
- **Location and type of play area:** who does the site cater for and which are more strategic in terms of serving the wider community.
- **Budgetary constraints:** what funds are available internally and externally to allocate against each site individually or for all the town's play facilities.
- **Time frames:** how long is the process to achieve the most desirable changes.
- **Measuring the success of change:** how will the Council effectively measure the success of any changes and investment made to the play areas and adapt to any additional advice or change required.

A key part of this report is ensuring that it does not focus on a certain group, such as only those who are less able, or in wheelchairs. Rather, the goal will be to report on how sites can be more inclusive for as many users or potential users as possible. This considers how each location caters for a wide range of ages and abilities of children; however, it must also consider the carers such as parents, grandparents, or anyone who is looking after the children while they visit the play area.

**It is also important to understand that every site cannot be “everything to everyone”. Creating inclusive play areas is about providing real choices and options for the individuals in the community to decide which is the best play area and space in that site for their own personal requirements.**

This report will aim to present enough information to assist Taunton Town Council to make informed decisions pertaining to improving the overall design and amenity of each site, which aspects and in what priority. It also is critical to understand the definitions of “Accessibility” and “Inclusivity” which can mean different things to different people, this is outlined in Section 4.1.

**The Report will not include:** the condition of each item (other than general site observations) or aspects/findings relating to the BS EN Standards, 1176 and 1177 which would be included in the annual or a post installation Inspection. Playgrounds must be regularly inspected, with an operational inspection either monthly or quarterly depending on the risk assessment, and annually by a qualified RPII Inspector. It is our understanding that for most of the sites this is currently being undertaken by Somerset Council until April 2025.

**Inspection Finding:** any findings should be addressed relative to the level of risk or required repair or replacement of that item.

### 3. A General Guide to Play Facilities

#### 3.1 Types of Play Areas

Play areas have evolved considerably over the last 100 years, in terms of design, equipment and surfacing. However, fundamentally they still provide very similar objectives. From an industry perspective, play areas are designed to primarily cater for 0–12-year-old children, however this is not a hard and fast rule, as the age, sex, physical and mental ability are all unique to the individual. Further, play areas should always consider the carers, or adults who are also with the child or children at the time.

Notwithstanding, there is no specific type or industry label for every playground, although historically and across some organisations, the terms LAP, LEAP and NEAP have and are still sometimes used.

- LAP (Local Area Play) for smaller play sites aimed at young children.
- LEAP (Local Equipped Area Play) for medium size play sites aimed at both young children and those who have more independence.
- NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play) for larger open spaces with a greater range of structures, landscaping, and possibly complemented with a sports facility.

However, these definitions and associated guidelines are being used less often as the one size approach does not fit all. Play areas should be adapted to principles outlined in Section 3.2, and so quite often will be bespoke and unique to that site.

For the purposes of this report, and any communication and supporting evidence, the terms used as a guide only are as follows:

- **Local:** a small to medium size play area that may cater for all suitable ages, however, is most likely only going to be used by children and their families living in the immediate vicinity. That is, it is not dictated by the equipment, rather the location and general design. Primarily, it will be used by younger children with their carer's and for shorter periods of time and would be accessed by walking to the site.
- **Neighbourhood:** this will usually be a medium – larger site that is the main playground for a specific neighbourhood however, it

may attract users from other locations such as friends and families meeting or if the facilities on site are better equipped. It will likely be used by a variety of ages and abilities, who will spend more time at the site and possibly drive or cycle to access the play area.

- **Destination:** a destination play area is usually the main or one of only a few larger play areas that would cater for all ages and abilities with excellent access. Families will often travel across a town or city to visit the site, and good car parking and public transport near the site is critical, along with appropriate pathways and cycle ways.

The selection of equipment, surfacing, size, and budget available to the owner/operator and many other factors will dictate the type of play area and ultimately the design and how it will be used.

### 3.2 Design and Use of a play area

The design of any play area can be influenced by a number of factors, such as: inheritance from historical installations, a piece-meal approach to investment or additions over a number of years. New designs are shaped and influenced by stakeholders such as council members who provide a brief, a funder who may have specific requirements, the company chosen to deliver equipment, and local support groups or organisations who give their input.

When developing a new play area or enhancing an existing site it is important that the following factors are considered\*:

- Accessibility to the site
- The landscape and general site conditions such as drainage, tree canopies, slopes, proximity to houses, and any risks or safety concerns for users such as busy roads or water courses.
- Community needs: population and demographics of the local community, community input, other play areas in the vicinity
- Other on-site facilities such as toilets or parking
- Ongoing maintenance and sustainability: staff resource and associated costs
- Allowances for future change, additions and evolution

The design of the actual play area will depend on the type and size of the site, however for most 'Neighbourhood' and 'Destination' playgrounds the key principles include\*:



- Something unique and appropriate to that site
- The layout and flow, creating a journey for users.
- Creating zones for different ages and abilities
- Allow for graduated challenges, personal and social development, opportunities to experience risk but also quiet spaces and transition between zones.
- A wide & varied range of play experiences that gives choices to users: popular play items, capacity required for expected footfall.
- Create inclusive play opportunities for all ages and abilities wherever possible.
- Ensure the site is accessible and practical for everyone: entrances & exits, adequate and appropriate seating, pathways, bins and signage, location of the items (both play and non-play)
- Utilise existing features of the site where possible and appropriate.
- Incorporating elements of natural and sensory play
- Appropriate materials used for the equipment and surfacing.

\*(Adapted from "Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces" published by Play England, 2008)

For many councils, playground design is an unfamiliar exercise, officers and councillors are not likely to have the specific experience to understand all the components that create a successful site. Therefore, it is critical that external specialists and industry suppliers should guide and influence the approach, ideally alongside any local knowledge and community input that is possible and appropriate to gather.

A good design and location help ensure that the play area is popular with the community, is looked after by them, and provides significant physical and mental health benefits, while a poorly designed site may be left unused or possibly misused and vandalised.

### 3.3 Inspection and Maintenance

Owners and operators of play areas must carry out regular inspections by suitably trained staff or 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractors.

Inspections are to assess a new play area (Post Installation) or to inspect existing play area (Routine, Operational and Annual). This includes the entire site, not just the equipment.

A detailed process to maintain equipment, surfacing and all components that make up a play area is a critical part of ensuring the safety and longevity of the site. The manufacturer or supplier of these should provide instructions following the installation of any new equipment or surfacing.

A system to record both Inspection and Maintenance should be kept as good practice, and to validate any warranty claims.

## 4. Inclusivity and Accessibility

### 4.1 Definitions

**“Accessibility”** concerns the quality of being able to find, reach, enter and navigate around the play area. Broadly it considers environmental factors such as travel routes, signposting, surfacing and visibility or understanding and ease of navigating and moving within the environment to access the play area and features within it.

**“Inclusion”** is the considered provision of opportunities for play that ensure all children, including those with diverse physical, cognitive and sensory abilities can join in and be included within the play. Broadly, it considers the play features such as design and positioning of equipment, surfacing, layout and flow within a playground.

The context and impact of disability in the population is important to understand. Disability is not a ‘minority’ issue. 25% of the entire population is either directly or indirectly affected by a disability.<sup>1</sup>

In Britain over 10 million people have a limiting long-term illness, impairment or disability - this is over 18 per cent of the population.<sup>2</sup>

The most common types of impairment for adults in Britain are those associated with a difficulty in mobility, lifting and carrying.<sup>3</sup>

Disabled children are more likely to have a mental condition like learning or communication difficulties, rather than a physical impairment.<sup>4</sup>

In the 2021/22 census around 11% of children in the UK were registered as disabled.<sup>5</sup>

### 4.2 Accessibility: our approach to assessing Location, Access and Design

The objective of our Accessibility Assessment report (appendix 9.2) is to give you a simple traffic light overview of the current performance of each site that supports the prioritisation of investment and planned works across all sites.

The possibility of gaining access to a public play space is the very beginning of our assessment. Without family knowledge that a play area exists, the ability to find it, to physically get to it, and then into and around the play area can potentially be the very first barriers to inclusion. Therefore, accessibility is the first thing we assess.

Most young children will visit a playground under the supervision of an adult carer. A potential barrier for us to consider is that an adult carer may have a disability, and their needs should also be considered in order to make the play area accessible for them, and therefore the children they will bring with them.

For some families who are living with a disability, a good understanding of what to expect before they come to use the play area is a critical factor in deciding whether to visit or not. Information that can be accessed in advance could be published on a council website, on a national database or on social media. Photographs and a short description about access routes and facilities found on site are extremely helpful in breaking down barriers to access.

#### 4.3 Inclusivity: our approach to assessing Play Equipment and Surfacing

The objective of our Inclusivity Assessment report (appendix 9.2) is to give you a simple traffic light overview of the current performance of each site that supports the prioritisation of investment and planned works across all sites.

It is important to point out that inclusivity should not be entirely focused on wheelchair access. It is a minority of children who have severe physical disabilities and use a wheelchair or walking aid to assist them<sup>4,5</sup>. However, this is also a very visible demonstration of disability, and these children can feel like they are the most marginalised and excluded from public spaces. Providing for children who use a wheelchair or walking aid is a clearly visible way of providing a play experience with good access for a very broad number of children who may have less severe disabilities, therefore the play space becomes more 'inclusive'. It is important that these types of features are designed to be inclusive for children with a variety of abilities or disabilities and can be accessed by anyone at any time, rather than *exclusive* to the use of *only* children who use a wheelchair or walking aid. This only *excludes play and interaction with other children*, we

would argue that this approach flies entirely in the face of the objective of providing inclusive play.

As providers it is important to understand two things:

- a) The makeup of the surrounding community: their general needs, their concerns, their requests if any, and if there are any specific needs within that community.
- b) That many abilities and disabilities are at the opposite end of the spectrum where children require physical challenges and open space not always found within their home or school environment.

**The overall objective is to provide choice. Real choices that give children the opportunity to access a number of levels of challenge from easy to hard, choices that are appropriate to their personal stage of development, their age and their ability, whatever that may be, and which meets their needs today and in the future. The choice and possibility to play along with other children should they wish to and the choice to disengage from sensory exposure if required.**

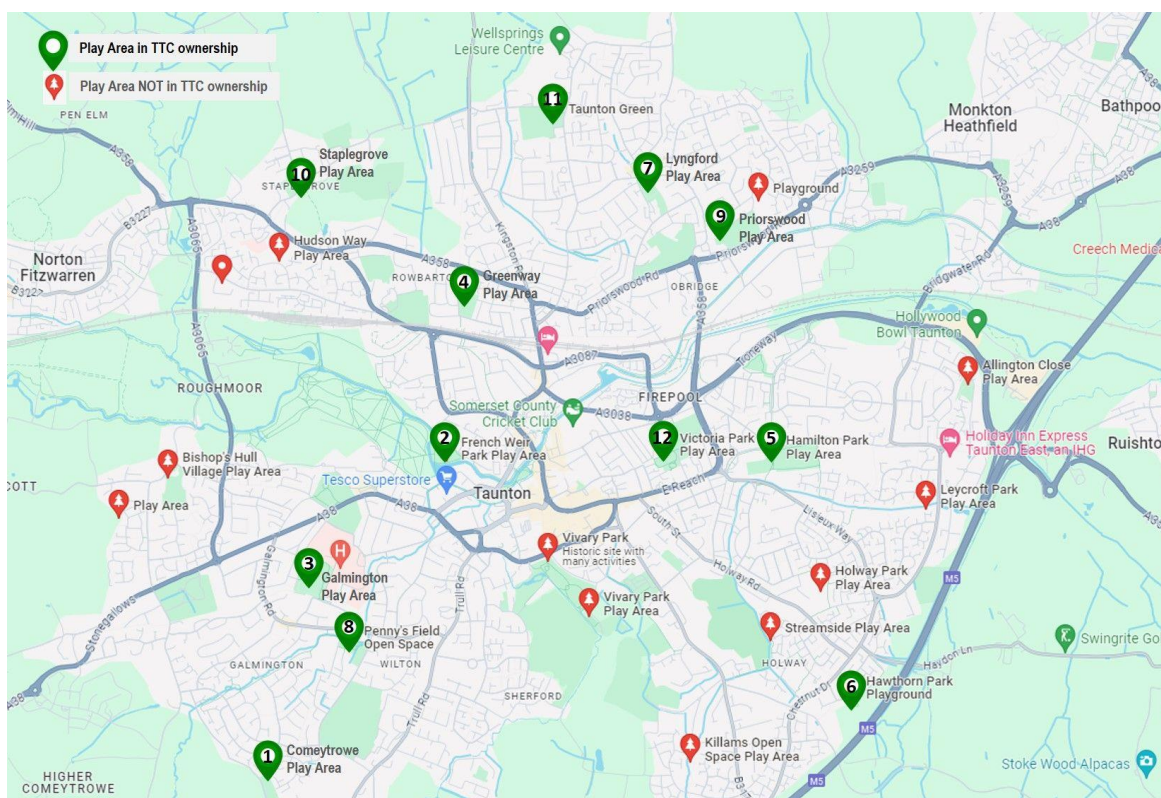
Barriers to access and inclusion can be physical, cognitive and can also be cultural. Engagement with and feedback from the local community, including hard to reach groups can be very helpful in guiding this and creating a successful play area that the community love.

## 5. Details of the Play Areas owned by Taunton Town Council

### 5.1 Detailed Site Summary

Taunton Town Council is currently the owner/operator of 12 play areas across the town. They have recently been transferred from both Somerset County Council and local Parish Councils. However, there are other play areas across Taunton that are not part of this assessment, and it is assumed are currently not within the Town Councils responsibility.

Below is a Google Map showing the 12 sites in question (Green numbered symbol), plus the other play areas (Red tree symbol).



Each site is unique in terms of the community it serves, location, equipment and general design and layout. Below is a table of each site, address and type as defined in Section 3.1.



Site Name	Address	Postcode	Type
<b>Comeytrowe</b>	Off College Way	TA1 4YG	Local
<b>French Weir Park</b>	Off French Weir Close	TA1 1VJ	Destination
<b>Galmington</b>	Off Musgrove Road	TA1 5LB	Local
<b>Greenway</b>	Off Greenway Ave	TA2 6HY	Neighbourhood
<b>Hamilton Park</b>	Off Hamilton Road	TA1 2BF	Neighbourhood
<b>Hawthorn Park</b>	Off Rowan Drive	TA1 2QN	Neighbourhood
<b>Lyngford Park</b>	Off Eastwick Road	TA2 7HB	Neighbourhood
<b>Penny's Field</b>	Off College Way	TA1 4TU	Neighbourhood
<b>Priorswood</b>	Off Eastwick Road	TA2 7HJ	Local/Neighbourhood
<b>Staplegrove</b>	Off Manor Road	TA2 6EJ	Local
<b>Taunton Green</b>	Off Hope Corner Lane	TA2 7BA	Neighbourhood
<b>Victoria Park</b>	Off Victoria Gate	TA1 1TB	Destination

The Appendix '**Detailed Site Summary**' is an Excel spreadsheet that provides detail of each site including:

- Site Address: Closest street address.
- Type: Local, Neighbourhood or Destination.
- Strategic Importance: Low, Medium or High (generally correlating to the Type).
- Equipment List and associated surfacing to that item.
- Observations: detailing existing features and any obvious issues or concerns.
- Assessment Scoring: Accessibility, Play and Inclusivity.
- Site Recommendations: key elements such as equipment, surfacing and seating.
- Proposed Investment: to improve the overall facility to a good standard for that type of facility.
- Site Photo and Google Map

The purpose of this information is to list some key data against each site, as a quick reference, and should only be used as a guide and not an in-depth study or analysis. Subsequently it allows an easy reference for further discussion and identification.

**Note:** It is important to note that any budgetary information is a guide only and should not be taken strictly to identify an exact figure or range. That is, a suggested **low** or **high** is a generalised cost which will allow the Council to understand potential financial implications of investment to improve a site to a good standard. However, this will be more exact once specifications and a tender process has been initiated and submissions evaluated.

## 5.2 Accessibility Assessment

The accessibility assessment (appendix 9.2) is a snapshot and scoring system to understand how easy it is for a child, carer or anyone visiting to find, get to and move through the site regardless of age, ability or background.

Each section and query will be scored based on the following values to then calculate a total score.

Score	For Individual Values
0	Non-existent
1	Low or poor provision
2	Medium or adequate provision
3	High or very good provision

The total score will then allow a site rating as follows:

Score	Rating
0-39	Poor
40-79	Adequate
80-120	Good

**Scoring play areas is not a perfect science, and often the elements can be subjective and open to interpretation. However, the purpose of this system is to identify general shortcomings or strengths, to help with any planning and prioritising the investment being made.**

## 5.3 Play Assessment

The play assessment (appendix 9.2) is focused on key play experiences and outcomes. These are split into two types of function:

1. **Physical and Gross Motor:** such as swinging, sliding, climbing etc.
2. **Personal Development:** such as social, competitive, sensory play etc

The assessment is also further broken down into two age categories:

1. **Under 7 years of age:** broadly based on toddler and early years
2. **7 Years and above:** broadly based on junior aged children



It is understood that each child is unique in their own development and abilities and that simply confining children to two age groups is a crude classification. However, for practical purposes it is an industry standard starting point to recognise which key play functions are provided for, limited or absent altogether. This will then help with determining what equipment or play functions the Council should focus on when considering any enhancements into the site.

Each section and query will be scored based on the following values to then calculate a total score.

Score	For Individual Values
0	Non-existent
1	Low or poor provision
2	Medium or adequate provision
3	High or very good provision

The total score will then allow a site rating as follows:

Total Score	Rating
0-29	Poor
30-59	Adequate
60-90	Good

## 5.4 Inclusivity Assessment

The Inclusivity Assessment (appendix 9.2) is designed to provide a score and grading system on how well a play area is designed for children of all abilities, disabilities and backgrounds, and how it encourages and enables everyone to join in.

Adhering to the definition of Inclusivity, this is all about providing choice. Choices for each child to make in determining what part of a play area they wish to utilise and when. If the choices available are limited, then the inclusivity of that site will be low, and they may feel (or be) excluded and will unlikely want to return.

Adults and carers of the children visiting the site are also part of this inclusivity assessment and how it caters for their choices and abilities.

For example, does a parent need to take a rest on a bench, and if so, is there adequate seating available?

**There may be an overlap across all three assessments in terms of access, inclusion and play function. However, the scoring of each site should help identify the specific areas that need improving or at least some consideration for prioritisation.**

Each section and query will be scored based on the following values to then calculate a total score.

Score	For Individual Values
0	Non-existent
1	Low or poor provision
2	Medium or adequate provision
3	High or very good provision

The total score will then allow a site rating as follows:

Score	Rating
0-13	Poor
14-28	Adequate
29-42	Good

## 6. Summary of Assessments and Proposed Budget Estimates

The table below is a summary of all the assessments across the 12 sites (appendix 9.2), which correlates with the overall Rating for each site. It is important to note that scoring may represent a Rating at either the high, or equally low end of that range which should be then reviewed in more detail to make any further conclusions or recommendations.

Site Name	Accessibility Score (out of 120)	Play Value Score (out of 90)	Inclusivity Score (out of 42)
<b>Colour key</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>
Comeytrove	50	26	17
French Weir Park	58	60	24
Galmington	38	26	11
Greenway Park	50	30	14
Hamilton Park	52	45	22
Hawthorn Park	29	45	20
Lyngford Park	50	31	18
Penny's Field	43	23	11
Priorswood	41	40	16
Staplegrove	36	17	13
Taunton Green	65	47	29
Victoria Park	53	60	24

The table below represents a budgetary guide for investing into the sites, with the aim of improving these to the appropriate score and rating for their type. It also suggests in what order that investment should be made, or sites allocated the highest priority. This however needs to be treated with careful consideration as the writers of this report do not have the knowledge of what investment is available to the Council, and what their priorities are and in what timescales. The figures could be significantly different based on a variety of factors such as the

tender brief and specifications, contractors who bid for the work, and which components of the assessments will be given the greatest priority.

Priority Ranking	Site Name	Budget Estimate Low (Ex VAT)	Budget Estimate High (Ex VAT)
1	Victoria Park	£160,000	£220,000
2	Taunton Green	£120,000	£150,000
3	Penny's Field	£80,000	£100,000
4	French Weir Park	£60,000	£80,000
5	Lyngford Park	£120,000	£150,000
6	Galmington	£60,000	£80,000
7	Greenway Park	£60,000	£80,000
8	Hamilton Park	£40,000	£60,000
9	Priorswood	£40,000	£80,000
10	Hawthorn Park	£40,000	£60,000
11	Staplegrove	£40,000	£60,000
12	Comeytrove	£40,000	£60,000
		<b>£860,000</b>	<b>£1,180,000</b>

The Council should understand that a significant portion of the improvements and investment is not necessarily only to do with play equipment. It also relates to surfacing under the equipment, pathways within the site, signage, and appropriate seating. These components go a long way to improving the issues with Accessibility and Inclusivity and are an issue with many sites.

**The Council also has to ensure there is a robust Sinking and Maintenance fund in place for all the sites.**

## 7. Additional Support Options

In addition to the play assessments that has been submitted to Taunton Town Council, Sports and Play Consulting provide a number of other services. These will help the Council, with external support to take the initial report and review of the sites through to a step-by-step plan to tender and deliver any agreed investment.

Additionally, Taunton Town Council may wish to undertake a similar assessment of any sports and fitness facilities that it currently or potentially will acquire in the future.

### 7.1 Sports and Fitness Facility Assessment

Sports facilities such a Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA's) and outdoor fitness equipment could also be assessed based on several key factors. These could include:

- Location.
- Design.
- Community Use.
- Accessibility and Inclusivity.

It was noted that many of these types of facilities have been installed near the play sites and could form part of a sports and play strategy prior to any further significant investment.

### 7.2 Public Consultation

Public Consultation and Engagement is critical when considering any changes or significant investment into an existing or new facility. Not only should the community be part of the process to help understand and ensure investment is being made in the right way, but the method for engagement and the way in which it is formulated and conducted is just as important to ensure the information collected is relevant, measurable, deliverable and beneficial.

A consultation can be designed and based on various factors, which may include:

- Strategic importance of the site.
- Current and potential use.
- Considered changes and impact.
- Budgetary impact: initial and ongoing.
- Time Frames of proposed changes.

Sports and Play Consulting could assist by working with the Council to determine the best practice and format to undertake and for which facilities.

### 7.3 Design Concepts

Prior to going out to tender, creation of a design concept is critical to formulating a brief and scope of work for the project. It is a document that visually describes the key factors to be addressed and is especially useful for site locations that have existing facilities or features that should be incorporated, altered or replaced.

The process of creating a Design Concept helps to form and refine the priorities for the client. Using a design concept to form part of the project brief creates a consistent and clear communication of the project requirements, decided in advance of engagement with any contractor or manufacturer chosen to deliver the project. It may be used to describe key design factors for altering layout and flow and/ or for defining a material and colour palate and 'design code' appropriate to the location.

The process of creating a design concept would typically consider the following:

- The outcome and conclusions of Accessibility, Inclusivity, Play Value and Safety Inspection assessments.
- Community input through consultation and engagement.
- Input from key stakeholders such as councillors, officers, maintenance team, community police, funder (as appropriate).
- The budget available for investment.

Sports and Play Consulting could assist by working with the Council to develop design concepts at the key strategic sites.

## 7.4 Procurement and Tendering

If the Council decides to allocate funding into a project, this will fall under the 2015 Public Procurement Regulations which all government bodies including Town Councils are required to adhere to. A robust and proportionate tender document and brief is critical in the process to ultimately get the best design and contractor selected for the work.

Having the right information, evaluation and scoring criteria and any supporting detail will allow all parties to make an informed choice as much as is reasonably possible.

Sports and Play Consulting using both play design experience and procurement advice, can manage this process on behalf of the Council.

## 7.5 Project Management

Having a project manager either employed by the Council, or a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor, will help mitigate potential risks, provide advice before and during the actual work, and ensure the contractual agreements have been met. Also, regular and effective communication is important for all parties and stakeholders.

Sports and Play Consulting can offer a project management role which can be a key resource particularly for larger projects. This also includes a Building Agreement that has been created for these types of facilities by a construction lawyer to help protect the Council and be clear on roles and responsibilities.

## 8. Summary and Next Steps

Based on the assessments provided, the 12 Play Areas the Town Council owns and operates do have a range of areas that require attention and investment. Our review has identified priorities and suggested actions on a site by site basis (appendix 9.1). The next step is to review this alongside available financial resources and allocate the appropriate resource to improve each location enough to benefit the community who use the facility.

The facilities have an important role for either localised communities near each site, or for the wider community across Taunton, depending on their type (local/ neighbourhood/ destination). Undoubtedly, there is a significant benefit to both Taunton Town Council and the population by understanding and addressing these issues with a robust strategy that is clear on the objectives and how to achieve them.

The primary goal of the Council should be to use the content of this report to form a strategy for improving the sites to an acceptable standard appropriate for each location and type.

This will fundamentally be driven by funding available to determine the quantity and the timescale in which these changes can be made, in what order and to what extent in terms of the recommendations made.

**Do: The Facilities Team and Full Council should create a structured strategy and plan to address the issues of Access, Play and Inclusion to improve some or all the areas that have been highlighted. This needs to include appropriate consultation with the community and any other stakeholders to ensure the plan meets the needs of all involved, as much as practically possible within the financial constraints available.**

**Do: Execute the plan in a reasonable time frame, following the necessary procurement requirements and evaluation process to source the best contractors and designs to fulfil those needs.**



**Do Not: Take further piecemeal steps by adding single items or minor changes that will have no real benefit to the site or local community using it.**

**However, if based on the funding available and the clear benefit a small change can make to a site, these should be part of the overall strategy.**

**Do Not: Neglect adults or carers visiting the site, or only focus on certain groups of children and their needs. It's about offering 'Choice' and a range of considerations for as many potential users as possible, proportionate to each site.**

## 9. Appendices

- 9.1 Site Details and Summary (Excel)  
One excel file with a tab for each site
  
- 9.2 Accessibility, Play and Inclusivity Assessments (Excel) x12  
Each site as a separate excel file, each file with 3 tabs:  
Accessibility / Play / Inclusivity

## 10. Data Sources

- 1: United Nations and World Bank
- 2, 3, 4: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/hr/edi/disability/facts/> &  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-disability-issues>
- 5: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9602/>
- 6: CSR Europe, 'Disability: facts and figures' 2007: "Only 8 per cent of disabled people in the UK use a wheelchair".