

Committee: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **21st September 2020**

Report Subject: **Investment in Children’s Play Provision**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. Joanna Wilkins, Executive Member Environment**

Report Submitted by: **Head of Community Services, Clive Rogers
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Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
19.08.20	20.08.20	07.09.20			21.09.20	14.10.20		

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide an update in relation to children’s play area sites and seek Member endorsement for the current work programme for the installation of the play equipment into sites in line with the priorities identified following the detailed play area review undertaken and reported to Council in December 2018.

2. Scope and Background

2.1 Scope

This report provides the rationale for the installation of new children’s play equipment purchased, following funding received from Welsh Government through the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant (AWPOG), received at the end of the 2019/20 (March) financial year in the context of the decision made under delegated authority to reallocate the funding originally identified for the Splash Park project. The decision to reallocate the funds was made on the basis that owners of the Festival Park were no longer in a position to take forward the Splash Park project and the Council had to advise Welsh Government of how the funds would be utilised by the end of March 2020 or the funds would be withdrawn.

2.2 This report identifies play area sites where the purchased equipment is to be installed, together with providing an identified future rolling programme for any further funding should it become available in future years. This is highlighted within (Appendix 1).

2.3 Background

The provision of playgrounds and play areas with physical equipment is not a statutory requirement, although, where equipment has been erected, the Council has a duty to inspect and maintain the equipment in good order. However, Welsh Government has placed a duty on local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area. As part of this local authorities have to produce Play Sufficiency Assessments and Play Action Plans. These plans do not

come with an annual funding stream but Welsh Government usually allocate funds towards the end of a financial year in the name of All Wales Play Opportunities Grant (AWPOG).

- 2.4 Wales was the first country in the world to legislate for play under the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. Section 11 of the measure places a duty on local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area.
- 2.5 In November 2012, Welsh Government placed a duty on all Local Authorities to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their areas. The first Play Sufficiency Assessments and Play Action Plans were submitted in March 2013.
- 2.6 An initial AWPOG grant of £117,000 was received in 2019/20 to support the implementing of the Play Sufficiency Action Plan and/or to take other actions to increase play opportunities for children and young people, a report on this funding was included on the information pack for scrutiny on the 5th December 2019 and has been identified as phase 1 works.
- 2.7 In March 2020, the Council was notified by Welsh Government of a further allocation of AWPOG funding, this funding had already been received by Blaenau Gwent in 2017/18, (£110,000), this funding had been initially allocated to a project for the creation of a “Splash Pad” facility.
- 2.8 It is pleasing to report that Parc Bryn Bach Tredegar has recently benefited from new grant funding from Welsh Government provided through the Valleys Regional Parks as part of the Discovery Gateway Project, where a new £185,000 visitor attraction (play facility) has been installed at the park and recently opened to the public following COVID-19 lockdown. The new facility has been very well received by visitors to the park.
- 2.9 As the Authority had conducted a comprehensive review of its own playgrounds in December 2018 it was always the intention that when this review was fully complete then AWPOG funding would be used to address recommendations from this review. The total amount of funding required to undertake all the recommendations of the 2018 play area review was estimated at £580,000.
- 2.10 Due to the need to resolve the funding issue during the COVID-19 lockdown period, the Managing Director, advised by both Director of Social Services and Director of Regeneration & Community Services, used delegated authority to approve the purchase of a range/selection of play equipment which is currently held in storage with HAG’s AMP Ltd. awaiting installation.
- 2.11 The Playground Review carried out in 2018 has provided the methodology to be used to prioritise the funding to upgrade children’s playgrounds across the council.
- 2.12 The review was based around the following:
 - play value;
 - Site access; and
 - Usage levels.

2.13 Using this criterion officers have now identified and prioritised play area sites that are in need of upgrading and would benefit from the introduction of new equipment. This is highlighted in more detail within (Appendix 1) of this report.

2.14 The following play area sites have been identified as priority 1 and 2 in the play area review and have therefore been identified as phase 2 for the installation of the new play equipment:

Play Area Sites (Phase 2)
Parc Bryn Bach Tredegar (New adventure play area has been constructed and opened in July 2020)
Banna Park Nantyglo
Duffryn Park Blaina
Gelli Grug Park Abertillery
Brynmawr Welfare Park
Warm Turn Play Area Abertillery
New Rassau Park Ebbw Vale

2.15 The methodology used from the Playground Review 2018, has now been used to identify sites suitable for upgrading on a rolling programme should future AWPOG funding be made available. This would allow for implementation to be expedited should future funding require expenditure at short notice, as was the case in 2019/20 and now in this instance for 2020/21.

2.16 Additionally, the play area review (2018) identified a number of play area sites that had little or no play value and the future of these should be considered further, below is a list of the sites that have been identified for consideration, as follows:

Play Areas Future Use to Be Considered			
	Play Area	Location	Reason
1.	St James Way Play Area	Tredegar	Play area review 2018
2.	Tredegar Wheeled sports Area (Rear Town Centre)	Tredegar	Play area review 2018
3.	Ball Court Gurnos Est.	Brynmawr	Play area review 2018

4.	Vincent Avenue Play Area	Nantyglo	Play area review 2018
5.	Coedcae Play Area	Nantyglo/Blaina	Play area review 2018
6.	Garn Cross Play Area	Nantyglo	Play Strategy
7.	Glanstruth Play Area	Blaina	Play area review 2018
8.	Brynheulog Play Area	Blaina	Play Strategy
9.	Maeshafod Play Area	Blaina	Play area review 2018
10.	West Side Play Area	Blaina	Play area review 2018
11.	Roseheyworth Play Area	Cwmtillery	Play area review 2018
12.	Roseheyworth Wheeled Sports Area	Cwmtillery	Play area review 2018
13.	Woodland Field Play Area	Cwmtillery	Play area review 2018
14.	Woodland Terrace Play Area	Aberbeeg	Play Strategy
15.	Oxford place Play Area	Llanhilleth	Play area review 2018
16.	Troy Road Play Area	Llanhilleth	Play Strategy
17.	Abertillery Wheeled Sports Area	Abertillery	Removed new Site to be identified
18.	Garnlydan PA	Garnlydan Ebbw Vale	Play area review 2018
19.	Hilltop Wheeled Sports Area	Hilltop Ebbw Vale	Play area review 2018
20.	Newtown Play Area	Newtown Ebbw Vale	Play area review 2018
21.	Cwm Welfare Ground Play Area	Cwm Ebbw Vale	Play area review 2018

1. Now that the identified play areas in the table above have reached their economic and play value life-span it is intended to engage again with local ward members to discuss options for each site.
2. Should any play area site be considered for closure/removal then there would be cost implications associated with this, this would be in two stages as follows:
 - a. Stage 1 – Removal of all play equipment and site made safe (costs to be absorbed in existing grounds maintenance revenue budget);
 - b. Stage 2 – Site clearance of safety surfacing, tarmac, concrete bases etc.; returning sites back to natural state would require some capital investment ranging from £1,500 to £10,000 per site, depending on the size and nature of the equipment that was once on site.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1** (preferred option)

Members endorse the current work programme for the installation of the already purchased play equipment into the sites as identified in 2.14 above and support further dialogue at a ward level in respect of the future of children's play areas as listed in 2.16 above in line with the "Play Area Review" undertaken in December 2018.

3.2 **Option 2**

Members not support the proposal.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

4.1 This report supports the achievement of a number of areas within strategic plans:

1. Access to recreational space for all residents supports their long term physical and mental health and well-being.
2. Recreational spaces are very important for communities in building positive relationships and attitudes.
3. Physical activity is important to everyone regardless of age or ability.
4. Provision of play in many forms will support the development of children and families.
5. Provision of facilities must be sustainable for the future and must consider the long term financial challenges of the Council. Community Asset Transfer is one option that can support this, as is increased use of the natural environment.
6. Smarter infrastructure of residential areas such as road calming, green space, safe routes etc. is essential to give children the option to "play out" and not have to visit an equipped designated area to play.
7. The report fully supports Council priorities.

5. **Implications**

5.1 **Benefits**

- Improved and updated play equipment provides increased play value and benefits to the community.
- Well maintained play facilities improves the health and wellbeing of young people.
- Play provision will become more sustainable in the long term.
- The removal of play areas that are isolated, in poor condition or have little play value will enable the Council to concentrate its effort in larger, multi-use sites that provide for a range of age groups abilities and interests.

5.2 **Dis-benefits**

- In the event of removal of a play area some residents would have further distances to visit a play area.

5.3 Risks

- Having the money clawed back by Welsh Government due to unavoidable delays on proposed timeline.
- Residents and/or ward members may wish sites to remain which will result in continued increased costs and low play value.

5.4 Budget

- The projects/Equipment and installation costs are funded from Welsh Government. The council will continue to support ongoing revenue costs.
- There would be cost implications should any play area be identified for removal.

5.5 Legal

There are no legal implications linked to this report.

5.6 *Human Resources*

There is no impact on human resources associated with this report.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 *Performance Information and Data*

Play areas across Blaenau Gwent are subject to regular recorded inspections and assessment for "Play Value" of each site on an annual basis by an independent assessor.

6.2 *Expected outcome for the public*

There is acknowledgement that play areas can provide health and wellbeing benefits for all ages. Play areas tend to be recognised for their traditional equipment such as a swing, slide and roundabout. Whilst equipped play areas have their place, the more modern approach to play provision links to the wider environment.

6.2.1 Open spaces, woodland, cycle tracks, footpaths, water play etc. offer a breadth of opportunities to children and adults for play and recreation. A more strategic, inclusive approach by services will be able to consider these links and support the provision of play so that it is more widely available, whether that is "outside the front door" or within the natural environment.

6.2.2 This approach would support the Council in maintaining the ability to secure play provision and enable it to concentrate its efforts in larger destination facilities that benefit the wider community rather than individual small areas.

6.2.3 The public would benefit from improved recreation provision that is well maintained, fit for purpose and caters for a wide variety of needs and interests.

6.2.4 The Welsh Government's play legislation directs local authorities to consider the diverse needs of children and are supportive of alternative provision that includes funding for new technology, improvements to open play space, play initiatives and schemes delivered by the third sector, play libraries and free access to leisure facilities.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

Extensive consultation was undertaken during the play area review process in 2018, this included engagement with the following organisations, including:

- Blaenau Gwent Member Engagement
- GAVO
- External partners/Community Groups
- The Play Advisory Service
- Welsh Government

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

For a long term, sustainable play provision it will be necessary to reduce the number of play areas and provide low maintenance sites to keep costs down.

6.4.1 A number of options have been included in this report that will support the Council in this. These include:

- Developing a strategic, inclusive approach that considers play provision in new developments or changes to services i.e. planning, highways, local development plan with links with cycle tracks, footpaths, open space, schools, and community facilities;
- Consideration of larger multi use sites that are suitable for a range of age groups;
- Alternative play provision not necessarily physical equipment;
- Promotion of other play providers;
- Prioritisation of closures could be based on play areas in the poorest condition, size of site, costs of removal;
- Prioritisation of developing an area or changing the use of an area dependent upon location, usage and cost; and
- Investigate potential sponsorship for play areas.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The Council has undertaken a fundamental review of all play areas across the County Borough.

6.5.1 The findings of the review have highlighted the poor condition of many of its play areas and ways that could improve the provision for the longer term.

6.5.2 There will be a need both corporately and operationally to change the service model to one that is fit for purpose for residents, visitors and manageable for the Council in the future.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

There are opportunities to work with housing associations, community groups, trusts and local businesses to secure ways to provide good quality play opportunities.

6.6.1 Initial discussions have taken place that have been positive and will benefit the wider community.

6.6.2 Local childcare providers, childminders and schools would also benefit from future joint working arrangements.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

The content of this report has been considered across a number of services:

- Social Services – Providing an environment that supports health & well-being for families and individuals.
- Environment – Access to open space is essential for alternative play provision, as well as investigating the options for transferring assets to the community or the organisations within the area.
- Planning, Highways & Countryside – The Local Development Plan will safeguard the area's open recreational space so that links between new developments and the local environment can be utilised in the best way possible, securing opportunities for play.
- Corporate – The decrease in funding each year means that the Council need to reduce costs wherever possible. Continued engagement with key stakeholders whilst changing service provision will be key to successful implementation of the chosen option.
- Education - The continued development of community focussed schools to support children's play and out-of-school-hours learning activities help to improve the learning and wellbeing of pupils, their families and the wider community.

6.8 ***EqIA (screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)***

N/A

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 A specialist contractor will be utilised for the installation of the equipment and monitored accordingly by appropriate officers.

7.2 Upon completion of the installation, the comparison and rationale document (Appendix 1) will be updated.

- 7.3 Should external funding be made available in the future, the play areas identified as Priority 2 within the comparison and rationale document (Appendix 1) will be the sites where such funding will be utilised.
- 7.4 Within the criteria and rationale document (Appendix 1), sites identified as Priority 2 should be considered for complete refurbishment which would incur significant costs.
- 7.4.1 Officers will work closely with internal and external colleagues and partners to investigate grant funding opportunities that may be explored to fund such schemes. E.g. As Abertillery Park is a protected Fields In Trust site, funding may be available via Fields In Trust.

8. **Background Documents /Electronic Links**

8.1 **Attached to this report:**

- Appendix 1 – Criteria Comparison & Rationale for Play Area Upgrading

Executive Committee and Council only
 Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A
 Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Appendix 1

Criteria Comparison KEY For Table below	
PA	Play Area
WS	Wheeled Sports (skate board/bikes etc.)
BC	Ball Court or Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)
Priority 1	Sites identified in 2018 play area review for additional equipment to be installed in year 1 subject to funding
Priority 2	Sites identified in 2018 play area review for additional equipment to be installed in year 2 subject to funding
Priority 3	Sites identified in the 2018 play area review with limited scope to add additional equipment, but items can be replaced/updated subject to available funding.
Priority 4	Sites identified in the 2018 play area review with no scope to add additional equipment and/or sites be considered for long term closure.
Closure 1	Play area sites identified in the 2018 review for closure in 2019/20
Closure 2	Play area sites identified in the 2018 review for closure in 2020/21
Relocate	See site comment below
Monitor	See site comment below

Criteria Comparison Rationale

		CRITERIA 7	CRITERIA 5	CRITERIA 6	CRITERIA 1	CRITERIA 2	CRITERIA 3	CRITERIA 8	CRITERIA 4		
		Play Value Limited	Risk/Benefit No Challenge Opportunities	Limited Catchment	Social Safety & Casual Supervision Poor Sightlines	Social Safety & Casual Supervision Limited or Low Use	Social Safety & Casual Supervision Vulnerable to vandalism	Development	Unsatisfactory Access	Recommended Action	
LOCATION/TYPE	WARD	Play Value	Risk/Benefit	Catchment	Social Safety & Casual Supervision	Social Safety & Casual Supervision	Social Safety & Casual Supervision	Development	Access	Action	Comments
CHARTIST WAY PA	SIRHOWY	Limited play value for amount of equipment	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities.	Many houses nearby Limited - busy road	Good sightlines	Limited use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Insufficient space for additional items	Tolerable	Monitor	Potential Development of land. No investment until confirmation of future plan
TY NEWYDD PA	SIRHOWY	Good play value for all ages	Good challenge	Few houses Limited - busy road	Reasonable sightlines	Low use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Good New 2012	Unsatisfactory	Priority 2	Due to recent refurbishment, improving access will allow for further development. Priority 2
SOUTHEND PA	GEORGE TOWN	Good play value for all ages	Senior multi play challenge	New access point would increase catchment	Good sightlines	Moderate/Limited use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Good New 2015	Unsatisfactory	Priority 2	Scope for further development. Priority 2

St. JAMES WAY PA	GEORGE TOWN	Limited for Toddlers, Reasonable for Jnrs & Snrs	No challenge opps	Many houses nearby to one side limits catchment significantly	Limited sightlines - houses Reasonable sightlines - passers by	Moderate use Safe routes to area	Vulnerable to vandalism	Good	Unsatisfactory	Closure 2	- Closure 19/20 - Closed at present (Sept 19) due to continued and high level of vandalism - Potential development of land & resultant potential new play facility.
St. JAMES WAY BC	GEORGE TOWN	Limited for Toddlers, Reasonable for Jnrs & Snrs	No challenge opps	Many houses nearby to one side limits catchment significantly	Limited sightlines - houses Reasonable sightlines - passers by	Moderate use Safe routes to area	Vulnerable to vandalism	Good	Unsatisfactory	Relocate	Potential development of land & resultant potential new or relocated facility. Should land use change at both St James Way & Chartist Way, future considerations would be combine relocation/developmen t due to proximity within ward.
BEDWELLY PITS PA	TREDEGAR CENTRAL & WEST	Reasonable for all	No challenge opps	Catchment small	Limited sightlines - houses	Regular use by small number of children	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Equipment in good condition. Appropriate size for catchment	Tolerable	Priority 1 (Year 1)	
TREDEGAR WS	TREDEGAR CENTRAL & WEST	Zero Toddlers Reasonable Juniors Good Seniors	Acceptable Challenge facility	Few houses Users will travel to facility	Limited sightlines - houses	Low use	Vulnerable to vandalism	Development not recommended due to usage. Recommend ed that purpose and use of site should be reviewed.	Satisfactory	Closure 1	Investigate feasibility to relocation of equipment to other Wheeled sports areas.

BRANGWYN RD, CEFN GOLAU BC	TREDEGAR CENTRAL & WEST	Good play value for all ages	Acceptable	Houses surrounding Safe Routes for children Travel distances slightly longer than at first sight	Reasonable sightlines from houses and passers-by.	Moderate use	Vulnerable to vandalism	Good play value	Playground - Unsatisfactory Ballcourt - Tolerable	Priority 4	Upgrade complete 2018.
BRANGWYN RD, CEFN GOLAU PA	TREDEGAR CENTRAL & WEST	Good play value for all ages	Acceptable	Houses surrounding Safe Routes for childrenTravel el distances slightly longer than at first sight	Reasonable sightlines from houses and passers-by.	Moderate use	Vulnerable to vandalism	Good play value	Playground - Unsatisfactory Ballcourt - Tolerable	Priority 4	Limited scope for further development.
TREFIL 1 PA	SIRHOWY	Good play value for all ages	No challenge opps	Few houses nearby Distance from housing & steep hill limit catchment	Limited sightlines	Low use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Equipment in good condition. Appropriate size for catchment	Tolerable - steep hill	Priority 3	Investigations to be made at the option of Business Community sponsorship (Quarry) for future development.
TREFIL 2 UPPER WS	SIRHOWY	Poor for Toddlers Limited for Jnrs Good for Snrs Gives different opportunities to other play areas in village	Acceptable	Very few houses near Steep hill will limit catchment	Poor sightlines	Low use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Sufficient for purpose	Unsatisfactory - steep grass ramp, steep hill Modification not reasonably practicable	Priority 4	Potential Closure
BRYNMAWR REC PA	BRYNMAWR	Limited for Toddlers, Reasonable for Jnrs Zero for Snrs	Acceptable	Few houses to one side only limiting catchment	Poor sightlines	Low use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Low use	Unsatisfactory	Priority 2	Scope for further development.

GURNOS EST BC	BRYNMAWR	Zero Toddlers Reasonable Juniors Reasonable Seniors Good facility poor location	Acceptable No challenge opps	No housing within 100m	Poor sightlines Isolated will reduce usage	Low use	Vulnerable to vandalism	No justification to develop due to location	Unsatisfactory	Closure 1	
BRYNAWEL PA	BRYNMAWR	Poor for Toddlers Reasonable for Jnrs Zero for Snrs Limited play value	Acceptable	Houses surrounding Safe Routes for children Good catchment	Good sightlines	Limited use could be that few children living nearby	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Check actual and likely child population before any refurb	Tolerable	Priority 2	Scope for further development.
BRYNMAWR WELFARE (Junior) PA	BRYNMAWR	Good for toddlers & young juniors	Acceptable No challenge opps	Few houses nearby Busy Road to one side limited catchment	Limited sightlines Reasonable over side by other users of the park	Moderate use	vulnerable to vandalism due to location	1 or 2 challenge items would encourage use and provide opps for older jnrs and snrs	Satisfactory - Entrance unsatisfactory	Priority 1 (Year 1)	Scope for further development.
BRYNMAWR WELFARE (Toddler) PA	BRYNMAWR	Good for toddlers & young juniors	Acceptable No challenge opps	Few houses nearby Busy Road to one side limited catchment	Limited sightlines Reasonable over side by other users of the park	Moderate use	vulnerable to vandalism due to location	1 or 2 challenge items would encourage use and provide opps for older jnrs and snrs	Satisfactory Entrance - unsatisfactory	Priority 1 (Year 1)	Scope for further development.
BRYNMAWR WELFARE WS	BRYNMAWR	Zero for toddlers Reasonable for jnrs Poor for snrs	Limited	Reasonable number of houses Long walk around for many limiting catchment	Reasonable sightlines Good from passers-by Good oversight by other users of the park.	Low use Too tame for serious users Too far for regular use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	This site is fit for purpose. It is an isolated site with low usage. If there was a sufficient demand the area could be upgraded to give more challenging wheeled sports opportunities or replaced with a ball court.	Unsatisfactory – There is a long steep path Entrance Unsatisfactory – Ramp desirable but it is a low use site	Monitor	Scope for further development. On site community group exploring funding opportunities

WAUNHEULOG PA	NANTYGLO	Poor play value for Toddlers, Good for Juniors and Good for Seniors	Acceptable	many houses nearby but to one side only which limits catchment. The playground is up a steep bank and 50 yards travel from the nearest houses. Most children will have a significantly longer travel distance limiting catchment	Limited sightlines	High/moderate use	Vulnerable to vandalism	Good site. Increase toddler opps But far from houses	Unsatisfactory	Priority 3	
BANNA PARK PA	NANTYGLO	Limited for Toddlers, Good for Juniors, Satisfactory for Seniors	Acceptable Challenge is limited	Few houses to one side Busy Road Limiting catchment	Limited sightlines	Limited use	Vulnerable to vandalism	A satisfactory variety of equipment for all ages	Playground Satisfactory Entrance Tolerable – Ramp will be too difficult for some	Priority 2 (year 2)	
BANNA PARK BC	NANTYGLO	Limited for Toddlers, Good for Juniors, Satisfactory for Snrs	Acceptable Challenge is limited	Few houses to one side Busy Road Limiting catchment	Limited sightlines	Limited use	Vulnerable to vandalism	A satisfactory variety of equipment for all ages	Playground Satisfactory Entrance Tolerable – Ramp will be too difficult for some	Priority 3	
VINCENT AVENUE PA	NANTYGLO	Good play value for Toddlers, Limited for Juniors and Nil for Seniors	Acceptable Challenge is limited for juniors	Surrounding houses Access at one point limiting catchment	good sightlines from adjacent housing but quite a few have high fences and hedges	Limited use	Isolated lone child or single parent may feel vulnerable limits catchment.	There is insufficient space for further developments. The equipment has a reasonable life expectancy	Satisfactory	Closure 2	Potential Closure should funding be sourced for development of Banna Park.

COED CAE PA	BLAINA	Poor play value for Toddlers, Limited for Juniors and Poor for Seniors	Acceptable. No challenge opps	Many houses nearby on 3 sides there are few. Travel is long distance limiting catchment	Reasonable sightlines from houses. Poor sightlines from passers-by	Low use	Small catchment limits use not vulnerable to vandalism	A refurbishment is needed though there is insufficient catchment and usage to warrant a significant increase in facilities	Playground - Unsatisfactory – Grass embankment is steep Entrance Unsatisfactory	Closure 1	
GARN CROSS PA	NANTYGLO	Low play value site	Acceptable. No challenge opps	Few houses nearby to one side only limiting catchment. Long walk around most would have to cross busy road	Limited sightlines from houses Good sight from passers-by	Low use	Vulnerable to vandalism	Isolated site Poor condition Catchment small Review status	Satisfactory	Closure 1	
CENTRAL PARK PA	BLAINA	Limited play value for Toddlers, Very Good for Juniors and Good for Seniors	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are good "challenge" opportunities	many houses nearby but to two sides only. busy road adjacent. Both factors will limit catchment for unaccompanied children.	good sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by. There is good oversight from other users of the park.	Moderate use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Upgraded a few years ago, this site has high play value. 1 or 2 toddler items could be considered. There is a busy road between the play area and housing which limits local use.	Tolerable	Priority 1 (Year 1)	Identified need for additional Toddler equipment to maximise play value potential.
GLANYSTRUTH PA	BLAINA	Zero play value for Toddlers, Reasonable for Juniors and Zero for Seniors.	Acceptable No challenge opps	surrounded by housing	good sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	Regular use by small number of children	Not vulnerable to vandalism	insufficient space for additional items	Satisfactory	Closure 1	Closure on completion of 19/20 provision of additional equipment at Central Park. - Justified due to close proximity to Central Par

BRYNHEULOG PA	BLAINA	Zero play value for Toddlers, Reasonable for Juniors and Zero for Seniors.	Acceptable Limited challenge opps	some houses nearby but the play area is at the edge of the housing which limits catchment	reasonable sightlines from nearby houses and limited sightlines from passers-by	Moderate use by children who live at that end of the road	Vulnerable to vandalism	Safe location, with some sightlines from nearby housing. regular use by children. Re-siting could be considered. New items could be installed either outside the fenced area or the fence extended.	Unsatisfactory Entrance - Unsatisfactory	Closure 1	Closure on completion of 19/20 provision of additional equipment at Central Park. - Justified due to close proximity to Central Par
BLAINA BC	BLAINA	Zero play value for Toddlers, Good for Juniors and Seniors.	Acceptable WS gives challenge	Few houses limiting spontaneous use	Poor sightlines	Moderate use	Vulnerable to vandalism	Fit for purpose, no room for further developments. Some refurbishment of the wheeled sports area desirable.	Playground - Satisfactory Entrance - Unsatisfactory	Priority 3	
BLAINA WS	BLAINA	Zero play value for Toddlers, Good for Juniors and Seniors.	Acceptable WS gives challenge	Few houses limiting spontaneous use	Poor sightlines	Moderate use	Vulnerable to vandalism	Fit for purpose, no room for further developments. Some refurbishment of the wheeled sports area desirable.	Playground - Satisfactory Entrance - Unsatisfactory	Priority 4	
MAESHAFOD PA	BLAINA	Low play value site	Acceptable No challenge opps	many houses nearby but the relatively long travel distances will limit catchment	limited sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	Moderate limited use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	insufficient space for additional items	Unsatisfactory	Closure 2	Consideration to be given to potential to redevelop into Kick a bout area

BOURNVILE PA	BLAINA	Reasonable play value for Toddlers, Reasonable for Juniors and Reasonable for Seniors	Acceptable Limited challenge opps	Few houses Busy Road limiting catchment	Limited sightlines	Low use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Acceptable level of equipment	Reasonable	Priority 3	
DUFFRYN PARK PA	BLAINA	Limited play value for all ages.	Acceptable No challenge opps	Few houses nearby	Isolated Poor sightlines	Limited use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Too far from houses for much informal use by children but is an attractive park to visit. Could be made into a destination playground.	Unsatisfactory steep path Satisfactory within playground	Priority 2 (year 2)	Consideration for complete refurbishment of play area should funding be available
WEST SIDE PA	BLAINA	Limited for Toddlers, Good Juniors, Zero Seniors	Acceptable No challenge opps	Houses nearby but travel distance long	Reasonable sightlines	Limited use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Room for additional item. Unlikely to increase use	Unsatisfactory	Closure 2	Closure in conjunction with refurbishment of Duffryn Park
ROSEHEYWORTH PA	CWMTILLERY	Poor play value for Toddlers, Good for Juniors and Good for Seniors	Acceptable	many houses nearby but a busy road adjacent limits catchment	limited sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	Limited/ Moderate use	Vulnerable to vandalism	Thorough refurbishment of the play area is needed but there is no space for additional items.	Unsatisfactory	Closure 2	Closure but consideration should be given if funding available to refurbish or relocate both Play Area & Wheeled Sports site Significant funding required Explore re use of land to fund relocation to alternative site within ward.

ROSEHEYWORTH WS	CWMTILLERY	Poor play value for Toddlers, Good for Juniors and Good for Seniors	Skate area gives challenge	wheeled sports enthusiasts will travel to such a location	limited sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	Limited/Moderate use	Vulnerable to vandalism	The adjacent wheeled sports area is suitable for purpose.	Unsatisfactory	Closure 2	Closure but consideration should be given if funding available to refurbish or relocate both Play Area & Wheeled Sports site - Significant funding required - Explore re use of land to fund relocation to alternative site within ward.
WOODLAND FIELD PA	CWMTILLERY	Good play value for Toddlers, Reasonable for Juniors and Poor for Seniors	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	few houses within a reasonable travel distance and from one side there is a steep stepped path up from the houses on the other side	isolated and there are poor sightlines from nearby houses	Very low use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Low use site which is too far from houses. May be used by children attending sports matches with parents. The site is isolated and access is difficult	Unsatisfactory	Closure 1	
ABERTILLERY PARK PA	CWMTILLERY	Good play value for Toddlers, Good for Juniors and Poor for Seniors	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	no houses nearby. Distance through the park from the nearest houses is too far for unaccompanied travel by most children	reasonable sightlines	high/moderate use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	will need a good refurbishment in a few years	Tolerable	Priority 2	Consideration for relocation of a new play area within curtilage of park should funding be sourced. Main borough park, but existing location has resulted in high levels of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Play area temporarily closed (Sept 19) due to vandalism and fire damage.

JIM OWEN FIELD PA	CWMTILLERY	Good play value for all ages	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	Many houses nearby but only a few close enough for (free play) limiting catchment	reasonable sightlines	high/moderate use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	relatively new site (installed in 2002) with a good variety of equipment.	Satisfactory	Priority 4	No scope to add additional equipment within play area
JIM OWEN FIELD BC	CWMTILLERY	Good play value for all ages	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	Many houses nearby but only a few close enough for (free play) limiting catchment	reasonable sightlines	high/moderate use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	relatively new site (installed in 2002) with a good variety of equipment.	Tolerable	Priority 4	
WARM TURN PA	SIX BELLS	Low play value for all ages	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	some houses nearby but mostly on the other side of a busy road which significantly limits catchment	good sightlines	Low use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	There are only few houses nearby on right side of road. Effective limited catchment as busy adjacent road will reduce usage from other side	Unsatisfactory	Priority 2	Additional equipment to compensate for closure of Woodland Terrace play area
SIX BELLS PARK PA	SIX BELLS	Good play value for juniors, limited for toddlers and seniors	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	houses surrounding although some children would have quite a walk round to the entrances	good sightlines from nearby houses	moderate use	not vulnerable to vandalism	Playground upgraded in 2014. Most other equipment is about 30 years old	Satisfactory	Priority 3	Friends of Six Bells Park community group successful in obtaining funding to add new equipment, benches and refurbishing old toilets into Café.
SIX BELLS PARK BC	SIX BELLS	Appropriate for purpose	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	Surrounded by housing	good sightlines from nearby houses	regular use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	suitable for purpose	Unsatisfactory	Priority 1 (Year 1)	New Fencing

ABERBEEG WELFARE PA	LLANHILLETH	Low play value for all ages	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	Usage will mostly be limited to families attending the club	poor sightlines from nearby houses and reasonable sightlines from other users of the club (when open).	Low use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Review use of playground in light of future use of the club and/or site	Satisfactory	Monitor	- Initially considered for closure but following installation of bridge has improved access and usage. - Further consideration and review status - Potential for Priority 2
WOODLAND TERRACE PA	LLANHILLETH	reasonable	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	many houses nearby but play area is at the far end of housing which limits catchment	limited sightlines from nearby houses and limited sightlines from passers-by	low use but may be regularly used by a small number of children living close by	Not vulnerable to vandalism	insufficient space for further developments	Good	Closure 1	
LLANHILLETH PARK (Top) PA	LLANHILLETH	Good play value for Toddlers, Good for Juniors and Limited for Seniors	acceptable level of risk at this site. There is limited "challenge" opportunities	housing relatively nearby but only a few houses sufficiently close for unaccompanied travel by children. This is primarily a destination and after school/nursery playground. It is adjacent to the school. With careful management this could be a dual use facility	limited sightlines from nearby houses and limited sightlines from passers-by. There is good oversight from the school and nursery	good use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	good variety of equipment which was installed in 2004/5. There is housing relatively nearby. There is no room for further developments	Satisfactory	Priority 3	

OXFORD PLACE PA	LLANHILLETH	small ball games area adds to the play value	acceptable level of risk at this site. There is limited "challenge" opportunities	houses to two sides only which limits catchment	limited sightlines from nearby house	limited use	not vulnerable to vandalism	relatively small catchment but some refurbishment is desirable. Swing(s) could be installed and/or football surface improved. Consultation with local children and residents is desirable before undertaking any significant improvements	Unsatisfactory	Closure 1	
SWFFRYD PA	LLANHILLETH	Limited play value for all ages.	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	surrounded by houses but many children would have to cross a busy road which limits catchment. The traffic calming on this road is insufficient to make the road safe to cross.	sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by. High hedges/fences restrict sightlines	moderate/limited use	not vulnerable to vandalism	space for a small rotating item. Traffic calming needs to be more severe for children from across busy road area to have safe access.	Satisfactory	Priority 1 (Year 1)	
TROY ROAD PA	LLANHILLETH	Reasonable play value for a small low-use site	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	surrounded by housing but the fairly busy road will limit catchment as will the very steep path from one side	good sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	low use	not vulnerable to vandalism	site appears to have low usage.	Unsatisfactory	Closure 2	

BRYNITHEL BC	LLANHILLETH	Play value is appropriate for this type of facility	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	only a few houses nearby and travel is via long paths to both sides	no sightlines from nearby houses and no sightlines from passers-by	very low use except probably when children come with parents to matches	not vulnerable to vandalism	a long way from houses for informal use. It also has very limited casual supervision. It probably has some use on match days	Unsatisfactory	Priority 4	
BRYNITHEL PA	LLANHILLETH	Reasonable play value for Toddlers, Good for Juniors and Poor for Seniors	There is an acceptable level of risk at this site. The large pirouette gives some "challenge".	surrounded by housing with reasonably safe routes to the play area	reasonable sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	high/moderate use	not vulnerable to vandalism		Unsatisfactory	Priority 3	
VIVIAN STREET PA	ABERTILLERY	Reasonable play value for a small play area	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities.	many houses to two sides but adjacent busy road and long travel distances for most children significantly reduce the catchment. Path to one side is steep.	poor sightlines from nearby houses and limited sightlines from passers-by	limited use	not vulnerable to vandalism	There is insufficient space for further developments and the equipment has reasonable life expectancy	Unsatisfactory	Closure 1	

ABERTILLERY WS	ABERTILLERY	Play value is appropriate for this type of facility	acceptable level of risk at this site. This is a "challenge" facility	some houses nearby but to one side only. Enthusiasts will travel reasonable distances for a dedicated facility like this	site is rather isolated and there are poor sightlines from nearby houses	Moderate use	Vulnerable to vandalism	Provision was made for skaters/skateboarders to use what was an overflow car park. There is a steep path that runs straight into the area. Ramps etc. were added in 2003. The area does not benefit from good oversight and is therefore vulnerable	Unsatisfactory	Closed	
GELLI CRUG PA	ABERTILLERY	Good play value for all ages	an acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	surrounded by housing	good sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	high/moderate use	not vulnerable to vandalism	There is a good variety of equipment for all ages. The Ball Games Area is sufficient for purpose	Unsatisfactory	Priority 2 (year 2)	Consideration for complete refurbishment of play area should funding be available,
GELLI CRUG BC	ABERTILLERY	Good play value for all ages	an acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	surrounded by housing	good sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	high/moderate use	not vulnerable to vandalism	There is a good variety of equipment for all ages. The Ball Games Area is sufficient for purpose	Unsatisfactory	Priority 4	
BEAUFORT RISE PA	BEAUFORT	Limited play value for Toddlers and Seniors. A particularly good variety of play opportunities for Juniors	acceptable level of risk at this site. The space net and wobble balance beams give "challenge" for juniors	surrounded by housing but the very busy road to 1 side will restrict catchment	limited sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	Moderate use	Vulnerable to vandalism	There is a good variety of equipment. Attractive ground graphics add to the play value of this site	Satisfactory	Priority 3	

PRIMATIVE PLACE PA	BEAUFORT	Good play value for Toddlers, Reasonable for Juniors and Poor for Seniors	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	a few houses nearby. Most children would have to walk quite a long way to get to the play area and its isolation may make children or parents feel vulnerable. Its catchment is therefore quite restricted	site is rather isolated. There are limited sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	limited use	not vulnerable to vandalism	Quite an isolated site which appears to have fairly low usage	Tolerable	Priority 3	
GARNLYDAN PA	BEAUFORT	Poor play value for Toddlers, Reasonable for Juniors and Poor for Seniors	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	many houses nearby but travel distances are unexpectedly long. There is a busy road to one side. These factors limit catchment	reasonable sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	Moderate use	not vulnerable to vandalism	a reasonable amount of equipment with good life expectancy	Tolerable	Closure 1	Discussions with Tai Calon regarding potential re use of the land and relocation of new play facility
GARNLYDAN BC	BEAUFORT	Play value is appropriate for this type of facility	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	some houses nearby but to one side only which limits catchment. It may be used by adjacent football pitch users	site is rather isolated. There are poor sightlines from nearby houses	limited use	vulnerable to vandalism	site is sufficient for purpose	Unsatisfactory	Priority 4	Consider if funding available to relocate due to poor existing location

NEW RASSAU PA	RASSAU	Poor play value for Toddlers, Good for Juniors and Seniors	There is an acceptable level of risk at this site. The skateboard area and the overhead bars give "challenge".	surrounded by housing but fairly busy roads will restrict unaccompanied access by some children	reasonable sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by. The Wheeled Sports Area is rather hidden	high use	vulnerable to vandalism	Some refurbishment only needed as there is already a good variety of play opportunities	Tolerable	Monitor	Further review and consultations required with ward members due to high levels of ASB and vandalism
NEW RASSAU WS	RASSAU	Poor play value for Toddlers, Good for Juniors and Seniors	There is an acceptable level of risk at this site. The skateboard area and the overhead bars give "challenge".	surrounded by housing but fairly busy roads will restrict unaccompanied access by some children	reasonable sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by. The Wheeled Sports Area is rather hidden	high use	vulnerable to vandalism	Some refurbishment only needed as there is already a good variety of play opportunities	Tolerable	Monitor	Further review and consultations required with ward members due to high levels of ASB and vandalism
OLD RASSAU PA	RASSAU	Limited play value for Toddlers, Good for Juniors and Seniors	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	surrounded by housing but the busy road adjacent will limit catchment	poor sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	high/moderate use	vulnerable to vandalism	good variety of equipment with reasonable life expectancy	Tolerable	Monitor	Further review and consultations required with ward members due to high levels of ASB and vandalism
OLD RASSAU BC	RASSAU	Limited play value for Toddlers, Good for Juniors and Seniors	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	surrounded by housing but the busy road adjacent will limit catchment	poor sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	high/moderate use	vulnerable to vandalism	good variety of equipment with reasonable life expectancy	Tolerable	Monitor	Further review and consultations required with ward members due to high levels of ASB and vandalism Police Aware & Monitoring

GLYNCOED PA	BADMINTON	Good play value for all ages	There is an acceptable level of risk at this site. The Multi-Play gives the feeling of "challenge	many houses nearby but to one side only. This, and the busy road at that one side, limits catchment	good sightlines from houses opposite and good sightlines from passers-by	low use	vulnerable to vandalism	playground equipment is generally in good condition and has a wide variety of opportunities for children of all ages	Tolerable	Monitor	Monitor Site
GLYNCOED BC	BADMINTON	Good play value for all ages	There is an acceptable level of risk at this site. The Multi-Play gives the feeling of "challenge	many houses nearby but to one side only. This, and the busy road at that one side, limits catchment	good sightlines from houses opposite and good sightlines from passers-by	low use	vulnerable to vandalism	playground equipment is generally in good condition and has a wide variety of opportunities for children of all ages	Tolerable	Priority 4	
LETCWORTH PA	EBBW VALE NORTH	Limited play value for Toddlers, Reasonable for Juniors and Seniors.	an acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	surrounded by housing but the busy road to one side limits catchment	reasonable sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	moderate/limited use	not vulnerable to vandalism	busy road to one side will act as a barrier as will limited parental oversight from houses. Possibly both factors will reduce usage. An extra gate has increased catchment.	satisfactory	Priority 1 (Year 1)	
HILLTOP WS	EBBW VALE NORTH	Appropriate play value for a specific facility	A "challenge" area suitable for users from older juniors to early twenties	Most housing is 100+m from the area. A facility like this will attract users from further afield, however for most it is at the top of a steep hill which will	limited sightlines from nearby houses and limited oversight from users of the adjacent community building	limited use	vulnerable to vandalism	Fit for purpose and with a few years life expectancy. Area too far from housing to warrant a local play area. If there were significant use of the adjacent community building, some	Good	Closure 2	Investigate feasibility to relocation of equipment to other Wheeled sports areas.

				reduce informal /spontaneous use				equipment could be considered			
NEWTOWN PA	EBBW VALE NORTH	reasonable for a small play area but there are no toddler opportunities	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	many houses nearby with reasonably safe routes for some children	reasonable sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	regular use	not vulnerable to vandalism	A small rotating item could be considered, it would need to be outside fenced area. Having a cradle as well as a flat swing in the same bay could be justified in terms of increased play value for toddlers	Unsatisfactory	Closure 2	Closure on completion of new Community area. consult with Tai Calon regarding potential sale and re use of land
PENNANT STREET PA	EBBW VALE SOUTH	Limited play value for Toddlers, Good for Juniors and Reasonable for Seniors	acceptable level of risk at this site. The rope swing gives a "challenge" element.	surrounded by housing and many children will have a safe route to the play area. The single access point limits catchment	reasonable sightlines from nearby houses and reasonable sightlines from passers-by	high use	vulnerable to vandalism	Most of the equipment is only a few years old. Location and permanent closing of top gate to the green space means that usage will be almost exclusively by those whose houses are adjacent	satisfactory	Priority 2	

CORONATION PARK PA	EBBW VALE SOUTH	Good play value for Toddlers, Reasonable for Juniors and Reasonable for Seniors	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	small number of houses nearby but to one side only which will limit catchment. Those living reasonably nearby have quite a steep uphill walk to get to the playground	limited sightlines from nearby houses and limited sightlines from passers-by	limited use	not vulnerable to vandalism	slightly isolated site which appears to have only light usage. Big improvements would probably not increase usage and location not good for a significant increase in visitors	satisfactory	Closure 1	
GARDEN CITY PA	EBBW VALE SOUTH	Good play value for Toddlers, reasonable for Juniors and poor for Seniors	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	many houses nearby but the play area is at the edge of the housing which limits catchment	good sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	Moderate use	not vulnerable to vandalism	no space for further developments	satisfactory	Priority 3	
TYLLWYN PA	EBBW VALE SOUTH	Good play value for all ages	acceptable level of risk at this site. Overhead rotator gives "challenge	surrounded by housing but steep slope and travel distances will act as a deterrent to high regular usage	poor sightlines from nearby houses	moderate/limited use	Vulnerable to vandalism	Good play value and variety of equipment.	Unsatisfactory	Priority 3	
WILLIAM ST, CWM PA	CWM	reasonably good play value for children of all ages	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	many houses to 3 sides with relatively safe routes for many children	reasonable sightlines from nearby houses and good sightlines from passers-by	high/moderate use	Vulnerable to vandalism	good variety of equipment for all ages which has reasonable life expectancy	Good	Priority 1 (Year 1)	
WILLIAM ST, CWM BC	CWM	reasonably good play value for children of all ages	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no	many houses to 3 sides with relatively safe routes	reasonable sightlines from nearby houses and good	high/moderate use	Vulnerable to vandalism	good variety of equipment for all ages which has	Good	Priority 4	

			"challenge" opportunities	for many children	sightlines from passers-by			reasonable life expectancy			
CWM WELFARE PA	CWM	Satisfactory play value for a small play area	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	few houses nearby which will limit spontaneous informal play	good sightlines from other users of the park	moderate/limited use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	Too isolated for use by many local children but will be used by children with parents at matches	good	Closure 2	Closure to coincide with additional equipment to William Street PA
CWM WELFARE WS	CWM	play value is appropriate for its purpose	acceptable level of risk at this site. This is a "challenge" facility	few houses nearby, however keen users will tend to be older and may travel further than average for a facility like this	poor sightlines from nearby houses and limited sightlines from other users of the park	low use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	likely to remain a relatively low-use site	Tolerable	Priority 4	Consider closure in future review.
HILLSIDE TCE PA	CWM	Play value is a little on the low side for the size of the area and amount of equipment	acceptable level of risk at this site. There are no "challenge" opportunities	some houses nearby but the play area is right at the edge of housing which limits catchment	reasonable sightlines from nearby houses and limited sightlines from passers-by	low use	Not vulnerable to vandalism	reasonable amount of equipment with reasonable life expectancy	Tolerable access Tolerable entrance Unsatisfactory due to sloping ground Limited opportunities	Priority 4	Consider closure in future review.