

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 86

Subject: Right to Play

Date of meeting: 29 January 2026

Proposer: Cllr Hill

Seconder: Cllr Shanks

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Green Group

This Council notes:

- 1) The right to play should be available to all people in Brighton & Hove, especially children and young people.
- 2) Quality play opportunities are essential to physical and cognitive development.
- 3) Outdoor play in England has halved in a generation according to Raising the Nation's Play Commission due playground closures, busier roads, shortened school break times and the use of smartphones.
- 4) Play England has proposed that City Planning should place play alongside housing, infrastructure and sustainability as a core element of spatial planning in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Therefore, resolves to:

- 1) Ask the Council Leader to write to Baroness Taylor of Stevenage echoing Play England's request for a House of Lords amendment to the NPPF to create a statutory requirement for play sufficiency on local authorities.
- 2) Ask the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider setting up a 'Play Sufficiency' Task and Finish Group. This may consider areas such as:
 - An audit of existing play provision
 - Removing 'no ball games' signs, and similar, from public land and encourage private landowners to do so.
 - A map of smaller green spaces that could be used for play.
 - Looking at ways to ensure new developments are considerate to the needs of children and young people as part of the City Plan.
 - Seeking to invest capital funding into play parks and facilities that are accessible to all.
 - Investigating ways to improve access to nature-based play.
 - Designating a Councillor to act as the city's 'play champion'

Supporting Information:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czednjy7wlxo>

https://www.playscotland.org/resources/print/Getting-It-Right-For-Play-2025.pdf?plscml_id=25096

<https://play.wales/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Making-play-sufficiency-possible-summary-report-2020.pdf>

Examples of play sufficiency assessments which are required in Wales & Scotland:

https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/media/jewbfkgx/1-edc-play-sufficiency-assessment_full.pdf

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ChildrensServices/HelpandSupportforFamilies/Informationforfamilies/Childcare/YouthClubsandActivities/ThePlaySufficiencyAssessmentPSA.aspx>