

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 86

Subject: Right to Play

Date of meeting: 29 January 2026

Proposer: Cllr Robins

Seconder: Cllr Baghoth

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Labour Group Amendment

That deletions are made as shown with ~~strike through~~ below and additional recommendations are added as shown in ***bold italics*** below:

This Council notes:

- 1) The ***opportunity*** ~~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) ***The Council owns 53 play areas, 22 multi use games areas and 9 skateparks which are all free and open to the public and that most have recently been refurbished including adding play opportunities for children with disabilities. We also have leisure facilities, parks, open spaces and woodland that allow for play.***
- 4) 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.
- 5) ***The Government's new draft National Planning Policy Framework sets out supportive national decision-making policies, for example to require development proposals to be designed to facilitate and encourage social interaction, play and healthy lifestyles. It also requires development plans to "at the most appropriate level... set local standards for the provision of different types of outdoor recreational land, including for play, sport, informal recreation and allotments. 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) ***Include in the council's consultation response to the draft NPPF that the document*** ~~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?plscctl_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>

Recommendations to read if carried:

This Council notes:

- 1) The opportunity 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) The Council owns 53 play areas, 22 multi use games areas and 9 skateparks which are all free and open to the public and that most have recently been refurbished including adding play opportunities for children with disabilities. We also have leisure facilities, parks, open spaces and woodland that allow for play.
- 4) 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.

- 5) The Government's new draft National Planning Policy Framework sets out supportive national decision-making policies, for example to require development proposals to be designed to facilitate and encourage social interaction, play and healthy lifestyles. It also requires development plans to "at the most appropriate level... set local standards for the provision of different types of outdoor recreational land, including for **play**, sport, informal recreation and allotments.

Therefore, resolves to:

- 1) Include in the council's consultation response to the draft NPPF that the document creates a statutory requirement for play sufficiency on local authorities.

