

AGENDA ITEM: 19

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Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	10 February 2005
Subject	Management of the All Weather Pitch at Grahame Park.
Report of	Cabinet Members for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture, Community Engagement and HR. • Cabinet Member for Resources.
Summary	This report proposes that Leisure Services manage the all weather pitch for the period February 2005 – December 2005 during evenings, weekends and holiday periods, and work with Pinnacle Education Sports Trust, or another partner, for them to build up their capacity to manage the facility from January 2006.

Officer Contributors	A.Hatvani	Acting Leisure Services Manager
Status (public or exempt)	Public	
Wards affected	Colindale Ward	
Enclosures	Appendix A – Risk Management	
For decision by	Cabinet Resources	
Function of	Executive	
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A	

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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.2 That an agreement be reached for the Leisure Services to manage the all weather facility at Grahame Park for the period February 2005 – December 2005 inclusive during evenings, weekends and holiday periods.**
- 1.3 That the Leisure Services work with Pinnacle Education Sport Trust or another partner to build up their capacity so that they have the ability to manage the facility from January 2006.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

2.1 Relevant Unitary Development Plan Policies: Barnet Adopted Unitary Development Plan (adopted 1991): G1, T1. 1, EDN3. 1, L1.3, L1.4. Barnet Revised Deposit Draft Unitary Development Plan (revised (2001):GBEnv1,D1, D2, D5, L19, L20, L21, M14, CS5.

2.2 Relevant history:

- The decision by Cabinet on 17 February 2002 to give approval to undertake the steps necessary to successfully deliver the construction of a Community Sports Pitch on Land owned by St James High School at Grahame Park.
- Planning granted for the sports pitch on 18 June 2003
- Cabinet Resources report, 4 November 2003. Grahame Park Community Sports Pitch (Report of cabinet Member for Borough Development and Planning and Cabinet Member for Community Development and Youth. Decision by Cabinet Resources to appoint a single contractor to construct the sports pitch and changing facilities
- Action taken by Cabinet Member(s) under delegated powers agreement to (i) amend to Cabinet Resource Committee's decision of 04.11.03 to issue a works order prior to finalisation of contract with AP Thompson Ltd (the contractor) in respect of the construction of an all weather sports pitch at Grahame park; and (ii) an interim arrangement to enable advance payment to be made to AP Thompson Ltd via a works order.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The community sports pitch supports the corporate aims of the Council by:

- Tackling Crime/Supporting Vulnerable people

Engaging the local youth population in sporting activities which will help to reduce levels of crime and disorder.

Working closely with the Police, Barnet's youth offending and drugs teams will offer diversionary activities for those most at risk of offending and re-offending.

- Creating a Cleaner, Greener Borough

The creation of the new pitch has enabled the Council to position the facility where there was no sports provision in the past.

- First Class education.

Local schools will be supported through their use of the facility and there will be the opportunity for young people to develop their skills to assist with future employment opportunities.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 These are attached in Appendix A.

5. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is envisaged that the Leisure Services appoint part time recreational staff on fixed term contracts to oversee the facility during the evenings, weekends and holiday periods.

Staff will be supported by the Football Development officer and Sports Development team who are currently based at North London Business Park.

It is anticipated that the facility will be managed at nil cost to the Council between Feb 2005 and Dec 2005, as the cost of running the facility will be matched by a combination of grant income received and fees from users of the pitch.

6. LEGAL ISSUES

- 6.1 Incorporated in the body of the report.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 7.1 Constitution, Part 3, Section 3 – responsibility for functions: paragraph 3.6, responsibilities of Cabinet Resources Committee: all matters relating to land and buildings owned, rented or proposed to be acquired or disposed of by the Council.

8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 8.1 In 2000 the London Development Agency awarded the Grahame Park Partnership £2.5 million of SRB Round 6 funding to deliver the *Putting New Heart into Grahame Park* regeneration programme. The Council has developed the community sports pitch project in partnership with the Board of the Grahame Park SRB programme, St James' Catholic High School, the Pinnacle Education Sports Trust (PEST) and Choices for Grahame Park.
- 8.2 The project involved the construction of a 60 metre by 40 metre all weather sports pitch, with associated fencing and floodlighting, and the provision of single storey changing room building on land owned by the school. During school hours the sports pitch will be available for use by St James' School and two primary schools on the Grahame Park Estate, Blessed Dominic and the Orion. Outside of school hours, at weekends and during the school holidays the pitch will be available for a range of community use.

- 8.3 The Council's Leisure Service will oversee the management and operation of the facility during the period February 2005 – December 2005, inclusive. During this period it will work proactively with PEST, or another suitable potential partner, to assist and develop their ability and increase their capacity to possibly manage the facility in the future. Leisure Services will report back to Cabinet Resources Committee at a future date with the progress it makes. This will allow for further decisions to be made regarding the future management of the facility subject to the compliance with contract procedure rules of the Council.
- 8.4 Grahame Park's young people have very few community facilities or leisure opportunities. The motorway link and the rail link that run between the estate and the nearest leisure facility, Barnet Copthall Leisure Centre, exacerbate the isolation of Grahame Park in terms of leisure facilities. The all weather pitch aims to address this by developing a successful, sustainable and viable community resource that will offer an inclusive programme of healthy activities.
- 8.5 The local community will benefit from a co-ordinated programme of activities delivered at the pitch. The design of the pitch is ideally suited for community use. A half-sized facility enables focused sessions and creates a better learning environment for younger children attending after school groups. The potential for real community benefit arising from the project has been demonstrated by the substantial support that it has received from local groups.
- 8.6 It was hoped that the facility would be available for use in December 2004, but complications with site issues, namely the positioning of an electricity sub station, prevented this. It has also not been possible to finalise arrangements for Pinnacle Education Sport Trust to manage the facility when it is expected to open in February of this year.
- 8.7 It is with this in mind that the end user service, namely the Leisure Service, is planning to manage the facility on behalf of the Council and work with various partners to develop the facility and programmes so that as many different user groups have access to the pitch.

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

MO: RB

BT: MG

Appendix A Leisure Service: Future Management of Grahame Park all weather facility.

January 2005

Ref	Risk	Early Warning Mechanisms / Mitigating Actions	Residual Risk (H, M, L)		Further action proposed (including timetable and officers responsible)
			Likelihood	Impact	
1	Strategic - not enabling the Leisure Services to manage the facility for the period February – December 2005 inclusive.	Facility would be seen as a waste of a brand new resource in an area deficient of leisure and sporting opportunities. The scheme is a key component of the Grahame Park SRB programme and has received funding from a number of bodies who need to see the facility in use by the community for which it was intended.	H	H	None if recommendation agreed. Situation to be monitored accordingly
2	Operational – Facility only available to schools during the day time and not used in the evenings, weekends and holiday periods	Proposals contained in main body of report. Facility could be prone to vandalism and mis-use due to the fact that there would be no on site supervision until a partnership/management arrangement is in place.	H	H	None if recommendation agreed. Situation to be monitored accordingly
3	Financial – Leisure Services to operate the overall management of the facilities within budget and at nil cost to the Council. Intention of the original preferred partner to manage the facility	Strict operating and financial procedures to be in place to minimise the risk of any overspend. Stringent checks and balances would need to be in place to allow this to happen	L H	L H	None if recommendation agreed. Situation to be monitored accordingly If the recommendation is agreed, then the risk is removed because the facility would be managed by Council for a period of time. Situation to be monitored accordingly. Leisure Services would work with the preferred partner during the course of the year to reassess their suitability and report back to the appropriate committee.