

AGENDA ITEM: 16

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| Meeting | Cabinet Resources Committee |
| Date | 10 November 2005 |
| Subject | Management of the All Weather Pitch at Grahame Park |
| Report of | Cabinet Member for Culture, Community Engagement and HR. Cabinet Member for Resources. |
| Summary | This report sets out a proposal for the Council to continue to manage the all weather pitch for the period 1 January 2006 – 31 March 2007 during evenings, weekends and holiday periods and to explore alternative arrangements for its future management by an external organisation. |

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

Contact for further information: A.Hatvani on 020 8359 7840

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.2 That an agreement is reached for the Council to continue to manage the 3rd Generation all weather football pitch at Grahame Park for the period January 2006 – March 2007 inclusive during evenings, weekends and holiday periods.**
- 1.3 That the Council agree to the Leisure Service Manager exploring other alternative arrangements for its future management.**

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(executive function)
- 2.3 Cabinet Resources agreed 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.
- 2.4 Cabinet Resources agreed to the Leisure Services working 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.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

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

- The creation of the new pitch has enabled the Council to position the facility where there was no sports provision in the past.
- 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 The Leisure Service has appointed part time recreational staff on sessional contracts to oversee the facility during the evenings, weekends and holiday periods. Staff are supported by the externally funded Football Development officer and Sports Development team who are currently based at North London Business Park.

5.2 The cost of managing and operating the facility will be contained within existing Leisure Service budgets.

6. LEGAL ISSUES

6.1 Incorporated in the body of the report.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

7.1 Constitution – Part 3 - Responsibility for Functions – Section 3.6 Functions delegated to the Cabinet Resources Committee.

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 is available for use by St James' School and two primary schools, Blessed Dominic and the Orion School. Outside of school hours, at weekends and during the school holidays the pitch is available for a range of community use.

- 8.3 The facility was officially opened by the Mayor, Councillor Tambourides, on Saturday 9 July with over 160 young people taking part in two tournaments organised by the Football Development Officer
- 8.4 The Council's Leisure Service has managed the use and operation of the facility since the handover from the contractors in April 2005. Unfortunately, contrary to original plans, the Leisure Service has not been able to engage with Pinnacle Education Sports Trust(PEST) to take over the management of the pitch and it is their wish that they do not become involved in the future management of the facility.
- 8.5 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.
- 8.6 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.
- 8.7 The facility is well used by community groups during the evenings and there is a thriving 'community' Free Kick scheme based at the pitch on a Saturday morning. Young people from the surrounding neighbourhood have exclusive use of the pitch between 4.30pm and 5.25pm each weekday with St James' School using it for their extra curricular activities from Monday – Friday.
- 8.8 The Leisure Service wish to continue to manage the facility on behalf of the Council and work with a prospective partner to develop programmes and the facility itself in the future.

9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None.

MO: DP
BT: MG

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

November 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 continue managing the facility for the period January 2006 – March 2007. | Facility would be seen as a waste of a 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 no on site supervision. | 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. | Strict financial procedures to be in place to minimise the risk of any potential overspend. | L | L | None if recommendation agreed. Situation to be monitored accordingly |