## Meeting of the Council as Trustees

#### TO BE HELD ON

#### TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2019 AT 7.00 PM

#### **VENUE**

#### **HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ**

#### AGENDA



#### **ASSURANCE GROUP**

All trustees are hereby summond to attend the meeting of Council as Trustees for the transaction of the business set out.

Andrew Charlwood Head of Governance



Item	Subject	Timing	Page Nos
1.	Apologies for absence		
2.	Elect a Member to preside if the Chair of Trustees is absent		
3.	Declarations of Interest		
4.	Trustees of Victoria Park Trust - Victoria Park Master Plan		3 - 58

Andrew Charlwood, Head of Governance Building 4, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, N11 1NP

#### **FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Hendon Town Hall has access for wheelchair users including lifts and toilets. The Council Chamber has an induction loop so that those who have hearing difficulties can hear the debate. If you wish to let us know in advance that you will be attending the meeting, please telephone Anita Vukomanovic on 020 8359 7034 (direct line).

People with hearing difficulties who have a text phone, may telephone our Minicom number on 020 8203 8942.

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You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts.

Do not stop to collect personal belongings

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Do not re-enter the building until told to do so.





**AGENDA ITEM 4** 

# Council as Trustee 5 March 2019

LINI		
Title	Victoria Park Master Plan	
Report of	Leader of the Council	
Wards	West Finchley	
Status	us Public	
Urgent	Urgent No	
Key	No	
	Annex 1 – Report to meeting of Environment Committee on 28 November 2018 – Victoria Park, Finchley – Master Plan	
Enclosures	Appendix A – Victoria Park Master Plan Final Consultation Report	
	Appendix B – Victoria Park – Master Plan	
	Appendix C – Equalities Impact Assessment for Victoria Park Master Plan	
	Nicola Cross – Strategic Lead, Clean and Green Nicola.cross@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 7404	
Officer Contact Details	Matthew Gunyon – Partnership and Development Manager, Greenspaces <a href="matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk">matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk</a> 020 8359 7403	

#### Summary

This report seeks the agreement of the Trustees of the Victoria Park Trust to the proposed Master Plan for the Park and for the proceeds from the sale of The Lodge to be spent on the implementation of the Master Plan.

#### Notes:

 Members of the Environment Committee who voted on the Master Plan as councillors at the meeting held on 28 November 2018 have been advised not also to vote as trustees in the of avoiding a perception of predetermination on this matter.  This is a revised version of the report that was due to be considered at the Council as Trustee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019

#### **Officers Recommendations**

That Council as Trustee of the Victoria Park Trust:-

- 1. Agrees to the Master Plan and notes the priority order for the works attached as Appendix B.
- 2. Agrees that the proceeds from the sale of The Lodge be spent on the implementation of the Master Plan attached as Appendix B.
- 3. Note and take into account the results of the consultation that was completed to inform the development of the Master Plan please see report to the Environment Committee on 28 November 2018, attached as Annex 1 and the Consultation Report, attached as Appendix A.
- 4. Delegates authority to procure and commission services and contracts as required to implement the Master Plan attached as Appendix B to the Executive Director for Environment.

#### 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Victoria Park Recreation Ground, including the Lodge, was gifted to one of the Council's antecedent boroughs creating a trust as mentioned in para 5.4.1 below. At the meeting of the Council on 4 November 2014, the Council as Trustee of the Victoria Park Trust, agreed that the Lodge could be sold and noted that the proceeds of the sale of The Lodge must be held in a ringfenced fund to defray future running costs relating to Victoria Park and carry out improvements.
- 1.2 As this is a Charitable Trust administered by the Council, a decision by the Council as Trustee is required to agree the Master Plan for the Park and to spend the money on the implementation of the Master Plan, as set out at Appendix B.
- 1.3 For the Trustees information the Master Plan for Victoria Park was approved at the meeting of the Environment Committee on 28 November 2018. The Master Plan has been developed by Groundwork London (GWL) following engagement with users and stakeholders and an eight week public consultation undertaken by the council.
- 1.4 The following table shows the activities undertaken in the public consultation and the responses received:

Activity	Responses	
Online questionnaire	1,077 responses	
Easy Read questionnaire	11 responses	
Pop Up events	400 attendees	
	57 comments	
Youth Engagement	61 individuals	
Emails and phone calls	19 individuals	

#### 1.5 In summary, the consultation was administered as follows:

- The Consultation was open for eight weeks, from 18 June 2018 to the 13 August 2018 inclusive.
- Respondents' views were gathered via an online survey. Paper copies and an Easy Read version of the questionnaire were also made available on request.
- Relevant Members of the Council were contacted and made aware of the consultation.
- The consultation was widely promoted via the council's website; local press; Twitter; Facebook; the July issue of the Barnet First magazine, the Communities Together Network Bulletin, the Facebook page of the Friends of Victoria Park, an email to local schools and 22 posters in and around the park.
- The council ran eight pop up events in the park, for residents to look at the overall draft Master Plan and the two options proposed for play, tennis and a multi-use games area. Council staff were on hand to answer questions. These events were at different locations across the park and at different times and days to capture as broad a selection of visitors as possible. People were encouraged to complete the online questionnaire and comments were also captured on post it notes. Paper copies of the questionnaire were also available to those who could not complete the questionnaire electronically.

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 27 June	1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Near the Long Lane entrance
Saturday 30 June	12:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Between the café and the under 5s playground
Tuesday 10 July	11:30 am - 2:30 pm	Between the café and the under 5s playground
Sunday 15 July	11:30 am - 2:30 pm	Near the Long Lane entrance
Thursday 19 July	8:30 am - 11:30 am	By the Oak Tree
Wednesday 25 July	1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Between the café and the under 5s playground
Sunday 29 July	12 midday - 2:00 pm	By the market
Thursday 2 August	1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	By the Oak Tree

- The council appointed Groundwork London (GWL) to carry out targeted youth engagement, as it had been identified from the engagement carried out earlier in the year that "youth" had not been very well represented.
- The Easy Read questionnaire was taken to a local MENCAP group and discussed. The attendees completed the questionnaire.
- Comments were also sent via email and by telephone calls.
- 1.6 The outcomes of the public consultation were provided to GWL who developed the Master Plan, which is attached at Appendix B. The estimated costs of the individual improvement items are set out at Appendix B, page 5. In summary the outcomes of the consultation provided a direction of travel on the preferred design options in relation to Tennis, Play and a Multi Use Games Area and the prioritisation of the various workstreams, as described in the Master Plan.

#### 2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Recommendations 1 and 2 - It is recommended that the Council who are the Trustees agree that the proceeds from the sale of The Lodge be spent on the implementation of the Master Plan attached as Appendix B, as the proceeds of the sale of The Lodge must be held in a ring fenced fund to be used to defray future running costs relating to Victoria Park and carry out improvements.

#### 3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 It is not recommended that the money from the sale of The Lodge is not spent. The decision to sell The Lodge was made in 2014 and The Lodge was sold in 2016. The money is ring fenced to Victoria Park and it should be used to benefit the park users.
- 3.2 It is not recommended that the money from the sale of The Lodge is spent on other activities that are not listed in the Master Plan. The Master Plan was developed in consultation with residents which included an eight week public consultation on the draft master plan.

#### 4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 If the Trustees are minded to agree the above recommendations, the Master Plan will be progressed in the priority order as set out in the Master Plan at Appendix B. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by March 2020, depending on the weather.

#### 5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance (for information only as the main duty of Members as Trustees is to make decisions in the best interests

#### of the Trust and without regard to the policies of the Council where these may differ from the interests of the Trust).

- 5.1.1 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 is based on the core principles of fairness, responsibility and opportunity to make sure Barnet is a place:
  - of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
  - where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
  - where responsibility is shared, fairly
  - where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the tax payer.
- 5.1.2 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 and the 2018/19 Addendum includes the following:
  - Barnet's parks and green spaces will be amongst the best in London
  - Resident feedback consistently shows that Barnet's Park and Greenspaces are amongst its biggest assets and a strong influence for people deciding to live here
  - The Council recognises this and will continue to ensure that the Borough's Parks and Greenspaces are looked after
  - The Council will develop more innovative ways of maintaining its Parks and Greenspaces; including through greater partnerships with community groups and focus on using parks to achieve wider public health priorities for the Borough
  - Investing in parks and open spaces for a greener borough.
- 5.1.3 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020 states: -
  - Barnet is now the largest Borough in London by population (367,265 at the end of 2015) and is continuing to grow
  - A breadth of evidence demonstrates that a more active lifestyle is essential for physical and mental wellbeing. Regular physical activity helps reduce the risk of stroke, type II diabetes, development of dementia, incidences of heart disease, cancers and high blood pressure. Physical activity supports the prevention and management of long term conditions as well as being a component of achieving and maintaining a healthy weight
  - Physical inactivity currently costs the UK economy £7.2 billion. Additional
    costs are incurred via the wider economy through increased sickness
    absence, premature death of productive individuals and increased costs
    for individuals and their carers
  - Within Barnet the health costs of physical inactivity currently cost £6.7 million. This is approximately £1.9 million per 100,000 of the Borough's population. As measured by the Active Lives Survey (May 2017 to May 2018) 58.4% of those surveyed in Barnet had been active for at least 150 minutes a week, which is the Chief Medical Office's recommended amount of active time.
  - The number of people with mental health conditions is predicted to increase as the population grows. In November 2014, the Health and Wellbeing Board identified prevention of and early intervention in mental health problems as a priority

- We plan to:
  - Develop and improve the accessibility and quality of open spaces across the borough to support healthy outcomes, underpinned by the Barnet Open Spaces Strategy
  - Utilise open space to co-ordinate and support recreational and competitive activity, inclusive of Outdoor Gyms.
- 5.1.4 The Fit and Active Barnet Framework 2016-2021 sets out a framework for the development of sport and physical activity in Barnet underpinned by a vision to "create a more active and healthy borough". The four outcomes which form the basis of the framework are:
  - Improve and enhance Barnet leisure facilities, ensuring that opportunities are accessible for all residents.
  - Advocate investment and innovative policies to support the delivery of high quality, accessible facilities and delivery of services.
  - Facilitate partnerships and develop opportunities that demonstrate a commitment to embed an 'active habit'.
  - Target those who do not traditionally engage, increasing participation amongst under-represented groups.
- 5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)
- 5.2.1 Finance and Value for Money The ring fenced capital receipt from the sale of The Lodge is £623,000. This money can only be spent on running costs of and improvements to the park. GWL were appointed to develop the Master Plan and to carry out specific youth engagement work, at a total cost of £35,858. This has been funded from a separate source, therefore the ring fenced capital receipt of £623,000 is to be spent on the park improvements including the procurement of each package and associated fees. The council as trustee will seek the best value for this project. However, it is very unlikely that there will be sufficient funds to do all the works identified in the Master Plan and set out at Appendix B, page 5. For any further works to be undertaken the council would need to source additional funds where possible.
- 5.2.2 <u>Procurement</u> Approved existing contracts and new procurements will be used to deliver the Master Plan.
- 5.2.3 <u>Staffing</u> At this time there are no implications. The implementation of the Master Plan will be led and managed by the council's Greenspaces Team.
- 5.2.4  $\underline{IT}$  At this time there are no implications.
- 5.2.5 <u>Property</u> A planning application will be made for a new café and toilets in the park as per the Master Plan.
- 5.2.6 <u>Sustainability</u> The Master Plan seeks to maintain a high quality park for everyone, whilst considering the maintenance costs in the short and long term in the position of declining resources.

#### 5.3 **Social Value**

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process for the works identified in the Master Plan commissioners will think about whether the services they are going to buy or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits and will make changes to the procurement accordingly, within the Contract Procedure Rules.

#### 5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 Victoria Park is owned by the council under the terms of a "Charitable Trust". The land was transferred to the Urban District Council of Finchley in 1899 and 1900 to hold as to part as a public park and recreation ground for the parish of Finchley and as to part for the purpose of the Recreation Grounds Act 1859. The London Borough of Barnet as Corporate Trustee now owns the park as a result of it being the successor in title to the Urban District Council of Finchley. The council is the trustee of "designated land" (i.e. land held for specific purposes under the trusts mentioned above); Victoria Park Lodge was part of the property held by the Council within this trust until it was sold in 2016. The council is a corporate body and is therefore deemed to be a "Corporate Trustee" of the land in the trusts. On 4 November 2014 Full Council as trustee decided to sell Victoria Park Lodge and noted that the proceeds of sale of the Lodge must be held in a ring-fenced fund to defray future running costs relating to Victoria Park and carry out improvements.
- 5.4.2 Section 11 of the Trustee Act 2000 provides that: In the case of a charitable trust.
  - (3) ....., the trustees of a trust may authorise any person to exercise ......
  - (a) any function consisting of carrying out a decision that the trustees have taken:

In this case officers are being asked to implement a decision that the Trustees have made and 11(3) a above applies. The 2014 report considered the absence of a charity commission scheme not the availability of general powers under the Trustee Act 2000.

#### 5.5 **Risk Management**

5.5.1 All risks are managed using the risk management procedure, as set out in the Corporate Risk Management Framework. High level risks are reported as part of the Council's quarterly performance regime.

#### 5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:
  - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010

- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups.
- 5.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services. The protected characteristics are:
  - Age
  - Disability
  - Gender reassignment
  - Pregnancy and maternity
  - Race
  - · Religion or belief
  - Sex
  - Sexual orientation.
- 5.6.3 The Corporate Plan 2015 2020 sets the Strategic Equalities Objective, which is: that citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal access to quality services which provide value to the tax payer. Changes to policies and services are analysed in order to assess the potential equalities impacts and risks and identify any mitigating action possible, through an equalities impact assessment, before final decisions are made. Consideration will also be made to the equalities and data cohesion summary.
- 5.6.4 An equalities impact assessment was carried out on the Victoria Park Master Plan. This is set out in Appendix C. This shows that the proposed Master Plan is expected to make a positive change.
- 5.7 Corporate Parenting
- 5.7.1 Not applicable.
- 5.8 **Consultation and Engagement**
- 5.8.1 The public consultation on the draft Master Plan for Victoria Park took place between 18 June 2018 and 13 August 2018.
- 5.9 **Insight**
- 5.9.1 No insight information has been used to produce this report.

#### 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 <u>Environment Committee 28 November 2018 Papers</u> – including Item 10 Victoria Park, Finchley – Master Plan, and the agreement of the master plan,

- the priority order for the work and delegation to the Strategic Director for Environment to procure the works.
- 6.2 Environment Committee 13 July 2017 Papers including Item 12 Implementation of the Council's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, and the agreement that a master plan be developed for Victoria Park subject to a full consultation.
- 6.3 <u>Policy and Resources Committee 27 June 2017 Papers</u> including Item 15 Business Planning 2017-20, Appendix B which shows the capital allocation for Victoria Park.
- 6.4 <u>Council 4 November 2014 Papers</u> including Item 14 Proposed disposal of former Park Keepers Lodge, Victoria Park, Long Lane, Finchley, N3.







#### Annex 1

# Environment Committee 28 November 2018

Title	Victoria Park, Finchley – Master Plan	
Report of	Chairman of Environment Committee	
Wards	All	
Status	Public	
Urgent	No	
Key	No	
Enclosures	Appendix A – Final Consultation Report Appendix B – Master Plan including priority order for the work Appendix C – Equalities Impact Assessment for Victoria Park Master Plan	
Officer Contact Details	Nicola Cross – Strategic Lead, Clean and Green  Nicola.cross@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 7404  Matthew Gunyon – Partnership and Development Manager, Greenspaces matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359  7403	

#### **Summary**

Following the sale of The Lodge the ring fenced capital receipt can only be spent on Victoria Park. Groundwork London were appointed to develop a master plan for the park, this was subject to public consultation in 2018. Following the public consultation this report seeks agreement to the Master Plan, and a priority order for the works.

#### **Officers Recommendations**

- 1. That the Environment Committee considers the report including the outcomes of the public consultation and agrees the Master Plan set out at Appendix B.
- That the Environment Committee considers the report including the outcomes of the public consultation and agrees the priority order for the work as set out at Appendix B.

3. That the Environment Committee agrees to delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Environment to procure external design consultants and construction contractors for the works as set out at Appendix B, in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

#### 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Following the sale of The Lodge at Victoria Park, the ring fenced capital receipt can only be spent on running costs of and improvements to the park, it was agreed at the 13 July 2017 meeting of the Environment Committee that qualified external support would be procured to develop the master plan and that a master plan be developed subject to a full consultation.
- 1.2 Following a procurement exercise the council appointed Groundwork London (GWL) in early 2018 to develop a master plan for Victoria Park. GWL carried out engagement speaking to users of the park as well as stakeholders to get a better understanding of the priorities and improvements they would like to see. This led to GWL developing a draft master plan for the park with two options proposed for play, tennis and a multi-use games area. The council then undertook a public consultation on the options proposed and the long list of potential improvements to the park.

#### 1.3 Public Consultation

- 1.4 The public consultation on the draft masterplan, undertaken by the council, took place between 18 June 2018 and 13 August 2018. A summary of the consultation results can be seen below, and the full report can be found at Appendix A.
- 1.5 The following table shows the activities undertaken and the responses received:

Activity	Responses	
Online questionnaire	1077 responses	
Easy Read questionnaire	11 responses	
Pop Up events	400 attendees	
	57 comments	
Youth Engagement	61 individuals	
Emails and phone calls	19 individuals	

- 1.6 The summary of the public consultation is:
  - 96% of those who responded to the questionnaires use Victoria Park
  - The most common reason for visiting the park is walking
  - For Play the majority of respondents preferred Option 2, which is two new playgrounds in the current two locations
  - For a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) the majority of respondents preferred
     Option 2, which is a MUGA on an existing tennis court

- 74% of the young people engaged would like to see one of the tennis courts converted into a ball court, and more challenging play and informal sports provision at the Long Lane play area
- 50% of 626 questionnaire respondents said they would use a MUGA
- For tennis there was no clear preference for Option 1 (retaining 6 tennis courts) or Option 2 (retaining 5 tennis courts). Of 586 respondents taking into account those comments made in "Other", 274 respondents selected Option 1 and 265 respondents selected Option 2
- 24% of 586 respondents said that they use the tennis courts
- The top five improvements that respondents selected to spend the money on were: new playground facilities (2-14 years), new café with indoor toilet, resurfacing paths where tree roots have led to an uneven surface, additional tree planting and a new multi-use games area. The full list can be seen at Appendix A, page 17
- The five improvements that respondents rated the least for spending the money on were: new path from tennis courts to oak tree, new entrances to northern playground, improved signage and interpretation, widening path between tennis courts and northern playground, and new path from northern playground to cafe
- The top five changes that respondents selected to see happen were: new café, playground facilities, multi-use games area, café terrace and calisthenics. The full list can be seen at Appendix A, page 18
- In the "other" category 23 respondents said that they wanted "better public toilets including facilities for the disabled", which generated more responses than the bottom 12 items that were selected to see happen
- Residents top five further comments were: better public toilets including facilities for disabled, install calisthenics equipment/outdoor gym, improve/new café, better play equipment including removing bark, and improve safety, maintenance and litter clearing
- The topic of improving the toilets came up several times in the responses received including in the Easy Read questionnaire responses and the Youth Engagement
- The conversion of the depot was rated 13<sup>th</sup> of where the money should be spent, and 16<sup>th</sup> of the top changes in the park. Comments were also received that the conversion of the depot should be funded from other sources
- Other comments include; the installation of a public access defibrillator, removing the bark from the play area and detailed comments about the sensory garden.
- 1.7 Following advice from our Legal Team the response to the question in the questionnaire "Overall which Option for play, multi-use games area and tennis do you prefer?" was excluded from the evaluation. It was excluded as respondents were only able to select "Option 1" or "Option 2" and were not able to select "Alternative" or skip responding the question. The Final Consultation Report at Appendix A sets out the response rate to each question, and there is no evidence of a significant drop off in response rate as a direct result of respondents not being able to select "Alternative" or skip responding the question. Overall the consultation is considered to be fair and otherwise

- compliant with the overarching principles governing the conduct of public consultation.
- 1.8 The outcomes of the public consultation were provided to GWL who developed the Master Plan, which is attached at Appendix B.
- 1.9 The estimated costs of the individual improvement items are set out at Appendix B, page 5. These are estimates only as cost certainty will only be provided once the improvements have been procured.
- 1.10 The conversion of the former depot has not been included in the Master Plan as this was not rated very highly in the responses, and the estimated cost of this work is £200,000, which is over one third of the money that is available for the park. Instead we are seeking to source a suitable partner to take over the former depot, that should be to the benefit of the park. This will be aligned with delivery of the Finchley Central Town Centre Project.
- 1.11 The council is aware of the planning application that has been submitted for the construction of a war memorial on park land next to Ballards Lane. The outcome of this planning application will have no effect on the Master Plan, as no improvements have been suggested to this area, as can be seen at Appendix B, page 2.

#### 2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 <u>Recommendation 1</u> It is recommended that Environment Committee agrees the Master Plan set out at Appendix B page 2, as this sets out the improvement works to the park that the public consultation identified as being the best options.
- 2.2 Recommendation 2 It is recommended that Environment Committee agrees the priority order for the work as set out at Appendix B page 5, as this sets out the priority order for the works that the public consultation identified as being the most important. It is unlikely that there will be sufficient funds to undertake all the works listed in the Master Plan, therefore the priority order will be used to guide the order of the work and therefore the spend of the available money.

#### 3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 It is not recommended that a further public consultation is undertaken on the master plan, as the public consultation undertaken earlier this year had good engagement levels and a clear consensus of opinion on many matters, and a second public consultation is very unlikely to deliver different results and will add a delay to putting the Master Plan into implementation.
- 3.2 It is not recommended that the money from the sale of The Lodge is not spent. The decision to sell The Lodge was made in 2014 and The Lodge was sold in

2016. The money is ring fenced to Victoria Park and it should be used to benefit the park users.

#### 4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 If the Committee is minded to agree the above recommendations the Master Plan will be adopted and the work progressed in the priority order as set out in the Master Plan at Appendix B.
- 4.2 For Play, a play design consultation will take place in the park in the later part of 2018/19, depending on the weather. It is the plan that all play equipment will be installed by the end of 2019.
- 4.3 For the new Café and toilets, planning permission will be sought. It is the plan that a new café and toilets will be installed by the end of 2019/20.
- 4.4 For all other works in the park these will start in 2019 and be completed by March 2020, depending on the weather. This includes the resurfacing of the tennis courts and the installation of the multi-use games area.

#### 5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

#### 5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 is based on the core principles of fairness, responsibility and opportunity to make sure Barnet is a place:
  - of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
  - where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
  - where responsibility is shared, fairly
  - where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the tax payer.
- 5.1.2 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 and the 2018/19 Addendum includes the following:
  - Barnet's parks and green spaces will be amongst the best in London;
  - Resident feedback consistently shows that Barnet's Park and Greenspaces are amongst its biggest assets and a strong influence for people deciding to live here;
  - The Council recognises this and will continue to ensure that the Borough's Parks and Greenspaces are looked after;
  - The Council will develop more innovative ways of maintaining its Parks and Greenspaces; including through greater partnerships with community groups and focus on using parks to achieve wider public health priorities for the Borough.
  - Investing in parks and open spaces for a greener borough.
- 5.1.3 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020 states: -

- Barnet is now the largest Borough in London by population (367,265 at the end of 2015) and is continuing to grow
- Barnet Sport and Physical Activity Needs Assessment (2012) highlighted that whilst health behaviours and outcomes are more favourable in Barnet than in England as a whole, sport and physical activity rates and the use of outdoor spaces are below the national average
- A breadth of evidence demonstrates that a more active lifestyle is essential
  for physical and mental wellbeing. Regular physical activity helps reduce the
  risk of stroke, type II diabetes, development of dementia, incidences of heart
  disease, cancers and high blood pressure. Physical activity supports the
  prevention and management of long term conditions as well as being a
  component of achieving and maintaining a healthy weight
- Physical inactivity currently costs the UK economy £7.2 billion. Additional
  costs are incurred via the wider economy through increased sickness
  absence, premature death of productive individuals and increased costs for
  individuals and their carers
- Within Barnet the health costs of physical inactivity currently cost £6.7 million. This is approximately £1.9 million per 100,000 of the Borough's population. However, as measured by the Sport England Active People Survey Data (APS9 Quarter 2) 43.8% of the Borough are currently inactive and would like to do more
- The number of people with mental health conditions is predicted to increase as the population grows. In November 2014, the Health and Wellbeing Board identified prevention of and early intervention in mental health problems as a priority
- We plan to:
  - Develop and improve the accessibility and quality of open spaces across the borough to support healthy outcomes, underpinned by the Barnet Open Spaces Strategy
  - Utilise open space to co-ordinate and support recreational and competitive activity, inclusive of Outdoor Gyms.

# 5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 <u>Finance and Value for Money</u> The ring fenced capital receipt from the sale of The Lodge is £623,000. This money can only be spent on running costs of and improvements to the park. Groundwork London were appointed to develop the master plan and to carry out specific youth engagement work, at a total cost of £35,858. The remaining £587,142 is to be spent on the park improvements including the procurement of each package and associated fees. The council will seek the best value for this project, however it is very unlikely that there will be sufficient funds to do all the works identified in the Master Plan and set out at Appendix B, page 5. For any further works to be undertaken the council would need to source additional funds where possible.
- 5.2.2 <u>Procurement</u> If the Master Plan is approved existing contracts and new procurements will be used to deliver the changes in the park.
- 5.2.3 Staffing At this time there are no implications. The implementation of the

Master Plan will be led and managed by the council's Greenspaces Team.

- 5.2.4  $\underline{\mathsf{IT}}$  At this time there are no implications.
- 5.2.5 <u>Property</u> If the Master Plan is approved a planning application will be made for a new café and toilets in the park.
- 5.2.6 <u>Sustainability</u> The initiatives detailed in this report seek to maintain a high quality park for everyone, whilst considering the maintenance costs in the short and long term in the position of declining resources.

#### 5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. This will be done.

#### 5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 Victoria Park is owned by the council under the terms of a "Charitable Trust" because the land was transferred to the Urban District Council of Finchley in 1899 and 1900 to hold as to part as a public park and recreation ground for the parish of Finchley and as to part for the purpose of the Recreation Grounds Act 1859. The London Borough of Barnet now owns the park as a result of it being the successor in title to the Urban District Council of Finchley. The council is the trustee of "designated land" (i.e. land held for specific purposes under the trusts mentioned above). The council is a corporate body and is therefore deemed to be a "Corporate Trustee" of the land in the trusts. On 4 November 2014 Full Council as trustee decided to sell Victoria Park Lodge, and noted that the proceeds of sale of the Lodge must be held in a ring-fenced fund to defray future running costs relating to Victoria Park and carry out improvements.
- 5.4.2 Council has delegated responsibility for parks to the Environment Committee, therefore it is appropriate for the Environment Committee to consider how the sale proceeds of Victoria Park Lodge are applied to the park. The Council's Constitution sets out the terms of reference of the Environment Committee. This includes:
  - Responsibility for all borough-wide or cross-constituency matters relating to the street scene including, parking, road safety, lighting, street cleansing, transport, waste, waterways, refuse, recycling, allotments, parks, trees, crematoria and mortuary, trading standards and environmental health.
  - To receive reports on relevant performance information and risk on the services under the remit of the Committee.

#### 5.4 Risk Management

5.5.1 All risks are managed using the risk management procedure, as set out in the Corporate Risk Management Framework. High level risks are reported as part

of the Council's quarterly performance regime.

#### 5.5 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:
  - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
  - advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
  - foster good relations between people from different groups.
- 5.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services. The protected characteristics are:
  - Age
  - Disability
  - Gender reassignment
  - Pregnancy and maternity
  - Race
  - Religion or belief
  - Sex
  - Sexual orientation.
- 5.6.3 The Corporate Plan 2015 2020 sets the Strategic Equalities Objective, which is: that citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal access to quality services which provide value to the tax payer. Changes to policies and services are analysed in order to assess the potential equalities impacts and risks and identify any mitigating action possible, through an equalities impact assessment, before final decisions are made. Consideration will also be made to the equalities and data cohesion summary.
- 5.6.4 An equalities impact assessment has been carried out on the proposed Victoria Park Master Plan, and is attached as Appendix C. This shows that the proposed Master Plan is expected to make a positive change.

#### 5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 Not applicable.

#### 5.8 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.8.1 The public consultation took place between 18 June 2018 and 13 August 2018. The Final Consultation Report is attached at Appendix A, and a summary of the consultation results is set out a paragraph 1.6 of this report.
- 5.9 **Insight**
- 5.9.1 No insight information has been used to produce this report.

#### 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 <u>Environment Committee 13 July 2017 Papers</u> including Item 12 Implementation of the Council's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, and the agreement that a master plan be developed for Victoria Park subject to a full consultation.
- 6.2 <u>Policy and Resources Committee 27 June 2017 Papers</u> including Item 15 Business Planning 2017-20, Appendix B which shows the capital allocation for Victoria Park.

#### REPORT CLEARANCE CHECKLIST

(Removed prior to publication and retained by Governance Service)

Note: All reports must be cleared by the appropriate Committee Chairman, Chief Officer, Legal, Finance and Governance as a minimum. Report authors should also engage with subject matter experts from other service areas where this is required (e.g. procurement, equalities, risk, etc.). The name and date that the chairman or officer has cleared the report must be included in the table below or the report will not be accepted.

Legal, Finance and Governance require a minimum of 5 working days to provide report clearance. Clearance cannot be guaranteed for reports submitted outside of this time and your report is likely to be withdrawn from the agenda and deferred to the next scheduled meeting.

#### **AUTHOR TO COMPLETE TABLE BELOW:**

Who	Clearance Date	Name
Committee Chairman	1 Nov 2018	Clir D. Cohen
Chief Officer	29 Oct 2018	J. Blake
HB Public Law	12 Nov 2018	L. Middleton
Finance	15 Nov 2018	G. Hussein
Governance	31 Oct 2018	P. Frost

## **Appendix A**

# Victoria Park, Finchley Masterplan Consultation 2018

**Final Consultation Report** 

18 June to 13 August 2018
Public Consultation

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#### 1. Consultation Methodology and Respondents

The council sold The Lodge in Victoria Park in 2015 and it is a requirement that any funds raised from the sale will only be spent on Victoria Park. Following on from this decision the council appointed Groundwork London (GWL) to identify how best to use this money to enhance the park and its facilities.

Earlier this year GWL engaged with the local community to get a better understanding of the priorities and improvements that residents would most like to see. Over 400 survey responses were received. Based on the findings of this engagement, GWL drafted a Master Plan complete with design options.

This report sets out the full findings from the public consultation on the draft Victoria Park Master Plan. The findings will be considered by the meeting of the Environment Committee on 28 November 2018, where the final decision on the Victoria Park Masterplan will be taken.

#### 1.1 Technical details and method

In summary, the consultation was administered as follows:

- The Consultation was open for eight weeks, from 18 June 2018 to the 13 August 2018 inclusive.
- The consultation was published on Engage Barnet <a href="http://engage.barnet.gov.uk">http://engage.barnet.gov.uk</a> together with the Masterplan Base Plan, Masterplan Options 1 & 2 for play, multi use games area and tennis. There was also a Victoria Park public consultation Frequently Asked Questions document published on the webpage which provided detailed information.
- Respondent's views were gathered via an online survey. Paper copies and an Easy Read version of the questionnaire were also made available on request.
- Relevant members of the Council were contacted and made aware of the consultation.
- The consultation was widely promoted via the council's website; local press; Twitter; Facebook; the July issue of the Barnet First magazine, the Communities Together Network Bulletin, the Facebook page of the Friends of Victoria Park, an email to local schools and 22 posters in and around the park.
- The council ran eight pop up events in the park, for residents to look at the overall draft Master Plan and the two options proposed for play, tennis and a multi-use games area. Council staff were on hand to answer questions. These events were at different locations across the park and at different times and days to capture as broad a selection of visitors as possible. People were encouraged to complete the online questionnaire and comments were also captured on post it notes. Paper copies of the questionnaire were also available to those who could not complete the questionnaire electronically.

Figure 1: Dates, times and locations of pop up consultation events in Victoria Park

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 27 June	1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Near the Long Lane entrance
Saturday 30 June	12:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Between the café and the under 5s playground
Tuesday 10 July	11:30 am - 2:30 pm	Between the café and the under 5s playground
Sunday 15 July	11:30 am - 2:30 pm	Near the Long Lane entrance
Thursday 19 July	8:30 am - 11:30 am	By the Oak Tree
Wednesday 25 July	1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Between the café and the under 5s playground
Sunday 29 July	12 midday - 2:00 pm	By the market
Thursday 2 August	1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	By the Oak Tree

- ➤ The council appointed Groundwork London to carry out targeted youth engagement, as it had been identified from the engagement carried out earlier in the year that "youth" had not been very well represented.
- The Easy Read questionnaire was taken to a local MENCAP group and discussed. The attendees completed the questionnaire.
- Comments were also sent via email and by telephone calls.

#### 1.2 Questionnaire design

The questionnaire was developed to find out which of Groundwork's Masterplan design options residents' and other stakeholder's preferred and their opinions on the different elements of each plan. The consultation invited views on the:

- The options proposed for play, tennis and a multi-use games area
- Preference as to what infrastructure improvements should be implemented with the money that is available
- Any comments on the overall draft Master Plan, Option 1 and Option 2.

To enable further understanding and in-depth analysis the questionnaire also included:

- Open ended questions, where respondents were invited to write in any comments on the reason behind some of their answers, if they believed the masterplan options were appropriate, or if any were missing, as well as more general comments
- Key demographic questions to help understand the views of different demographic groups.

Throughout the questionnaire and where applicable hyperlinks were provided to the relevant sections of the consultation document. Paper copies were available upon request.

#### 1.3 Response to the consultation

A total of 1077 took part in the online questionnaire. In addition, a further 11 responses were gathered from a SEND group through Easy Read paper copies. The results from these two questionnaires have been combined together.

#### 1.4 Respondent profile from questionnaire

The chart below shows the demographic profile of those who responded to consultation questionnaire, online and Easy Read, in terms of key demographics.

There is an over representation of females compared to the Barnet population. There is an over representation of white respondents, and a significant under representation of black respondents. Disabled respondents are also slightly under represented.

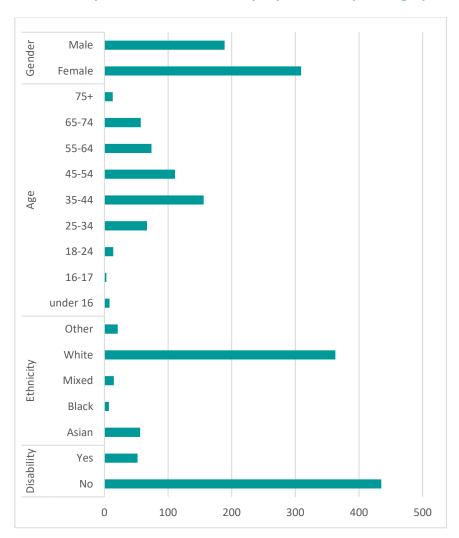


Figure 2: General public consultation sample profile – key demographics

#### 1.5 Interpretation of the results

In terms of the results of the questionnaire it is important to note that:

The public consultation is not representative of the overall population of Barnet but provides information, in particular on the opinion of a specific demographic

- of residents and stakeholders who are more engaged with the council and their local park.
- The responses although not representative of the borough's population, do provide an important indication on the favoured Masterplan option and the elements within this consultation.
- All open-ended responses to the public consultation have been classified based on the main themes arising from the comment, so that they can be summarised.

#### 1.6 Calculating and reporting on results

The results for each question are based on "valid responses", i.e. all those providing an answer (this may or may not be the same as the total sample) unless otherwise specified. The base size may therefore vary from question to question.

#### 2. Consultation Results

The results are provided under the following headings:

- Online questionnaire
- Easy Read questionnaire
- Pop Up Events
- Youth Engagement
- Other Contact including emails and phone calls.

#### 2.1 Online Questionnaire

#### (a) Residents current use of the park

In this set of questions, we wanted to find out if residents used the park. If they didn't visit the park we wanted to know why not, and if they did visit the park we wanted to know what they used the park for, who they visited with and how often they came. The responses provided are combined for the online questionnaire and the Easy Read questionnaire. In both questionnaires it was the first set of questions that were asked.

#### i. Respondents were asked 'Do you use Victoria Park?

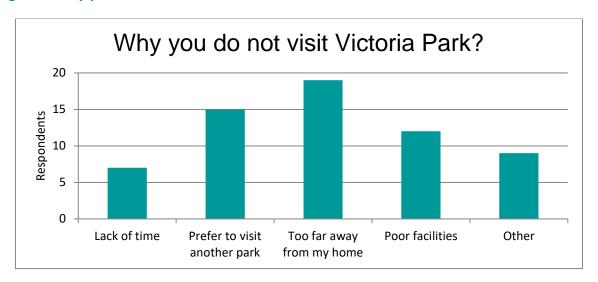
In summary:

- > 1088 people answered this question
- > 1045 people said 'yes'
- 43 people said 'no'.
- ii. If respondents answered 'no' to the question 'Do you use Victoria Park' they were asked 'Please give details as to why you do not visit Victoria Park: Please tick all that apply

#### In summary

The most common response was 'Too far away from my home' with 19 responses.

Figure 3: Why you do not visit Victoria Park?

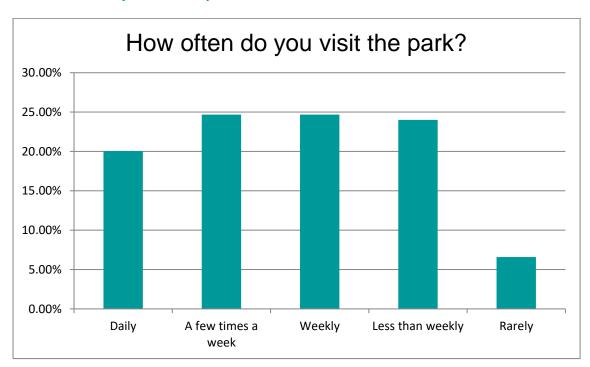


iii. If respondents answered 'yes' to the question 'Do you use Victoria Park' they were asked 'How often do you visit the park? Please tick one option only

In summary

> 1033 people answered this question.

Figure 4: How often do you visit the park?

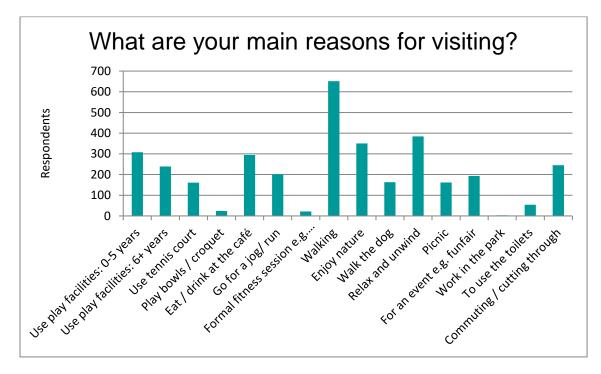


iv. If respondents answered 'yes' to the question 'Do you use Victoria Park' they were asked What are your main reasons for visiting? (Please tick up to five options)

In summary

- > 1001 people answered this question
- The most common reason for visiting was walking
- The next most highly scoring reasons were: using play facilities, eat/drink at café, relax and unwind, enjoy nature and commuting/cutting through.

Figure 5: What are your main reasons for visiting?

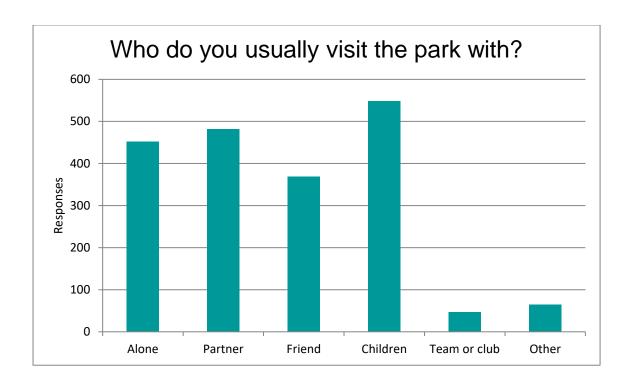


v. If respondents answered 'yes' to the question 'Do you use Victoria Park' they were asked Who do you usually visit the park with? (Please tick all those that apply)

#### In summary:

- 993 answered this question
- The most common 'other' response was visiting with a dog, with 18 responses.

Figure 6: Who do you usually visit the park with?



### (b) Views on the options proposed for play, tennis and a multi-use games area

In this set of questions, we wanted to find out residents' preferences for play, tennis and multi use games area in Victoria Park. As well as which elements of the masterplans were a priority.

i. Views on which proposal was preferred for play activities (Masterplan option 1 or Masterplan option 2)?

Respondents were asked 'For play which proposal do you prefer?'. This was in reference to Masterplan option 1 and Masterplan option 2. In summary:

- > 677 people responded to this question
- > 47% of respondents chose Option 2, the highest scoring option.
- 37% of respondents chose Option 1
- > 16% expressed an alternative opinion to the two proposed Masterplans.

Figure 7: Views on which play proposal was preferred (Masterplan option 1 or Masterplan option 2)

For play, which proposal do you prefer?		
	%	Number
Masterplan Option 1	37%	251
Masterplan Option 2	47%	320
Alternative	16%	106
Total	100%	677

Analysis of respondents who indicated they preferred an alternative plan can be seen below. Comments were made by 106 respondents. There were 156 comments made including 19 which provided no comment on the proposals for play.

The most frequently made comments were: install water play facilities (6 comments), improve safety, maintenance and litter clearing (6 comments), preference is option 2 (17 comments), preference is option 1 (6 comments), install calisthenics equipment/outdoor gym (16 comments), leave park as it is (13 comments) and leave playgrounds as they are (7 comments).

Figure 8: Comments made by respondents on alternative play options and elements.

Comment description	Number of mentions
Preference is Option 2	17
Install calisthenics equipment/ outdoor gym	16
Leave park as it is	13
Leave playgrounds as they are	7
Preference is Option 1	6
Improve safety, maintenance and litter clearing	6
Water play	6
Buy The Lodge back	6
Better play equipment including removing bark	5
Resurface tennis courts	5
Link to maps did not work	4
Create dog free area	3
Sensory garden	3
Allow dogs in play area	3
Option 1 with larger older play area	3
More trees	3
More flowers	3
Older play and MUGA near The Lodge	2
Convert tennis court to basketball court, or another sport	2
New seating	2
Better public toilets including facilities for disabled	2
No MUGA next to tennis courts	2
Turn The Lodge into café	2
Drinking water fountain	2
Skateboarding area	2
Better café	1
Do not spent money until legal issues with The Lodge are resolved	1
More bins	1
Running track	1
Put all play areas including MUGA in one location	1
Restaurant	1
No gym equipment	1

Convert The Lodge into pubic use	1
Don't resurface tennis courts	1
Secure perimeter of the park	1
Install toilets near Long Lane entrance	1
Facility for the Arts	1

# ii. Views on which proposal was preferred for a multi-use games area (MUGA) (Masterplan option 1 or Masterplan option 2)?

Respondents were asked 'For a multi-use games area which proposal do you prefer?'. This was in reference to Masterplan option 1 and Masterplan option 2. In summary

- 626 people responded to this question
- More residents preferred Masterplan 2 with 48% opting for Masterplan 2 when considering a multi-use games area.
- 39% of respondents chose Option 1
- 13% expressed an alternative opinion to the two proposed Masterplans.

Figure 9: Views on which proposal was preferred for a multi-use games area or Masterplan option 2)

For a multi-use games area which proposal do you prefer		
	%	Number
Masterplan Option 1	39	243
Masterplan Option 2	48	300
Alternative	13	83
Total	100%	626

Analysis of respondents who indicated they preferred an alternative plan can be seen below. Comments were made by 83 respondents. There were 91 comments made including 32 which provided no comment on the proposal for a multi use games area.

The most frequently made comments were: install calisthenics equipment/ outdoor gym (8 comments) and leave park as it is (13 comments).

Figure 10: Comments made by respondents on alternative options and elements for a MUGA and its location.

	Number of
Comment description	mentions
Leave park as it is	9
Install calisthenics equipment/ outdoor gym	8
Link to maps did not work	5
Preference is Option 2	4
Preference is Option 1	4
Improve safety, maintenance and litter clearing	4

Buy The Lodge back	3
Allow dogs in play area	2
Water play	2
Convert tennis court to basketball court, or another sport	2
More flowers	2
Don't resurface tennis courts	1
Resurface tennis courts	1
Better public toilets including facilities for disabled	1
Drinking water fountain	1
New seating	1
Older play and MUGA near The Lodge	1
Running track	1
Facility for the Arts	1
Remove young play park	1
Keep six tennis courts	1
Table tennis table	1
Install picnic tables	1
Need more nature/ wildlife areas	1
Put MUGA at end of six tennis courts	1

#### iii. Views on the use of a multi-use games area

Respondents were asked 'Would you use a multi-use games area at Victoria Park'. with the option yes, no, or other reason. In summary:

- 50% of 626 respondents said they would use a MUGA
- 38% said they wouldn't use a MUGA because they didn't play a game
- ➤ 11% said they wouldn't use a MUGA because of another reason
- Therefore a total of 50% of 626 respondents said they would not use a MUGA.

Figure 11: Views on the use of a multi-use games area at Victoria Park

Would you use a multi-use games area at Victoria Park'		
	%	Number
Yes	50%	314
No, because I don't play games	38%	238
No, because of another reason	11%	74
Total	100	626

Analysis of respondents who said, 'No, because of another reason' can be seen below. Comments were made by 74 respondents, 24 of which provided on comment on the proposal provided. The responses were spread across seven subjects. 23 respondents said they wouldn't use the a MUGA because they were too elderly/disabled/had ill health or were too young, and 11 respondents wanted to keep the six tennis courts.

25

Figure 12: Comments made by respondents on 'no I would not use a MUGA, because of another reason'

Comment description	Number of mentions
Too old/disabled/ill health/too young	23
Keep six tennis courts	11
Over development, keep natural	5
Older children will dominate	3
Use other facilities	3
No dogs are allowed so can't use	3
Anti social behaviour	2

# iv. Views on which Masterplan option was preferred for tennis (Masterplan 1 or Masterplan 2)

Respondents were asked 'For tennis which proposal do you prefer?'. The Figure below shows that 0.5% more residents preferred Masterplan 2 over Masterplan 1 with 263 respondents opting for Masterplan 2 when considering tennis compared with 260 respondents choosing Masterplan 1. In summary:

- > 586 people responded to this question
- 44.4% preferred Masterplan option 1
- 44.9% preferred Masterplan option 2
- ▶ 63 respondents (10.8%) expressed an alternative opinion to the two proposed Masterplans.

Figure 13: Views on which proposal was preferred for tennis courts at Victoria Park (Masterplan Option 1 or Masterplan Option 2)

'For tennis which proposal do you prefer?'		
	%	Number
Masterplan Option 1	44.4	260
Masterplan Option 2	44.9	263
Alternative	10.8	63
Total	100	586

Analysis of respondents who indicate they prefer an alternative plan can be seen below. Comments were made by 63 respondents. There were 65 comments made including 26 which provided no comment on the proposal related to tennis. The responses were spread across 13 different subject areas.

The most frequently made comments were: resurface tennis courts (6 comments) and keep six tennis courts (13 comments).

Figure 14: Comments made by respondents on alternative options and elements for tennis provision.

Comment description	Number of
Keep six tennis courts	13
Resurface tennis courts	6
Don't resurface tennis courts	5
Don't play tennis	3
Preference is Option 2	2
Link to maps did not work	2
Preference is Option 2 without the loss of a tennis court	2
Neither option	1
Add a tennis club house	1
Preference is Option 1	1
Do not spend money until legal issues with The Lodge are	1
Leave the park as it is	1
Reduce tennis court to four	1

#### v. Views on the use of the tennis courts at Victoria Park

Respondents were asked 'Do you use the Tennis courts at Victoria Park'. With the options: 'yes', 'no, because I don't play tennis', 'No, because most of the tennis courts are not in a good condition', 'No, because the tennis courts are always busy', or 'No, because of another reason'. There were 586 respondents to this question. In summary:

- 24% said yes, they use the tennis courts at Victoria Park.
- A total of 76% said that they do not use the tennis courts.

Figure 15: Total responses for use of the tennis courts at Victoria Park

'Do you use the tennis courts at Victoria Park?'		
	%	Number
Yes	24	140
No, because I don't play tennis	49	287
No, because most of the tennis courts are	8	44
No, because the tennis courts are always	10	58
No, because of another reason	10	57
Total	100	586

Analysis of respondents who indicate that they do not use the tennis courts at Victoria Park for another reason, can be seen below. Comments were made by 56 respondents. There were 58 comments made, including 16 which provided no comment on the question. The most frequently made comments were: use other facilities (10 comments) and too old/disabled/ill health/too young (8 comments).

Figure 16: Comments made by respondents on other reasons they do not use the tennis courts at Victoria Park.

Comment description	Number of mentions
Use other facilities	10
Too old/disabled/ill health/too young	8
Not interested	5
Don't know how to book	5
Courts are bulk booked	4
Time	3
Courts are in poor condition	2
Play another sport	2
Didn't know that tennis courts were there	1
Don't have someone to play with	1
Do not spend the money	1

## vi. Views on which Masterplan option was preferred overall for play, MUGA and tennis (Masterplan 1 or Masterplan 2)

Respondents were asked 'Overall which Option for play, multi-use games area and tennis do you prefer?'.

Following advice from our Legal Team responses to this question have been excluded from the evaluation as respondents were not able to select an alternative option or skip responding. It is recognised that this was a mistake so the responses have been excluded from the evaluation.

## (c) Preferences as to what infrastructure improvements should be implemented with the money that is available.

In the third part of the questionnaire residents were asked to comment on what their preferences were for infrastructure improvements. Respondents were asked to prioritise their preferred improvements.

## i. Views on how residents and users would prioritise where the money is to be spent

533 people responded to this question. Respondents gave each potential change a rating from 1 (very low priority) to 5 (extremely high priority). The total score for each question (value multipled by the number of respondents) divided by the number of respondents, has been used to generate the average score for each infrastructure improvement. The top five improvements identified are:

- New playground facilities (2-14 years). Score 3.38
- New café with indoor toilet. Score 3.25
- Resurfacing paths where tree roots have led to uneven surface. Score 3.22
- Additional tree planting. Score 3.10
- New multi-use games area. Score 3.06.

Figure 17: Views on how respondents would prioritise where the money is to be spent, with the results shown by total average score for each change, with the improvements listed from highest to lowest score

	No. of	Total	Average
Potential Change	respondents	score	score
New playground facilities (2 – 14 years) (£200,000)	496	1675	3.38
New café with indoor toilet (£500,000)	516	1676	3.25
Resurfacing paths where tree roots have led to uneven surface	503	1614	2 22
(£5000)	502	1614	3.22
Additional tree planting (£500 per tree)	499	1545	3.10
New multi-use games area (£80,000)	496	1516	3.06
Additional and replacement park furniture (Bin - £310, Bench - £1500)	505	1503	2.98
New café terrace with table tennis and cycle parking (£9500)	497	1479	2.98
New children's nature garden (£5,000)	493	1454	2.95
Extending and enhancing wild area (£5000)	496	1424	2.87
Enhancement and new habitat areas (Cost dependent on scale)	489	1403	2.87
New perimeter circuit for walking and running (£6000)	501	1429	2.85
Resurfacing tennis courts (up to 4) (£25,000 per court)	497	1407	2.83
Existing depot converted for community activities (£200,000)	493	1382	2.80
New calisthenics equipment (£16,000)	492	1379	2.80
New reflection/sensory garden (£5000)	494	1355	2.74
Traditional bedding replaced with contemporary, sustainable planting (£2000 for grass, £5000 for plants)	486	1282	2.64
New seating under oak tree (£3000)	489	1257	2.57
New stumpery garden created from logs and dead trees (£10,000)	485	1238	2.55
New community orchard (£3000)	482	1219	2.53
New tree trail (£6000)	483	1221	2.53
New trim trail (£10,000)	482	1177	2.44
Widening paths where vehicles overrun the grass (£12,000)	488	1115	2.28
Reduce and remove hedge to increase openness (£1000)	489	1069	2.19
New path from northern playground to café (£4000)	486	1049	2.16
Widening path between tennis courts and northern playground (£10000)	485	1001	2.06
Improved signage and interpretation (£6000)	489	996	2.04
New entrances to northern playground (£1000)	483	970	2.01
New path from tennis courts to oak tree (£9000)	483	956	1.98

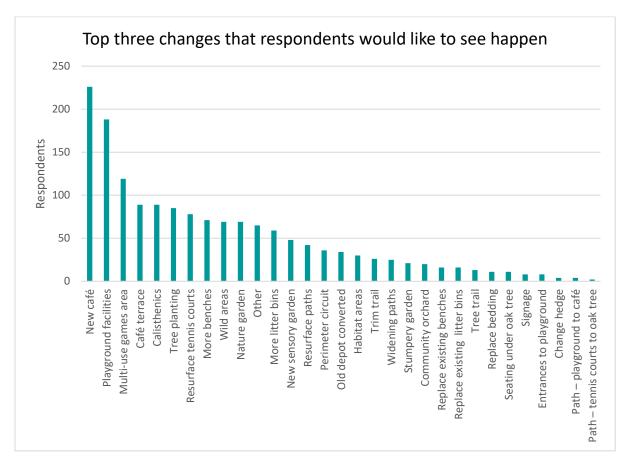
#### ii. Residents' views on the top three changes they would like to see happen

Respondents were asked 'Which top three changes in the park you would like to see happen? 526 people responded to this question. In summary:

The highest priority is a New Café with 41% of respondents chose this option

- The second highest priority was new play facilitates. 36% of respondents chose this option
- The third highest priority was a multi-use games area with 22% of respondents choosing this option.

Figure 18: The top three changes in the park that you could like to see happen



Analysis of respondents who indicated "other (please specify)" can be seen below. Comments were made by 64 respondents. There were 65 comments made, including 3 which provided no information on another option.

The most frequently made comment made was better public toilets including facilities for disabled (23 comments).

Figure 19: Comments made by respondents on "Other" when responding to which top three changes in the park you would like to see happen

Comment description	Number of mentions
Better public toilets including facilities for	
disabled	23
Dog restrictions and enforcement	4
Outdoor gym	3
Improve safety, maintenance and litter clearing	3
Reduce anti-social behaviour	3

Skateboarding area	2
Basketball court	2
More flowers	2
Water play	2
Secure perimeter of the park	2
Enclosed area for dogs	2
Table tennis table	2
Employ Park Keeper	2
Mini golf	1
Cricket pitch	1
Poor value for money	1
Use park for temporary events	1
Defend restrictive covenant	1
Water feature in sensory garden	1
Dog wash facility	1
Sensory garden	1
Allow cycling in the park	1
Buy The Lodge back	1
Spend Council money not money from the sale of	
The Lodge	1
Rain cover good for café terrace	1
Cleaner benches	1

### (d) Residents' further comments

Respondents were asked 'If you have any further comments about the proposals for Victoria Park please provide them here" Comments were made by 212 respondents. There were 292 comments made, including 22 which had no specific comments on the proposals.

The most frequently made comments were: better public toilets including facilities for disabled (22 comments), install calisthenics equipment/outdoor gym (18 comments), improve/new café (17 comments), better play equipment including removing bark (16 comments), improve safety, maintenance and litter clearing (13 comments), do not allow fair/review frequency (12 comments), The Lodge should not be knocked down/sold (10 comments), need more nature/wildlife areas (10 comments), challenging play area for older children (10 comments) and cost of facilities is very high (10 comments).

Figure 20: Comments made by respondents when asked if they had any further comments about the proposals for Victoria Park

	Number of mentions
Better public toilets including facilities for disabled	22

Install calisthenics equipment/ outdoor gym	18
Improve/new café	17
Better play equipment including removing bark	16
Improve safety, maintenance and litter clearing	13
Do not allow the fair/review frequency	12
The Lodge should not be knocked down/sold	10
Challenging play area for older children	10
Need more nature/wildlife areas	10
Cost of facilities is very high	10
Keep tennis courts	8
Water play	7
More flowers	6
Dog restrictions and enforcement	6
Allow cycling in the park	6
Sensory garden including water feature	6
Enclosed area for dogs	5
Basketball court	4
Make no changes	4
Resurface tennis courts	4
Secure perimeter of the park	3
Table tennis table	3
Very exciting	3
Preference is Option 1	3
Fund by alternative means	3
Don't spend money on tennis courts	3
More trees	3
Drinking water fountain	2
Create fund for annual capital schemes/local events	2
No cycling in park	2
Preference is Option 2	2
Recycling bins	2
Use park for temporary events	2
Community forest garden	2
Do not spend money all at once	2
Seating outside café	2
Final plan to have something for wide range for users	2
MUGA	2
Keep café as it is	2
Park keeper	2
Make exit from park into Etchingham Park Road safer	1
Automatic External Defibrillator	1
Bike racks by park entrances	1

Skateboarding area	1
Electronic proposals for youth	1
Proposals for garden areas unworkable, spend money on	1
Wheelchair friendly park	1
Create dog free area	1
Link didn't work	1
Very well used park	1
Prioritise value for money	1
Bowling Club building should become café	1
Remove hedges	1
Cricket ground	1
Golf course	1
No orchard	1
Swimming pool	1
Wheelchair accessible sports facilities	1
Fix potholes in paths	1
Park should be well lit	1
More shade in playground	1
Pond	1
Use volunteers	1
Nesting sites for birds	1
Do not remove hedge	1
No bench under oak tree	1
More seating	1
No path between tennis courts and oak tree	1
New changing rooms	1

## 2.2 <u>Easy Read Questionnaire</u>

Responses to four questions which were the same as the Survey Monkey questionnaire have been incorporated with the online survey results and presented above. Responses to the questions which were only asked in the Easy Read questionnaire are presented below.

#### i. What is really good at Victoria Park?

Respondents were asked 'What is really good at Victoria Park?' and the following responses were provided:

Figure 21: Comments made in Easy Read questionnaire on 'What is really good at Victoria Park?'

Comment description	Number of mentions
Big park	2
Fun fair/carnival	2

Tennis Courts	2
Easy to get to	1
Nice location	1
Lots of trees	1
Sights and sounds	1
Café	1
Different entrances	1

#### ii. What could be better at Victoria Park?

Respondents were asked 'What could be better at Victoria Park?' and the following responses were provided:

Figure 22: Comments made in Easy Read questionnaire on 'What could be better at Victoria Park?'

Comment description	Number of mentions
Improved toilets	3
More things in the park	2
Car park	2
Café open longer	1
More open space	1
Football pitches	1
Hockey pitches	1
Dog free area	1
More trees	1
More accessible for	1
Better tennis courts	1
Disabled toilet	1
Fix the pavements	1

### 2.3 Pop Up Events

Eight pop up events were held during the consultation period at different times and locations in the park. Over these events council staff spoke to approximately 400 people. Visitors were encouraged to complete the online questionnaire and paper copies of the questionnaire were available for those without access to the internet. 57 comments were also gathered at the events, which are summarised in the table below.

Figure 23: Comments from Pop Up events

Theme	Comments
General	Invite bands to play, drug users use benches in evenings, DEFIB
	provision next to café, look after the wisteria, have a non dog

	area, open air cinema, tennis courts well uses in the evening free wifi, spend money on patrols to prevent anti soci behaviour, have a theme.			
Sensory	Could a beech tree be part of it? Have a water feature,			
Garden	benches to sit on, tactile surface or colour			
Oak Tree	No seating underneath as busy area, how healthy is the tree?			
Depot	Funded the conversion from other sources			
Multi use	Have netball marked out, Option 1 is easier to get to from Long			
games area	Lane, bus stop is on Long Lane, have multiple basketball hoops			
	so smaller children can practise			
Playgrounds	More shade, remove bark, have a fence between different			
	ages of play, current young play area is taken over by older			
	play, within play areas don't encourage footballs, grass over			
	older play area, all play in middle will mean some people have to walk further			
Cycling in	Should allow cycling in the park, no cycling in the park			
the Park				
Café	Low cost changes, keep existing café, install a water fountain,			
	have a tap with a hose, charity should run café, provide			
	information on what selling			
Toilets	Need accessible toilets, be individually self contained			
Sale of The Lodge	Money should be set aside to defend the restrictive covenant			
Louge				

#### 2.4 Youth Engagement

This work was carried out by Groundwork London. A Walk and Talk session took place with young people in the park, as well as consultation sessions with pupils from Bishop Douglass School, which is the nearest secondary school to the park. 61 young people were engaged in total, ranging from 12-17 years of age.

Sessions encouraged young people to share their views, perceptions, current usage, as well identify any issues. GWL presented the two options developed (using the same resources and visuals as the online questionnaire), including exploring locations for a possible MUGA or other sport/ physical activity provision and development options for the Long Lane play area.

Participants were all encouraged to fill out the online questionnaire and publicise it to friends and family by the deadline.

Out of the 61 young people engaged, only 1 was keen on the Long Lane play area being transformed into a MUGA. 45 of the young people engaged would like to see one of the tennis courts converted into a ball court, with more challenging play and informal sports provision at the Long Lane play area. 15 young people were undecided between the options. There was a general agreement that if Option 2 went ahead, then there should also be provision for informal sport/ball games at the Long Lane area (in addition to the ball court by the tennis courts).

The young people would like to have an informal ball area near to the families, food and facilities available in the central hub of the park, but also have the opportunity to enjoy unsupervised play and fitness activities (with hoops and goals) at the Long Lane site.

Access to toilets and drinking water were seen as key improvements needed, while seating (benches/ picnic tables) was also frequently mentioned.

#### 2.5 Other Contact

Correspondence was received via emails and telephone calls regarding the public consultation. 19 individuals made contact, and their comments are summarised in the table below. A bracketed number indicates that this comment was made by more than one individual:

**Figure 24: Comments from Other Contact** 

Theme	Comments
General	Widening paths and grassing over flower beds does not seem to be the best use of resources and unnecessary and wasteful use of the money allocated, need a park ranger, amount of carnivals is excessive, benches are falling apart and rubbish remains uncollected for weeks especially in bushes, the 4 old tennis courts need to be resurfaced, Why not use narrower and lighter electric vehicles instead of widening the paths? [2], Install recycling bins, Why install Callisthenic Equipment and similar if once installed, there is unlikely to be maintenance? the annual flower beds will possibly be grassed over at a cost of £2000. When the park was given to the Finchley Borough Council it was on the condition that they maintain certain features, some of which are on this list. There is no requirement to spend the money from the sale within a specific time period. As the trustees have not met, no money including funds for the so-called "Master Plan" can be spent. Asphalt is not pedestrian friendly. When paths require replacing they need to be replaced by new materials that incorporate recycled rubber.
Sensory Garden	Have tactile paving to get to there, install a fenced off area with push/pull entry gate, needs to be near main park entrance, install benches not all in the sun, be able to put a wheelchair next to a bench, stock with harmless tactile plants, some having an odour, have a sculpture ideally with

	water, do not spend large amounts of money on the park just maintain it.		
Depot	To spend £200,000 on converting a depot into a 'community' resource is utterly unnecessary. It would have been better to use the Lodge itself for this purpose, in fact.		
Playgrounds	It is not all that long ago that equipment in both playgrounds was replaced.		
Cycling in the Park	Victoria Park is no cycling, cycle stands belong at entrances.		
Café	Why spend £500,000 building a new cafe?		
Toilets	Toilets should be available regardless of when cafe is open [3], toilets need a total refurbishment, be individually self contained.		
Sale of The Lodge	Money should not be committed until any legal issues surrounding the Lodge are resolved, to ensure sufficient funds are available to defend potential legal action, or to buy back the Lodge. [6 comments], one option proposes the moving of a playground that poses a serious obstacle to the ludicrous attempt to build flats on the Lodge site.		



# VICTORIA PARK FINCHLEY

MASTERPLAN REPORT

OCTOBER 2018











## **VICTORIA PARK - MASTERPLAN**



- 1. New café building with indoor toilets and outdoor covered seating. The existing toilets near the main entrance would be closed.
- 2. Secret garden; a children's nature garden created from a currently overgrown area. This tucked away space includes nesting boxes, wood piles and other enhancements. Closed to dogs but open to the public.
- 3. Reflection /Sensory Garden; a quiet haven for the community to maintain/ develop. This accessible space includes a wisteria-covered arbour reflecting the popular 'magic' tree adjacent to the playground. Climbers will be trained up against the bowls club walls to soften the brickwork and create habitat. The existing sensory garden will be removed.
- 4. Cafe terrace with table tennis, picnic lawn.
- 5. Stumpery Garden; a Victorian favourite to acknowledge the park's history. This sculptural mound created from logs, dead trees, ferns, mosses and lichens provides habitat for key species and a shady area to walk through.
- 6. New meeting point beneath oak tree with seating and surface feature.
- 7. Community orchard for fruit and spring colour. Exact location to be determined.
- 8. Calisthenics equipment.
- 9. Active trail for walking and running 1 km in length with distance markers.
- 10. Trim trail.
- 11. Tree trail to showcase the park's most interesting trees.
- 12. Play for 2-10 years; to include landform, dog-free kickabout area and space for picnics.
- 13. Multi Use Games Area to replace one of the tennis courts.
- 14. Resurface 3 tennis courts.
- 15. Play for 7-14 years; enhanced and more challenging adventurous older play at the southern playground area.

## Additional Park Enhancements (not shown on plan)

- A. Additional tree planting. The Wisteria next to the playground will also be fenced off for some 'recovery' time.
- B. New path from cafe to northern playground.
- C. Widening the path between the tennis courts and northern playground to achieve comfortable access.
- D. Widening paths where vehicles access the site and overrun the grass. This would reduce the amount of mud that covers the paths during the winter months and avoid soil compaction around the trees.
- E. Resurfacing paths where tree root heave has led to an uneven surface and trip hazards.
- F. Enhancement of existing habitat and introduction of new habitat areas, including new mowing regimes.
- G. New and replacement park furniture.



## **VICTORIA PARK - AREAS**

**CALISTHENICS** 

Shown as '8' on the Masterplan



**TRIM TRAIL** 

Shown as '10' on the Masterplan



**MUGA** 

Shown as '13' on the Masterplan



NATURE GARDEN Shown as '2' on the Masterplan



**STUMPERY** 

Shown as '5' on the Masterplan

































## REFLECTION AND SENSORY GARDEN:

**SIGHT TASTE SMELL SOUND TOUCH** Lamb's Ears Small Japanese Silver Grass









Rosemary













Love-in-a-mist

## **VICTORIA PARK - ITEMS IN PRIORITY ORDER WITH ESTIMATED COSTS**

Items	Estimated Cost
New playground facilities (2 – 14 years)	200,000
New café with indoor toilets	150,000
Resurfacing paths where tree roots have led to uneven surface	5,000
Additional tree planting	1,500
Tree removals: dead and poor species and canopy lifting to allow for re-planting	4,000
Fence off and mulch Wisteria to allow for recovery	300
New multi-use games area	80,000
Additional and replacement park furniture	16,000
New café terrace with table tennis	9,500
New children's nature garden	5,000
Extending and enhancing wild area	5,000
Enhancement and new habitat areas	3,000
New active trail for walking and running	6,000
Resurfacing three tennis courts	75,000
New calisthenics equipment	16,000
New reflection/sensory garden	20,000
Traditional bedding replaced with contemporary, sustainable planting	7,000
New seating under oak tree	3,000
New stumpery garden created from logs and dead trees	10,000
New community orchard	3,000
New tree trail	6,000
New trim trail	10,000
Widening paths where vehicles overrun the grass	12,000
New path from northern playground to café	3,000
Widening path between tennis courts and northern playground	10,000
TOTAL	£660,300.00

## **Notes**

The existing depot building has been removed from the masterplan. However in the longer term the intention is that the building will be of benefit to the park and therefore a suitable partner is being sought to take over the facility.

Park sculpture: there is interest in commissioning a sculpture for the park to mark the improvements. This is something that could be explored separately.



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## Appendix 1D Appendix C

## Initial Equality Analysis (EIA) Resident/Service User

1. Details of function, policy, procedure or service:

Title of what is being assessed: Victoria Park, Finchley - Masterplan

**Is it a new or revised function, policy, procedure or service?** The masterplan proposes new facilities in the park as well as a refresh of existing facilities.

**Department and Section:** Environment Commissioning Group

Date assessment completed: 17 October 2018

2. Names and roles of people completing this assessment:			
Lead officer	Nicola Cross, Strategic Lead - Clean and Green		
Other groups	N/A		
3. Employee Profile of the Project	Will the proposal affect employees? Yes  The proposals will have a minor impact on grounds maintenance employees who work in the park, as there will be new areas in the park such as a nature garden, that will require maintenance.		

**4. How are the following equality strands affected?** Please detail the effect on each equality strand, and any mitigating action you have taken / required. Please include any relevant data. If you do not have relevant data please explain why / plans to capture data

Equality Strand	Affected?	Explain how affected	Indicate what action has been taken / or is planned to mitigate impact?
1. Age	Yes	Individuals may be affected by the master plan as new playgrounds have been proposed as well as a new multi use games area.	No further action is being taken as the new facilities will be a positive improvement to the park.
2. Disability	Yes	Individuals with a disability may be affected by the proposals to have a new reflection garden which will include a sensory garden. The existing sensory garden which is in a less accessible place will be removed. Individuals may	No further action is being taken as the new facilities will be a positive improvement to the park.  It is likely that the new toilets will be open for less time than the existing toilets but they will be better maintained,

_	ı		1	
		also be affected by the proposal to resurface paths where root heave has led to an uneven surface and trip hazard.	therefore no further action is being taken.	
		Individuals may be affected by the proposal for a new café and toilets, and the closure of the existing toilets.		
3.	Gender reassignment	No	No anticipated impact.	No change.
4.	Pregnancy and maternity	No	Individuals may be affected by the proposal for a new café and toilets, and the closure of the existing toilets.	It is likely that the new toilets will be open for less time than the existing toilets but they will be better maintained, therefore no further action is being taken. In addition the toilets will be closer to the younger playground.
5.	Race / Ethnicity	No	No anticipated impact.	No change.
6.	Religion or belief	No	No anticipated impact.	No change.
7.	Gender / sex	No	No anticipated impact.	No change.
8.	Sexual orientation	No	No anticipated impact.	No change.
9.	Marital Status	No	No anticipated impact.	No change.
10	Other key groups?			
	• Carers	No	No anticipated impact.	No change.
	People with mental health issues	No	No anticipated impact.	No change.
	Some families and		Individuals may be	It is likely that the new

Ione parents	No	affected by the proposal for a new café and toilets, and the closure of the existing toilets.	toilets will be open for less time than the existing toilets but they will be better maintained, therefore no further action is being taken. In addition the toilets will be closer to
People with     a low     income	No	No anticipated impact.	the younger playground.  No change.
Unemployed people		No anticipated impact.	No change.
Young     people not	No	l a sa la sa	3.
in employment education or training	No	No anticipated impact.	No change.

## 5. Please outline what data sources, measures and methods could be designed to monitor the impact of the new policy or service, the achievement of intended outcomes and the identification of any unintended or adverse impact?

Include how frequently monitoring could be conducted and who will be made aware of the analysis and outcomes

The proposed Victoria Park masterplan has been designed by Groundwork London following an eight week public consultation on the draft masterplan which included eight pop up events in the park where the consultation was promoted. The masterplan includes a range of changes which are listed in priority order and the available funding will be allocated in that order. It is anticipated that all of the funding will be spent by March 2020, and therefore all works which are going to be carried out at the park will be completed by March 2020.

No information is currently obtained or held on who uses Victoria Park. As there is no data on park users it will not be possible to assess the scale of the impact or the nature of the impact until such time as data is gathered on park users, this could be undertaken via a survey once all the changes that can be afforded have been made at the park or alternatively after significant changes have been made such as the installation of the new toilets and the closure of the new toilets. The results of these surveys could be reported to a future meeting of the Environment Committee. It is not necessary to collect data on who uses Victoria Park in the development of the draft master plan as it is not expected to affect the council's view of the impact on any of those with protected characteristics as an extensive public consultation has been carried out during the development of the draft master plan.

### 6. Initial Assessment of Overall Impact

Positive Impact √	Negative Impact or Impact Not Known <sup>1</sup>	No Impact			
7. Scale of Impact					
Positive impact	Negative Impact or Impact Not Known √				

No change to decision    Adjustment needed to decision   Continue with decision   If significant negative impact - (despite adverse impact / missed opportunity)   Stop / rethink   If significant negative impact - Stop / rethink   Continue with decision   Stop / rethink   Continue with negative impact - Continue with negati	8. Outcome		
		decision (despite adverse impact / missed	negative impact -

## 9. Please give a full explanation for how the initial assessment and outcome was decided.

The Council's Strategic Equalities Objective is: that citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal access to quality services which provide value to the tax payer.

The proposed Victoria Park masterplan has been designed by Groundwork London following an eight week public consultation on the draft masterplan which included eight pop up events in the park where the consultation was promoted.

No information is currently obtained or held on who uses Victoria Park. The initial assessment has therefore been carried out based on observations and conversations that took place during the public consultation. The initial assessment is that there will be a positive impact. However as there is no data on park users it will not be possible to assess the scale of the impact or the nature of the impact until such time as data is gathered on park users, this could be undertaken via a survey once all the changes that can be afforded have been made at the park.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 'Impact Not Known' – tick this box if there is no up-to-date data or information to show the effects or outcomes of the function, policy, procedure or service on all of the equality strands.