

	<h2>CHIEF OFFICER IN CONSULTATION WITH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DELEGATED POWERS REPORT</h2>
Title	King George V Playing Fields - Gaelic Football
Report of	Interim Executive Director, Environment
Wards	Totteridge
Status	Public
Enclosures	<p>Appendix A - Full Equality Impact Analysis for the Relocation of Gaelic Football to King George V Playing Fields</p> <p>Appendix B – Specification of Works King George PFs</p>
Officer Contact Details	<p>Matthew Gunyon – Greenspaces Service Manager</p> <p>Matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 7403</p>

Summary

Relocation of club facilities for St Kiernans Gaelic Football Club (“the Club”) who have been displaced from Cophall and Montrose Playing Fields due to development schemes at these two sites. As a result, the Club is to be relocated to King George V Playing Fields off Barnet Lane (“the Site”). The Site requires pitch improvements works, the Club is best placed to undertake these works in order to ensure the pitch is ready for play for the 2020 season. This report seeks authorisation to make available a grant of £300,000 to fund the Club’s carrying out and completion of these works.

The funding will be released in staged payments. The first payment will be transferred to the Club in readiness of the Club having to pay the first invoice but will not be released until the works have been properly certificated by Agrostis the Council’s Consultants. The second payment will follow the same approach and will be transferred to the Club in readiness of the Club having to make the second payment until all stages of the works have been completed. As stated all payments will only be released following the issue of Interim Certificates from the council’s Agronomist contractor who will act as quantity surveyor in respect of the works. This process will be repeated until the works have been completed. The grant funding proposed provides for sufficient contingency in case of costs overrun.

Decisions

- 1. Authorise the provision of a grant of £300,000 to St Kiernan's Gaelic Football Club for the formation of Gaelic sports pitches on King George V Playing Fields on Barnet Lane.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Environment Committee on 14 March 2019 the Environment Committee approved the decision to permanently relocate the Gaelic football provision to King George V Playing Fields and noted that progress/ maintenance works would be undertaken to enable the commencement of play for the Season 2020.
- 1.2 This report seeks authorisation to grant £300,000 of Section 106 monies to St Kiernans Gaelic Football Club (the club) in order for the club to complete the necessary ground improvement works to enable commencement of play for the 2020 Season.
- 1.3 St Kiernans Gaelic Football Club was formed in 1984 and was based in Edgware until the club moved to Montrose Playing Fields in 1988 after agreeing with London Borough of Barnet, that St Kiernans GFC would top soil the pitch at a cost borne solely by the Club's members of £27,000.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Club is best placed to procure and deliver the required pitch improvements to deliver these works within a short timeline. The Council has commissioned a pitch design and specification (Appendix B) which has been given to the club and will be used to ensure the works meet the required standards.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 **That the Council procures and delivers the works itself**
The value of the works is under the OJEU works threshold however the time required to undertake the procurement in line with the Council's own contract procedure rules would mean that the works could not be completed in time to allow the pitch to be playable for the 2020 season.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Upon approval of this decision officers will grant the monies to the Club in line with approach set out in 5.2.1 of this report.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

- 5.1 **Corporate Priorities and Performance**

5.1.1 The Corporate Plan 2019-2024 has three main outcomes;

- A Pleasant, well maintained borough that we protect and invest in.
- Our residents live happy, healthy, independent lives with the most vulnerable protected.
- Safe and strong communities where people get along well.

A set of key priorities that we will be focusing on sit underneath each outcome, including detail of how we intend to deliver this. This doesn't aim to capture all that the council does, rather it provides a framework to guide us. One of these priorities is;

Getting the best out of our parks and improving air quality by looking after and investing in our greenspaces

How we will deliver this:

- developing masterplans that deliver significant improvements to parks
- delivering a tree planting programme across the borough to alleviate the effects of pollution
- identifying sites for using green spaces to promote health and wellbeing

5.1.2 The Fit and Active Barnet (FAB) Framework 2016-2021 has as its vision to “create a more active and healthy borough” reflecting a holistic approach to increasing physical activity levels and reducing health inequalities across the borough

- Built around four outcomes (mirroring those within the Barnet Health and Wellbeing Strategy, 2015 -2020) the Framework seeks to;
 - 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, with a particular focus on Children & Young People, Older Adults, Women and Girls, Disabled People and BAME groups
- With an estimated 376,265 residents, Barnet is the most populous borough in London, and this is projected to increase significantly by 2030 as a result of large scale regeneration (*Barnet Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2017/18*)
- Physical inactivity in Barnet is estimated to cost £6.7million per annum (per 100,000 of the population) (*Sport England Local Sport Profile*). With a growing population these inequalities are anticipated to exacerbate, placing additional pressure on the council's health and social services
 - 55.7% of adults, 21% of 4 – 5 year olds and 34.4% of 10 – 11 year olds are recorded as overweight or obese (*Barnet Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2017/18*)
 - Just over half (58.5%) of adults aged 16+ meet the Chief Medical Office recommendation of at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity per week (*Sport England Active Lives Survey 2018*)
 - Only 17.6% of 5 – 16 year olds are active every day (60+ minutes of moderate to vigorous activity per day) (*Sport England Active Lives Survey 2018*)

- The FAB Framework intends to address current and projected issues within the borough via a whole systems approach; moving beyond the stereotypical sports environments e.g. leisure centres
- Parks and open spaces are widely recognised for their health benefits and are popular locations, accounting for over 50% of physical activity in the borough (*SPA Review Consultation, 2013*)
- Barnet has a unique blend of parks and open spaces, however in order to continue to attract residents and embed use of these facilities to support active lifestyles it is recognised that further investment and innovative interventions are required. In order to achieve this, the Framework fully endorses findings of the PPS and POSS; facilitating partnership working to improve facilities and enhance access to opportunities for all Barnet residents.

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

- 5.2.1 Finance and Value for Money – The funding will be released in staged payments. The payments will be transferred to the Club in advance of the anticipated payment being required for draw down by the Club but will only be released by the Council's surveyor /Agronomist Contractor on certification of the works. This process will be repeated until the works have been completed.
- 5.2.2 There are a number of Section 106 monies from various schemes which relate to sports pitch improvements that would be an appropriate use to fund this project. Officers will assess which is the most suitable of these funds and will follow the relevant process to allocate these monies to this project having regard to the terms and any constraints of the relevant S106 Agreement.
- 5.2.3 The project is already allocated in the Capital Programme for 2019-20, this project will be funded solely through S106 monies.
- 5.2.4 The Club is also seeking additional external funds in order to facilitate the construction of a sports pavilion to support the Club's operations on site.
- 5.2.5 The Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer have been consulted and agree with this decision.
- 5.2.6 Procurement – At this time there are no implications
- 5.2.7 Staffing – At this time there are no implications.
- 5.2.8 IT – At this time there are no implications.
- 5.2.9 Property – It is intended that a lease will be put in place ahead of occupation of the site but that will be subject to having undertaken all appropriate due diligence and subject to obtaining all statutory or other appropriate consents required for any such disposal
- 5.2.10 Sustainability – At this time there are no implications.

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 Local authorities have several different statutory powers in relation to parks and open spaces, including the Public Health Act 1875 (as amended by the Local Government Act 1972) which gave local authorities discretionary power to purchase and maintain public walks or pleasure grounds and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, which gives wide powers to provide recreational facilities. The Open Spaces Act 1906 provides that local authorities may acquire and hold and administer open space in trust to allow the enjoyment of it by the public and shall maintain and keep the open space in a good and decent state.

5.4.2 Significant proportions of the sites are designated as either Green Belt or Metropolitan Open Land. The future development of the proposals included in the draft master plans will need to fully comply with the requirements arising from those designations.

5.4.3 Any disposal by way of letting or other of the playing field will need to be advertised and any objections given proper consideration before the Council can determine whether it is appropriate to proceed with any letting. Any development will also need to be subject to planning being approved.

5.4.4 The Executive Director for Environment Scheme of Delegation including Statutory & Regulatory Duties and Powers – 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 delegates the authority to approve grants and authorise grant payments to the Executive Director for Environment.

5.5 **Risk Management**

5.5.1 The quality of the works – The works will be delivered in line with the design and specification that the Council has procured through its Agronomist Contractor. The Agronomist has assisted the Club with the procurement and will oversee the delivery of the works to ensure the specification is complied with which will need to be mirrored in any contract that the Club places with its preferred contractor for the works .

5.5.2 Inappropriate use of public funds – As set out in 5.2.1 of this report the funding will be released in stages and will be subject to a series of checks before the next staged payment is released.

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 to 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 undertaken for the relocation of Gaelic Football to King George V Playing Fields, and is attached as Appendix A. This initial assessment has found that there is no overall adverse impact resultant on the relocation.

5.7 **Corporate Parenting**

5.7.1 No applicable

5.8 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.8.1 A full Public Consultation and Engagement activities have been completed with site users, key stakeholders and the public has been undertaken as part of the development of the Barnet and King George V Playing Fields Master Plan.

5.8.2 Ward councillors have been consulted on the plans to relocate Gaelic Football to this site.

5.9 **Insight**

5.9.1 No insight information has been used to produce this report.

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 [Environment Committee 14 March 2019 Papers](#) – including Item 8 Sports Hubs Master Planning.

- 6.2 [Environment Committee 12 May 2016 Papers](#) – including Item 8 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and the agreement to adopt the strategy and its action plan.

Chairman:

Has been consulted

Signed; The Chairman of the Environment Committee, Councillor Dean Cohen

Date 17/01/2020

Chief Officer:

Decision maker having taken into account the views of the Chairman

Signed; Interim Executive Director, Environment, Mr Geoff Mee

Date 17/01/2020
