

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CUSTOMER SERVICES, SPORT & LEISURE  
CABINET MEMBER**

**FOXHILLS SPORTS GROUND**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider a request from Crosby United Junior Football club to lease Foxhills Sports Ground.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Crosby United Junior Football Club have a licence for the use of part of Foxhills Sports Ground. The club are responsible for the area marked as the attached plan. The club have held a licence since April 2012. The licence is for a three year period.
- 2.2 The club have worked extremely hard since taking over the management of the designated site. They have significantly increased the number of young people playing football, improved the existing facilities, developed new facilities and provided other football clubs with opportunities to train and play.
- 2.3 The club has successfully secured grant aid support from the council and raised other funding to support the development of facilities and services at Foxhills Sports Ground.
- 2.4 The club has written to the council asking it to consider leasing Foxhills Sports Ground to the club on a long term lease. The club requires security of tenure to improve the offer to the many young people who play football at the site and the wider football community. A long term lease will enable the club to apply for funding which is currently beyond their reach.
- 2.5 Foxhills Sports Ground is part of the Sport, Leisure & Culture portfolio. The Estates Services Section, have asked Sport, Leisure & Culture to confirm that we support the request from Crosby United Junior Football Club to lease part of Foxhills Sports Ground.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 Option 1 - Support the request from Crosby United Junior Football Club to lease the part of Foxhills Sports Ground that they currently occupy under licence.
- 3.2 Option 2 - Reject the request from Crosby United Junior Football Club to lease part of Foxhills Sports Ground.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option as it will continue to make available an important asset for community sport. It will also open up the opportunity to further improve the existing facilities and services.
- 4.2 Adopting option 2 will have negative impact on sports development and Crosby United Junior Football Club will have to find a new venue for football. The council would then have to pick up the responsibility for managing the site at extra cost.

### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

#### 5.1 Financial

- 5.1.1 Supporting a long term lease for part of Foxhills Sports Ground will generate a rental income for the council. The rental income and terms will be negotiated the Estate Services Section and Crosby United Junior Football Club.

### **6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

- 6.1 Not applicable.

### **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

- 7.1 Council Officers have worked with representatives of Crosby United Junior Football Club on this matter.
- 7.2 North Lincolnshire Council's Cabinet adopted the North Lincolnshire Playing Pitches Strategy in June 2013.
- 7.3 We consulted football clubs, secretaries from local football leagues and Lincolnshire Football Association when developing the North Lincolnshire Playing Pitches Strategy. In order to ascertain playing pitch demand and understand key issues in the North Lincolnshire questionnaires were sent to all known football clubs based in the area. Discussions also took place with Lincolnshire Football Association and secretaries from local football leagues.

- 7.4 Summarised below are the key findings from the consultation which relate to Foxhills Sports Ground

#### Football Clubs

Although the quantity of pitches was generally perceived to be adequate, a number of clubs indicated that they would like to see the re-provision of changing rooms at Foxhills Sports Ground.

#### League Secretaries

Bringing Foxhills Sports Ground back into use was a key priority.

- 7.5 The work carried out by Crosby United Junior Football Club over the past three years has delivered a better offer for football and resolved the issues concerning local clubs and league secretaries.
- 7.6 The Head of Sport, Leisure and Culture has recently met with the North Lincolnshire Local Football Network (NLLFN). The NLLFN is made up of local football league representatives, the North Lincolnshire Schools Sport Network, Scunthorpe Referees Association, Lincolnshire Football Association and North Lincolnshire Council. Crosby United Junior Football Club's request to lease Foxhills Sports Ground was discussed at the meeting. The NLLFN gave its support to the request.
- 7.7 There are no known conflicts of interest to highlight.

## 8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

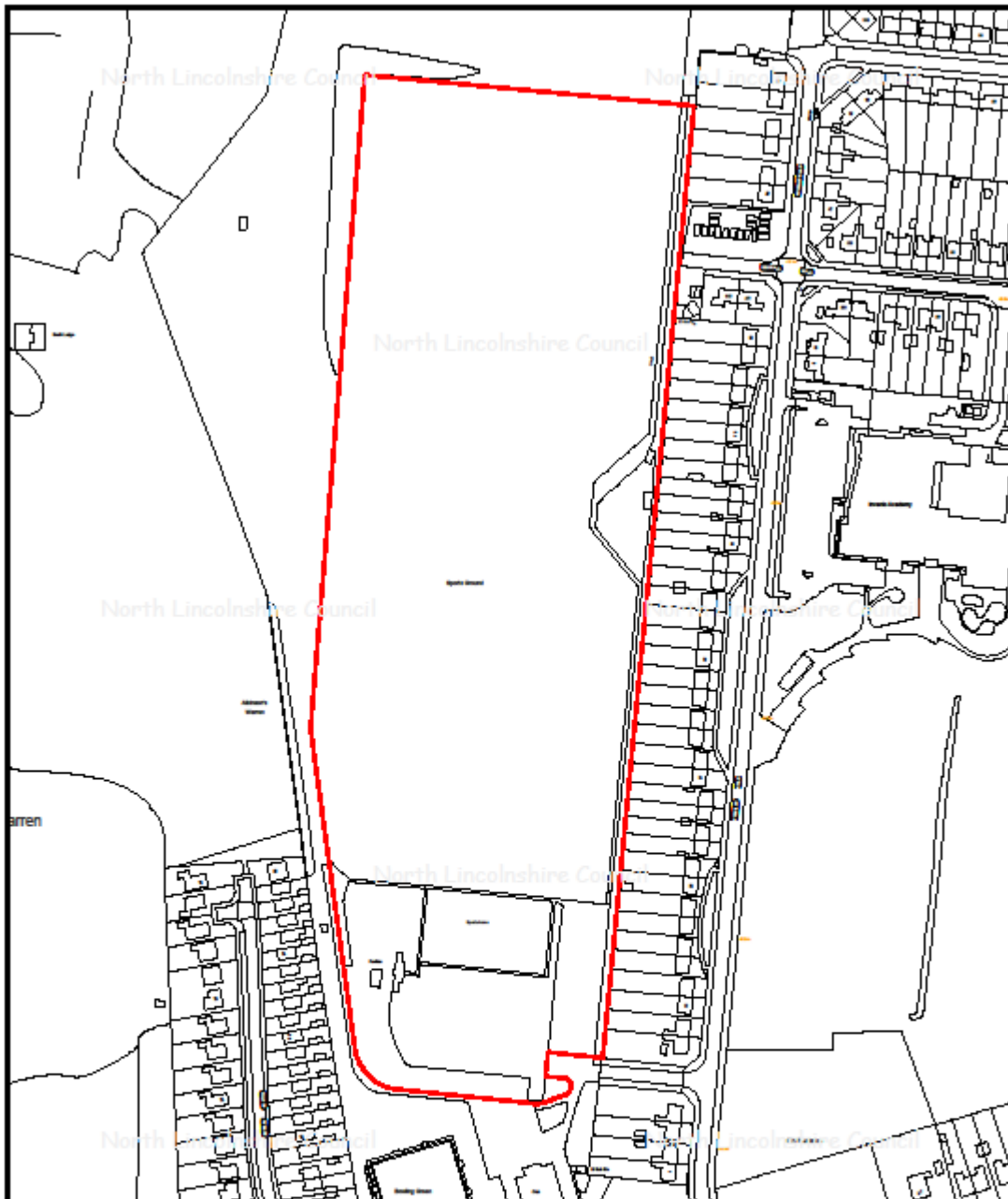
- 8.1 To note that a copy of this report was sent to the Crosby and Park Ward Members to allow them an opportunity to comment on the proposal. We have received comments asking to retain public access and avoid erecting fencing both now and in the future. We plan to offer a lease which reflects the current arrangements. The football club will continue to manage the current footprint and the site to remain open to the public.
- 8.2 To support the request from Crosby United Junior Football Club for a long term lease for part of Foxhills Sports Ground.


### **DIRECTOR OF PLACES**

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report - None**



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