

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**LEISURE, ARTS AND CULTURE  
CABINET MEMBER**

**IMPROVING LOCAL SPORTS FACILITIES**

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

- 1.1 To approve the commissioning of a feasibility and masterplanning study to explore options to improve the quality of local sports facilities.
- 1.2 The study will evaluate the potential benefits of developing new partnership arrangements to provide sports facilities at West Common Lane.
- 1.3 The main points in this report are as follows.
  - The majority of facilities at Quibell Park are approaching the end of their life and require extensive refurbishment or replacement.
  - The opportunity exists to work with John Leggott College, Melior College and Yorkshire Forward to provide improved sporting and business opportunities by relocating some of the sports facilities that are currently provided at Quibell Park.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Quibell Park provides for a range of outdoor sports. The main facilities are an eight-lane running track, velodrome, grass football pitches, synthetic turf pitch, changing rooms, spectator grandstand and staff accommodation.
- 2.2 Some of the facilities are in a very poor condition. Detailed condition and structural surveys have been completed and cost estimates prepared for a range of options to make the facilities fit for purpose.
- 2.3 Discussions have taken place with Yorkshire Forward around developing opportunities for sport and fitness related businesses to develop alongside the Quibell Park facilities.
- 2.4 We have been in discussion with managers at John Leggott College about their current re-building plans. The opportunity exists to look at working in partnership with the college, Yorkshire Forward, Melior College and other partners. The opportunity might exist to complement of the college's re-

building plans to include new additional, modern sports facilities for community and academic use.

- 2.5 This might offer an opportunity to re-provide many of the facilities currently located at Quibell Park, with the exception of the velodrome, at the John Leggott College/West Common Lane Playing Fields site. Such a move helps to meet some of the strategic aims for the council and the area.
- 2.6 Relocating the majority of sport facilities from Quibell Park to West Common lane does not signal an end to sporting activity at Quibell Park. The velodrome will be retained. This is in good condition. It was refurbished in 2006. The potential could exist to develop other dedicated cycling facilities at the site. The site could become a centre of excellence for cycling.

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

- 3.1 Options for the future provision of the sports currently provided at Quibell Park are available:
  - 3.1.1 Do nothing - facilities will eventually become unusable and the service will have to reduce or cease altogether.
  - 3.1.2 Progress a feasibility study for the affordable redevelopment of sporting facilities at Quibell Park.
  - 3.1.3 Investigate the feasibility of relocating sports facilities, except the velodrome, to the John Leggott College/Melior College/West Common Lane Playing Fields site to maximise the benefits of sharing facilities to meet community needs as well as the curriculum needs of young people. Also, the development of Quibell Park as a specialist cycling centre.

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

- 4.1 Doing nothing will eventually result in the loss of facilities that are unique to the area of Scunthorpe. Athletes and competitors will have to travel outside North Lincolnshire to train and compete.
- 4.2 The option set out in 3.1.2 provides a plan to bring existing facilities up to standard. This option results in the council developing facilities in isolation. It doesn't realise any potential benefits of working in partnership with others.
- 4.3 The option set out in 3.1.3 is a project that has the potential to offer the greatest benefit to residents of North Lincolnshire. Delivering and managing sports facilities with a range of partners will help to fulfil strategic aims.

- 4.4 It is therefore proposed to commission a feasibility and masterplanning study to explore options to improve the quality of local sports facilities. The study will evaluate the potential benefits of developing new partnership arrangements to provide sports facilities at West Common Lane.
- 4.5 An urgent decision is required on this matter. This will allow a study to go forward and the outcomes to influence the final scope of plans for the re-building of John Leggott College and Melior College. These need finalising during the Autumn of 2008 to meet the required programmes imposed by funding bodies.

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

### **5.1 Financial**

- 5.1.1 The cost of undertaking the proposed study is around £35,000. Yorkshire Forward will be funding part of this work.
- 5.1.2 John Leggott College and Melior College have successfully secured funds to support new sports facilities to meet their academic needs, via the Learning and Skills Council and via the Building Schools' for the Future (BSF) programme.
- 5.1.3 The opportunity to align provision with other partners has the potential to reduce revenue and capital costs, increase participation and maximise the use of assets. In short it might achieve a best value for money way forward.

### **5.2 Staffing, Property and IT**

- 5.2.1 Staffing arrangements and IT requirements for future facilities would need consideration at a later date.

## **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

- 6.1 All viable options will need to take into account the impact of the environment and sustainability issues.
- 6.2 Providing high quality community sports facilities in partnership with others could have significant benefits in increasing participation in sport and active recreation among all sectors of the community, yielding positive diversity outcomes.
- 6.3 Increasing participation in sports and active recreation via good quality and accessible facilities offers diversionary activities that can help in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

## **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Local residents and Users of Quibell Park have expressed dissatisfaction at the condition of the current facilities. The feasibility proposed aims to find a way forward to address these concerns.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 To approve the commissioning of a feasibility and masterplanning study to investigate options to improve the quality of local sports facilities, including those currently provided at Quibell Park and explore the benefits of working in partnership with a range of other interested parties.

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### **Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

- Condition and structural survey reports on Quibell Park, Scunthorpe