

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
Cabinet	14 January 2015

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SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
Moss Side Playing Fields	Regeneration, Leisure & Healthy Communities	Denise Johnson	11

1. SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

1.1 Supporting improvement to Moss Side Playing Fields has been a project with the Leyland My Neighbourhood Plan since 2012. In turn, this links with our corporate priority of Clean, Green and safe, and more specifically, our corporate objectives of:

- Promoting and maintaining high quality public space and environments across the borough through effective and efficient services, education, enforcement, community involvement and working with partners, in particular the county council
- Working with communities in enhancing and promoting sustainability.

1.2 This report marks the latest development in a long term programme to improve the site, seeking to match fund 'enabling works' (ground works, utilities, connections, etc.) for a new clubhouse.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Cabinet approves expenditure of up to £30,000 in capital monies to fund enabling works. This contribution would match £187,308 from the Rugby Football League (value of the modular building) and £52,000 from Sport England (also for enabling works.)

3. DETAILS AND REASONING

3.1 To date, Leyland Neighbourhood Forum has worked closely with user groups on the site to improve stakeholder relationships, and enabled a new 30 year lease for Leyland Warriors Rugby Club, opening up external funding opportunities. User groups have already successfully attracted the following funding:

- £18,000 to extend the bridleway and multi-use track around the perimeter of the site
- £1000 to purchase a ride-on mower
- £46,000 to carry out drainage work and bring an unusable pitch back into use
- In kind support - a temporary building with kitchen facilities and a meeting room.

3.2 The long term aspiration of the rugby club has been to build a new pavilion on the site, and make Moss Side a community hub, as well as the recognised home of Leyland Warriors. With the club growing season by season, and an increased number of cars needing to park locally, planning consent was recently sought and granted for a car park extension, increasing capacity from 26 to over 120 vehicles.

3.3 In Autumn 2014, Leyland Warriors were approached by the Rugby Football League with the offer of a new modular clubhouse building, as part of a pilot scheme it was running. One

similar such building is already in place in Bradford, a second site in Yorkshire was identified and Leyland preferred as the third.

- 3.4 The condition of this offer was the speed at which the decision making process could be carried out; landowner permissions, planning consent and match funding for enabling works all need to be in place in time for the building to be installed in March / April 2015.
- 3.5 Negotiations have taken place with Leyland Warriors, the Rugby Football League and all relevant Council departments. A planning application has been submitted for the building; a decision will be taken by delegated authority, with an outcome anticipated in mid-January.
- 3.6 If the funding shortfall is agreed by Cabinet and planning consent granted, all stakeholders are ready to go with enabling works in February and building installation in March / April 2015.

4. WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these. The risk assessment which has been carried out forms part of the background papers to the report.

FINANCIAL	There is provision for this capital expenditure in the Council's 2014/15 capital programme
LEGAL	Planning permission will be required for the new clubhouse
RISK	The full risk assessment forms part of the background papers to this report.
THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY	This project has a potential positive equality impact for those with physical disabilities, as the proposed new building is fully accessible to wheelchair users. Use of the clubhouse by all user groups on the site (e.g. anglers, horse riders, rugby players & footballers) opens up options for indoor activities and training for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.
ASSET MANAGEMENT	This proposal is in accordance with the Council's Asset Management Plan, which seeks to maximise the net benefit to the Council from the use of its property assets. Through the lease signed with Leyland Warriors, the Council has reduced its responsibility for maintenance of the Moss Side Playing Fields site.
SUSTAINABILITY	By working in partnership with user groups, the Council is supporting the sustainability of the site, e.g. Ulnes Walton Bridleways Association carrying out improvement works to the bridleway which was previously in a state of disrepair.
HEALTH INEQUALITIES	Improvements to the site such as the extended bridleway (multi-use track) make the site accessible to a wider range of users, e.g. walkers, as well as rugby players, footballers and horse riders.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Risk Assessment

Leyland My Neighbourhood Plan

Moss Side Playing Fields Project Plan