

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 9th JUNE 2014
REPORT ON: RIVERSIDE 11-A-SIDE FOOTBALL PITCHES
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT
REPORT NO: 238-2014

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update committee on a recent review of the condition of the eleven-a-side football pitches at Riverside Drive and to seek authority to undertake the proposed remediation works.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Committee is asked to agree the recommended remediation works and remit the Director of Environment to implement the proposed works on a phased basis.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Director of Corporate Services advises that the capital improvement works of £115,000 can be met from the Council's Capital Budget 2014/15 and 2015/16 (p23) – Open Space – Environmental Improvements Parks and Open Spaces.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 There are currently six eleven-a-side football pitches at Riverside Drive, which form part of the overall city's football pitch provision. These pitches are integral to the Council's overall Pitch Strategy 2011/2016, which in part sets out the number of sports pitches required to meet the needs of the sport within the city.
- 4.2 The Riverside pitches are located on reclaimed land and due to the nature of the underlying ground conditions, stones and other foreign materials have migrated close to the surface. To mitigate these problems, additional remedial actions were incorporated into the normal cyclical maintenance regime for these pitches in an effort to improve the surface condition. These works included the removal of stone and debris close to the surface by means of mechanical verti-draining and manual stone removal.
- 4.3 Although these remedial works helped alleviate the problems, they did not eliminate the problem altogether. In response, three of the six pitches were taken out of service to ensure no further injuries. This has left three of the six pitches currently in use.
- 4.4 A soil survey and ground investigation was undertaken and established that similar problems might be anticipated in the future on the pitches that are currently out of service, as well as the pitches that remain in use. A programme of more extensive remediation works have been identified comprising excavation, screening and relaying of the existing topsoil layer with an additional layer of 75 mm of screened imported topsoil to BS 3882. Cultivation and levelling of the topsoil shall be carried out prior to grass seeding the remediated areas using a sports amenity grass seed mix.
- 4.5 It is proposed to implement these works in a phased approach to ensure the on-going availability of a minimum of three pitches throughout the works. It is intended to remediate all six pitches over the two financial years 2014/16.

- 4.6 The total cost for undertaking the works to all six pitches is £115,000 and this will be spread across two financial years. Phase 1 will be undertaken over the summer/autumn of 2014, these pitches will be back in service in August 2015. The remaining three pitches being remediated in the spring of 2015 shall be back in service in August 2016. This will mean that all six pitches will be back in service for the commencement of season 2016/17, and three pitches will remain in use at all times throughout the playing season.
- 4.7 By undertaking these works, the useful life of these pitches will be considerably extended. Given the nature of the underlying ground conditions, the need for future remedial works may be required.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.
- 5.2 No major issues identified.
- 5.3 The report is consistent with the aims of Dundee City Council's Pitch Strategy 2011-2016.

6.0 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted on the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Dundee City Council's Pitch Strategy 2011-2016.

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Date: 14th May 2014