

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

28 May 2019

Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Service

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 TONBRIDGE RACECOURSE SPORTSGROUND - MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019 - 2023

Summary

This report brings forward comments received as part of the public consultation exercise on the draft Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground Management Plan and recommends final approval of the Plan.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Service's Departmental Service Delivery Plan identifies the need to develop Management Plans for the Council's principal areas of public open space which includes Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground.

1.1.2 This will be the third Management Plan for the Racecourse Sportsground and has been developed to give guidance and direction to the future management of the site for both users and managers. It is intended that this document is used as a management tool and provides a basis for future maintenance and development.

1.1.3 The overall aim for the site is to provide a site for the health and enjoyment of the local community with a balance of use between formal and informal uses, to include the development of formal and casual recreation and enhancement of its conservation and heritage.

1.2 Consultation

1.2.1 The draft Management Plan was circulated/made available for comment between 18 February and 22 March 2019 and can be found at **[Annex 1]**. A letter was circulated to key stakeholders, as listed at **[Annex 2]**, advising that copies of the Plan were available on the Council's website and hard copies were available to view at the following locations; Tonbridge Castle Gateway, Council Offices, Kings Hill.

1.2.2 In addition, posters were displayed on site advising visitors on the consultation process and where/how to make comments.

1.2.3 In response to the consultation a number of comments were returned. These have been carefully considered and a number of subsequent amendments to the Management Plan have been proposed. A summary of the comments received and proposed amendments can be found at **[Annex 3]** for Members consideration. Members will note that the comments received are heavily focused on formal sports and as such liaison has been undertaken with the Tonbridge Sports Association in regard to the responses given and any proposed amendments within **[Annex 3]**. The Tonbridge Sports Association were also consulted on the draft prior to the public consultation process.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 Legal responsibilities and issues have been considered within the draft Management Plan.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 The Management Plan reflects existing Capital and Revenue budgets associated with the site and highlights the need to maximise income generation and other external funding opportunities.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 A copy of the draft Management Plan has been circulated to the Council's Health and Safety Officer and no adverse comments have been received. In consultation with the Health and Safety Officer, a number of site specific risk assessments have already been developed for the site and these are referenced in the Management Plan.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 Appendix 4 in the Management Plan is an access audit for the site, covering the existing provision. A number of changes have been suggested and will be prioritised and actioned as funding allows. The impacts of any changes or new projects will be assessed as part of the work plan/ feasibility study for that project.

1.7 Policy Considerations

1.7.1 Asset Management; Biodiversity & Sustainability; Business Continuity/Resilience; Communications; Community; Equalities/Diversity; Health and Safety; Healthy Lifestyles; and Young People.

1.8 Recommendation

1.8.1 It is **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that the proposed amendments be made to the draft Management Plan as shown in Annex 3, and the Management Plan for Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground 2019-2023 be approved.

The Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Chris Fox

Market survey of Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground

Robert Styles

Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services