

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND LEISURE SERVICES		
SUBJECT:	LORDSHILL PLAYING FIELDS DRAINAGE PROJECT		
DATE OF DECISION:	21 MAY 2013		
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF LEISURE AND CULTURE		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None.

BRIEF SUMMARY

The report seeks approval to improve the drainage at Lordshill playing fields. The total cost of the project is estimated to be £134,800.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To add, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, a sum of £134,800 to the Housing & Leisure Capital Programme for drainage works at Lordshill playing fields.
- (ii) To approve, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, capital expenditure of £134,800 in 2013/14 from the Housing & Leisure Capital Programme to carry out drainage works at Lordshill playing fields.
- (iii) To transfer, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, a sum of £50,000 from the Academies – Capital Works project in the Children’s Services Capital Programme.
- (iv) To note that a bid of £50,000 has been made to Sport England for additional funding for the project, and that this will be added to the project in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, if the bid is successful.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Lordshill Recreation ground has had a longstanding problem with drainage resulting in a lot of football, cricket and rugby matches being cancelled, leading to a loss of income and a reduction in people using the site. This has been highlighted in a recent refresh of the Playing Pitch Audit.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. Doing nothing has been considered as an option. However, the site would continue to deteriorate and it is possible that clubs and leagues would look to relocate elsewhere eventually.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. Using Sport England's costings (a requirement of the bid) £184,800 would improve the drainage of three football pitches (two adult and one junior) and one rugby pitch. A bid to Sport England has been made for an additional £50,000 which will be added to the project if successful.
4. The project and the bid to Sport England for additional funds has been supported by all the major clubs and leagues that use the site along with the main National Governing Bodies.
5. The Cabinet Members for Leisure and Housing Services, Resources, and Children's Services have been consulted on this project, as well as the main users of the site through the Lordshill User Group. Football, Cricket and Rugby National Governing Bodies have also been consulted.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

6. The total cost of the improvements is estimated to be £184,800 but these can be scaled down to match the £134,800 funding currently available, by improving the drainage of two football pitches rather than three (one adult and one junior) and one rugby pitch. A bid has been submitted to Sport England under its Protecting Playing Fields funding stream. The request is for the maximum funding of £50,000. If the bid is successful, the additional funding will be added to the project in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules and the works increased accordingly.
7. The proposed funding for the project is shown in the table below:

Funding sources	
Section 106 funding	£84,800
Transfer from Academies – Capital Works project	£50,000
Total	£134,800

8. The Section 106 (Playing Fields) fund is a rolling fund. The current balance of unallocated funding is £295,000.
9. It is proposed that £50,000 is transferred to this project from the Academies – Capital Works project in the Children's Services Capital Programme. This money has been earmarked for Lordshill Playing Fields as part of the project to build the new Lord's Hill Academy on the site.

Property/Other

10. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

11. The Council has the power to provide recreational facilities under section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. This includes outdoor facilities such as pitches for team games.

Other Legal Implications:

12. The City Council has the freehold on Lordshill Playing Fields.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

13. None.

KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Coxford
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	None
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	None	
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