

<b>Committee(s):</b> Public Relations Sub Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
<b>Subject:</b> Review of Sport Provision	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	2,3,4,7 and 10
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Communications	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Sam Hutchings, Sport Engagement Manager, Town Clerk's Department	

### **SUMMARY**

Following recent global events and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, sport is increasingly recognised as an important tool for improving the health and wellbeing of our stakeholders and enticing them back into the Square Mile. This report provides an update on the work of the Sport Engagement Manager (SEM) to take forward a review of how the City Corporation's delivers sport across the organisation. A consultant will shortly be appointed to assist with this review and bring forward a number of recommendations on how to enhance the City's sport offer going forward. Members will then be consulted on these findings at the next meeting of this Sub Committee.

### **Recommendations**

That, Members note and endorse the work being undertaken by the Sport Engagement Officer to review the City Corporation's sport offer.

## **MAIN REPORT**

### **Background**

1. Members will be aware that the City Corporation has a long history of supporting grassroots sport across the Square Mile and beyond, through its role as a local authority service provider and manager of various parks and gardens across London. As an organisation focused on improving the wellbeing of our residents and workers, we recognise the physical and mental health benefits of undertaking sport and physical activity. It is therefore imperative that this important area of our work continues to be delivered successfully and prioritised across all our operations.
2. As with many other public facing bodies across the UK, the City of London Corporation is facing a series of challenges in response to budget pressures and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our approach to delivering sport in the Square Mile is also an important component of the 'Destination City' plans and efforts to bring City workers back to their offices. It is therefore an opportune time to consider how we deliver sport across the organisation to ensure our stakeholders' needs are met whilst also minimising potential costs.

### **Project Overview**

3. The City's Sport Engagement Manager has been working with colleagues from across the organisation, including Community & Children's Services, Built Environment and Open Spaces, to consider options for enhancing the City's sport offer across the organisation. In line with the first phase of [Sport England's Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance](#), he is seeking to appoint an external consultant to undertake a 'diagnostics check' on the current status of our sport and leisure provision and make recommendations on how to maintain and improve this service in future. It is hoped that that this will then provide the foundations for a new ambitious approach to sport that is delivered in a more joined up, strategic and stakeholder-led way going forward.
4. The primary objectives of this project are:
  - to compile a complete list of current sport and leisure facilities and activities that are supported and/or delivered by the City of London Corporation across the Square Mile and its open spaces;
  - to identify all relevant strategies and stakeholders involved in the delivery of sport across the City of London Corporation and ascertain where there are gaps in this information;
  - using the above information and assessments of comparable organisations and available guidance, to make a summarised set of recommendations on steps that could be taken by the City Corporation to ensure its sport and leisure provision is:

- Fit for purpose - by ensuring a diverse range of stakeholder needs are met and that the City Corporation is appropriately recognised for its contribution to sport across London
- Value for money - by ensuring the City Corporation maximises potential revenue and external funding opportunities from its current sport provision
- Joined up and responsive - by ensuring an appropriate governance and management structure is in place to bring about a strategic and co-ordinated approach to sport delivery across the organisation
- Ambitious and pro-active - by prioritising within the organisation and ensuring it is appropriately resourced to drive forward key aims around sport

## **Project Delivery**

5. In conjunction with [Sport England's 'Active Environment Framework'](#) the Sport Engagement Manager will seek to appoint an expert consultant to undertake this project later this month so that the work is completed by the end of March 2022. Existing budgets will be used to pay for these costs. The chosen consultant will be appointed on the basis of previous experience undertaking similar sport related work for local authorities, preferably with a good understanding of the sport funding landscape and Sport England's Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance.
6. Once finalised, the findings of the consultant's work will be discussed with relevant departments internally and then a set of recommendations will be brought forward to this Sub Committee at its next meeting in May. At this meeting it is likely that Members will be presented with a number of options on sport that may have implications on resources and the remit of other Committees. It then may be necessary to set up a small steering group of relevant Members to oversee this work as it progresses into agreed deliverable outcomes.

## **Conclusion**

7. The City Corporation has much to offer on sport across its assets, public spaces and services. In light of recent events and the domestic landscape it is an opportune time to consider how the City Corporation can enhance its sport provision whilst also recognising the need to minimise costs. The Sport Engagement Manager is working with relevant officers from across the organisation to take forward this review with the support of an external consultant. The findings of this work will come forward to Members at the next meeting in May with recommendations on how things can be enhanced to ensure this area of work is properly prioritised and resourced in the future.

**Sam Hutchings**

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