

## City of London Corporation Committee Report

<b>Committee(s):</b> Epping Forest and Commons – For decision	<b>Dated:</b> 17/07/2025
<b>Subject:</b> Purchasing of Grounds Maintenance Machinery Chingford Golf Course	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	2, 11, 12
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>£21,000</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	<b>Yes – CGC Machinery Fund</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Katie Stewart – Executive Director Environment	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Luke Randall – Environment Department, Epping Forest	

### Summary

The industry-wide up take in golf participation rates, golf course season tickets and local competition due to increased demand in the market, all place increased pressure on courses to be presented and maintained to the highest possible standard.

This report seeks to update your Committee on the purchase for grounds maintenance machinery at Chingford Golf Course, with the intention of improving maintenance standards and staff efficiency. The report proposes purchasing an ex-demo machine from John Deere – a 2750E tees mower.

The Chingford Golf Course Machinery Renewals Fund, which has been funded by previous Golf Course operating surpluses, was provided to manage the purchase of machinery that would otherwise distort local risk budgets. The Fund currently has an uncommitted balance of £105,000.00

### Recommendation

Members are asked to approve:

1. The purchase of an ex-demo John Deere 2750E Tees mower at a cost of £21,000.00 from the Golf Course Machinery Renewal Fund.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. The Golf Course Machinery Renewal Fund was built up from previous surpluses at Chingford Golf Course which were transferred to a fund to finance the future purchases of grounds maintenance machinery. The current uncommitted balance of the fund is £105,000.00
2. The industry wide increase in demand in golf participation rates continues to grow. Chingford Golf Course has seen profits increase year on year since 2016, last year the golf course made an impressive operating profit of £216,000. The number of rounds has increased at Chingford Golf Course from 20,000 per year in 2016 to over 32,000 for 2024. Chingford Golf Course remains number 1 ranked within the county for online bookings out of 53 courses. However, this places increased pressure on Chingford Golf Course to be presented and maintained to the highest possible standard. Maintaining and improving high quality sports surfaces is an important factor in encouraging repeat visitors to the golf course.
3. The current ride on mowers machinery fleet ranges from machines aged between 31 years old to 4 years old. All are self-maintained by the grounds staff but as the machines get older, the downtime and repairs take longer. Sourcing parts for some of the machines can also take longer due to the age and the consequent machinery downtime has a negative impact of the golf course.

### **Current Position**

4. Chingford Golf Course has one John Deere 2500B tees mower which is 18 years old. This machine is up and running and self-maintained but is key to the golf course set up for daily play. However the quality of cut has declined over the years, increased maintenance is being carried out to prolong its lifespan which increases staff downtime. At present it takes one member of staff 1.5 days to cut tees 3 times a week.

### **Options**

5. **Option 1:** Continue with the existing ageing tees mower. Due to the age and use of the machines, reliability will come into question as time goes on along with high costs of repairs and staff down time.
6. **Option 2:** Purchase the ex-demo John Deere 2750E Tees mower at a cost of £21,000.00. This option would improve the quality of cut across the tees on the golf course along with improved staff efficiency helping to maintain increased levels of profit.

### **Proposals**

7. An ex-demo John Deere 2750E Tees mower which is 5 years old is available for £21,000. Funds are available in the 'Chingford Golf Course Machinery

Renewals' account from surplus income from previous years to purchase the mower.

8. This mower would improve efficiency as it will be more reliable and considerably reduce down time both for the machine and the staff time effecting repairs.
9. The improved performance of the newer mower will also improve the standard of the cut.
10. The Golf Course Machinery Renewal Fund was established to allow re-investment into the Golf Course to maintain standards.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

Strategic implications – This proposal supports the City's Corporate Plan :

2. *People enjoy good health and wellbeing.*
11. *We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment.*
12. *Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained*

Financial implications – The report requests the spending from the machinery renewal funds. These funds are held for the purpose of purchases, such as those outlined in this report.

Resource implications – The reduction of staff time spent making repairs will release staff resources to make course improvements.

Legal implications – There are no legal implications to this report.

Risk implications – There is no additional risk implications in this report.

Equalities implications – This report does not raise any equalities implications.

Climate implications – The proposed purchase of the new mower runs on diesel. There is not a viable carbon neutral alternative.

Security implications – The increased value of machinery held at Jubilee Yard has been offset by the recent improvements to the security systems covering the yard and workshop.

Charity implications – Improving the quality and performance of Chingford Golf Course, will result in greater profitability and so further strengthen the position of the Epping Forest Charity.

## **Conclusion**

13. The highly competitive local golf market demands that the Chingford Golf Course is presented and maintained to the highest possible standard, both to retain existing custom and attract new play. The investment in new machinery is

considered to be critical in maintaining high standards and maximising staff efficiency.

14. That £21,000 taken from the Chingford Golf Course Machinery Renewals Fund currently standing at £105,000.00 to purchase a John Deere 2750E Tees mower.

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