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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>11 June 2009</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director – Regeneration and Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>IC/09/06/01/SJ/SJ</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Head of Economic and Social Regeneration</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 715555</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Birkmyre Park</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Council, as Trustees of the Birkmyre Park, (1) to consider a request from the Regeneration Committee to redesignate the rugby pitch at Knockbuckle Road within the Birkmyre Park into a dual use rugby and football pitch and (2) to consider options for the re-introduction of redundant leisure activities within the Birkmyre Park.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Regeneration Committee at its meeting on 7 May 2009 considered the attached report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources on the consultation which has taken place in respect of pitch use at Birkmyre Park. Appendix

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress of the consultation on the redesignation of the pitches at Birkmyre Park;
  - (2) that a report be submitted to The Inverclyde Council, as the Trustees of the Birkmyre Park, proposing redesignation of the pitch at Knockbuckle Road into a dual use pitch; and
  - (3) that subject to approval by The Inverclyde Council, a report be submitted to the Committee at the end of the forthcoming season on the dual use of the pitch.
- 2.2 The putting green and tennis court at Birkmyre Park are no longer serviceable as a result lack of investment and maintenance in recent years. The putting green was last used in 1999 and the tennis courts were last used in 1998.
- 2.3 The Council has made significant investment in facilities within the Park in recent years in the form of the refurbishment to the Birkmyre Pavillion, now operated by Inverclyde Leisure, and the play area. As a result of the investment in the new facilities and the park it is much better used.
- 2.4 The Trust receives income from a variety of sources in relation to activities within the park boundary, and has a projected fund balance of £46,762 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. It is projected that in 2009/10 a surplus of £15,720 will be made.
- 2.5 If members are minded, it is proposed to reinvest some of the fund balance and on going projected surplus into reinstating former leisure activities. It was envisaged that there would be additional investment in the Park resulting from the rental income generated from the new Pavilion.
- 2.6 Initial discussions have taken place with Inverclyde Leisure in order that they would be responsible for the management of any additional activities. Inverclyde Leisure will not charge for the management of these activities however they will retain any income derived from the facility.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Council is asked to consider the request from the Regeneration Committee.
- 3.2 That Council, as Trustees of the Birkmyre Park, consider the re-introduction of the putting green at Birkmyre Park for this summer, and the consequent one off and on going costs as detailed in section 5.1 of the report.
- 3.3 That Council agree to, in principle, the re-introduction of the tennis courts, either as blaes tennis courts or as a multi use games area, and that a further report be presented to Council, as Trustees of the Birkmyre Park, once consultation has taken place with the Community and affordability issues have been resolved.

Stuart Jamieson  
Head of Economic and Social Regeneration

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At present Birkmyre Park comprises open public space, play area, pavilion, 2 rugby pitches, one dual use football / rugby pitch and 1 football pitch. A putting green and tennis courts have lain derelict since 1999.
- 4.2 The putting green and tennis court at Birkmyre Park are no longer serviceable as a result lack of investment and maintenance in recent years. The putting green was last used in 1999 and the tennis courts were last used in 1998.
- 4.3 The putting green can be re-established through a maintenance programme but requires a cylinder mower to be purchased in order that the height and quality of cut can be improved. It is estimated by Environmental Services that a new mower for this putting green will cost £20,000 however it is expected that initially a second hand mower can be purchased for around £4,500.

The ongoing maintenance costs of £5,000 includes an element of remedial works in the initial years, any charges levied on the Trust will require to be fully evidenced.

- 4.4 The tennis courts could be reinstated through the provision of additional blaes, however in order for them to function a replacement fence and maintenance equipment is required. The estimated cost of these materials is £26,445 with an annually recurring cost for maintenance of £3500.
- 4.5 Consideration of upgrading the surface of the tennis courts has also been given to a multi use games area (MUGA) incorporating a tennis court, this has been costed at circa £150,000 with annually recurring costs of £2000.
- 4.6 Consultation has not taken place with the Community Council or other interested groups in relation to the tennis courts so at this stage the Council, as Trustees, are not being asked to make a decision in respect of the tennis courts other to request that a report be submitted in due course once consultation has taken place with the Community and affordability issues have been resolved.
- 4.7 Inverclyde Leisure have indicated their willingness to manage the putting green, income levels are expected to be less than £500/annum. Inverclyde Leisure will not charge for the management of these activities however they will retain any income derived from the facility.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 5.1 Financial Implications – One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Birkmyre Trust	n/a	2009/10	£5000	n/a	Equipment

### Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
Birkmyre Trust	n/a	2009/10	Up to £5,000	n/a	Maintenance

### 5.2 Human Resources and Legal Services: None

### 5.3 Equalities: In preparation of the report equality issues have been considered.

## 6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Inverclyde Leisure have been consulted in the preparation, along with Environmental Services

## **7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None

# APPENDIX

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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> May 2009</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director – Regeneration and Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>RC/09/05/11/SJ/WW</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Head of Economic and Social Regeneration</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 715555</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Birkmyre Park - Update</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to apprise Members in respect of the consultation which has taken place in respect of pitch use at Birkmyre Park.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 A report was considered by the January Committee in respect of a proposal to change the rugby pitch at Knockbuckle Road, within the Birkmyre Park into a football pitch.
- 2.2 The Committee remitted the Head of Economic and Social Regeneration to consult with the existing pitch users and the Kilmacolm Community Council in respect of this proposed change
- 2.3 On this basis consultation took place with Inverclyde Leisure, Birkmyre Rugby Club, Hamilton Academicals (Inverclyde) FC and St Columbas School.
- 2.4 After extensive consultation it became apparent that capacity within the pitches could be increased by re-designating the rugby pitch as a dual rugby and football pitch.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Committee notes the progress on the consultation of the re-designation of the pitches at Birkmyre Park and agree that a report should be presented to full Council, as the Trustees of the Birkmyre Park, to re-designate the pitch at Knockbuckle Road into a dual use pitch.

Stuart Jamieson  
Head of Economic and Social Regeneration

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At present there are 3 rugby pitches and 1 football pitch at Birkmyre Park. Due to local demand, it was recommended that one of the rugby pitches (i.e. the one between Knockbuckle Road and Park Road) be redesignated as a football pitch..
- 4.2 A report was considered by the January Committee in respect of this proposal and the Committee remitted the Head of Economic and Social Regeneration to consult with the existing pitch users and the Kilmacolm Community Council in respect of this proposed change.
- 4.3 Consultation took place with the Chief Executive and Development Manager of Inverclyde Leisure, The President of Birkmyre Rugby Club, The Manager of Hamilton Academicals (Inverclyde)FC, and the Rector and Head of Physical Education of St Columbas School. Consultation with the Chairperson and her deputy of Kilmacolm Community Council also took place
- 4.4 Following consultation it was apparent that the bookable pitch utilisation could be improved if the pitch at Knockbuckle Road was re-designated for football and rugby during the appropriate seasons and it could continue to be used for athletics during the summer
- 4.5 Officers have verified with the governing bodies of both football and rugby that it is appropriate for dual use, and understand that this is now commonplace within the professional ranks of both sports.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 5.1 Financial Implications – One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	None at this stage

### Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	None at this stage

5.2 Human Resources and Legal Services: None

5.3 Equalities: In preparation of the report equality issues have been considered.

## 6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation has taken place with the Kilmacolm Community Council, Inverclyde Leisure, Birkmyre Rugby Club, Hamilton Academicals (Inverclyde) FC and St Columbas School. Consultation has also taken place with Property Resources and Facilities Management, and Environmental Services

## 7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None