



Report for:	Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	10 October 2018
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Relocation of Athletics Track Consultation
Contact:	Neil Harden, Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services Author/Responsible Officer(s): Linda Roberts (Assistant Director – People, Performance and Innovation) Matt Rawdon (Group Manager – People and Performance), Alex Care (Community Partnerships Team Leader)
Purpose of report:	To inform Members of the feedback from the recent athletics track consultation.
Recommendation	That Members consider the response from the formal athletics track consultation.
Corporate objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clean, safe and enjoyable environment • Building strong and vibrant communities
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> There are no financial implications in relation to this paper.
'Value for money' implications	<u>Value for money</u> The consultation was undertaken in house, so no additional money was spent in carrying out this consultation.
Risk implications	Residents not aware of the consultation – the consultation was open for nearly two months and advertised in various media to ensure high response rates.
Community Impact Assessment	Not applicable for a consultation exercise.
Health and safety Implications	None associated with this consultation.

Consultees:	Public Survey aimed at Dacorum residents
Background papers:	Proposal to build a new athletics track and pavilion at Cupid Green Playing Fields, Grovehill - Cabinet paper 24 April 2018 Appendix 1 – Themed Literals
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	nil

1. Introduction

1.1 As part of the wider Dacorum Leisure Modernisation Programme, a survey regarding a potential move of the Athletics Track at Jarman Park to the Cupid Green Fields was made available online on our consultation page from 21st June and closed on 17th August 2018.

1.2 The purpose of the survey was to gauge local feedback on the benefits and challenges to upgrading and relocating the Athletics Track to the Cupid Green Fields.

1.3 This report contains analysis of the **548** responses received so that Members may be able to make a decision as to whether or not to go ahead with further investigation into the merits of this move.

1.4 In addition to being made available online, it was also advertised in the Digital Digest, to our consultation panel, through a press release and social media, and paper copies were made available should anyone have requested them.

1.5 There was almost an equal split from those that responded, but over 50% did not support the suggestion of moving the athletics track. 53.3% stating they would not support it, and 44.7% stated they would. It should be noted that some of those who stated they would support it, would only do so, once further consultation had taken place and proper consideration given to their concerns.

1.6 The open comments (literals) section of the survey has been themed and is found in Appendix 1. The open question ‘What do you think about the suggestion of building a track?’ provided a useful insight into the survey response, the response showed that there were 81 positive comments as opposed to 610 negative. The results of the themed literals are found in Appendix 1.

1.7 Respondents considered the benefits of the athletics track being located at Cupid Green Fields were:

- New sports venue

- Local schools
- Community Facilities
- Inspiring youth
- Health benefits

1.8 The challenges and concerns were noted as being:

- Parking concerns
- Increased transport congestion / disruption
- Improve existing site / keep existing site
- Transport links / accessibility
- Noise, floodlights pollution etc.
- Loss of green space / land used by community
- Financial investment concerns
- Too close to residential housing
- Site too small
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Alternative location
- Infrastructure
- Road Safety
- Concerns over housing development / transparency
- Want alternative sport facility

1.9 Of those who responded 59.3% stated that they had previously used the track at Jarman Park, but if it moved location to Cupid Green Playing Fields 63.9% said they were unlikely to use it and 22.3% likely to use it (the remaining were not sure). Almost 17% stated that they would prefer to see the current track invested in and refurbished.

2, Conclusion

2.1 There are challenges and issues identified within the response to this consultation exercise, which the Council would need to address if the decision was approved to relocate the athletics track to Cupid Green Playing Field.