



<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>16 October 2018</b>
<b>PART:</b>	<b>1</b>
If Part II, reason:	

<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Relocation of Athletics Track Consultation</b>
Contact:	Neil Harden, Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services  <b>Author/Responsible Officer(s):</b> 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 Cabinet Members of the feedback from the recent athletics track consultation and seek a decision on relocation of the athletics track.
Recommendations	That Cabinet Members consider the response from the formal athletics track consultation and decide whether to progress with the relocation of the athletics track to Cupid Green Fields.
Corporate objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clean, safe and enjoyable environment</li> <li>• Building strong and vibrant communities</li> </ul>
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.
Equalities Implications	No equality implications have been identified in relation to the consultation exercise undertaken.
Health And Safety Implications	No implications from this report.

<p>Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer Comments</p>	<p>Monitoring Officer:</p> <p>There will be no legal implications if Members decide to keep the track in its current location. If Members decide to relocate further site due diligence will need to be carried out to ensure that there are no legal, planning or property impediments to the proposed development as part of the project plan.</p> <p>Deputy S.151 Officer:</p> <p>Any potential financial impact of cabinets consideration of this issue will be reported at a later date as part of the wider leisure strategy.</p>
<p>Consultees:</p>	<p>Sally Marshall (Chief Executive)</p> <p>Public Consultation Survey aimed at Dacorum residents</p> <p>Members of the Housing &amp; Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p>
<p>Background papers:</p>	<p>Proposal to build a new athletics track and pavilion at Cupid Green Playing Fields, Grovehill - Cabinet paper 24 April 2018</p>
<p>Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>Appendix 1 – Consultation literals from open questions.</p>

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> June and closed on 17<sup>th</sup> 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, 53.3% stating they would not support the relocation of the athletics track 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
  - 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. Of these, 63.9% said they were unlikely to use it, if it moved location to Cupid Green Playing Fields 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. Summary**

Cabinet is asked to consider responses from the formal athletics track consultation and decide whether to continue with the relocation to Cupid Green Playing Fields.