



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES AND HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To clearly set out the Council's approach to the management and development of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) assets.

To seek approval of the standards set out in the attached **appendix 1**.

To report back on the outcome of the stakeholder consultation based on the criteria contained within the MUGA Asset Management Plan.

B. RECOMMENDATION

To note and approve the contents of the MUGA Asset Management Plan including the accessibility standards for provision as set out in section 3.7 of the Plan.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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|---|---|
| I Council Values | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working with and for our communities• Being honest, open and accountable• Working in partnership• Making best use of our resources• Providing equality of opportunity |
| II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment) | Adopted Policy – Open Space Strategy and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy.
Corporate Property Asset Management Strategy
Health & Safety Legislation. |
| III Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property) | £238,000 (2008 to 2013) as per Open Space Assets Capital Programme. |
| IV Consultations | Consultation with appropriate stakeholders including Community Councils and identified |

user groups has been undertaken.
Environment PDSP.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

1. Scope

A Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) is defined as an enclosed games area, finished with a non natural-grass surface and which accommodates principally small-sided games.

MUGAs in West Lothian are predominantly enclosed with a fenced structure and finished with a variety of surfaces (tar macadam, synthetic grass, porous polymeric).

A few blaes/whin facilities still remain in use and tend to be larger than the typical MUGA. These facilities are detailed within the attached Asset Management Plan. Two MUGAs (Langside Gardens, Polbeth and Clement Rise, Dedridge) included in the asset management plan contain a mixture of synthetic and natural grass surface.

MUGAs are normally situated adjoining schools, community centres, within open spaces such as parks or within housing estates. In addition, West Lothian Leisure operates a number of pay-to-use 5-a-side football facilities as do private leisure operators. Many West Lothian secondary schools and some sports clubs also operate full-size synthetic pitches, which are used for formal training and competition. These facilities are not detailed within the attached asset management plan but are noted in the attached mapping document (appendix 3).

2. Background

As part of the Council's Corporate Property Asset Management Strategy, NETS and Land Services and Sport & Outdoor Education are required to make effective and efficient use of the Council assets. MUGAs are one category of assets that are distributed across the District to serve recreational need.

Provision of these assets has, historically, lacked a strategic approach and has resulted in a proliferation of sites that carries a revenue consequence for the Council.

The result is that a lack of a coherent strategy, for this type of asset, has resulted in sites that are now below an acceptable standard in some instances. This is, in part, due to a lack of focus in determining which sites should receive prioritised investment.

A Strategic Outline Business Case was produced, as part of the Open Space Asset Capital Programme investment allocation, and this resulted in condition surveys being undertaken at each site in order to prioritise expenditure.

It is also important to acknowledge the opportunity to access other similar assets that are provided by West Lothian Leisure and private operators such as full-size synthetic pitches and pay-to-use 5-a-side pitches. However, access for all still revolves around the MUGA sites currently provided by the Council.

3. Current Situation

All of the MUGA assets have been reviewed in terms of addressing any health and safety issues. This review has now been completed and works have been programmed within available resources. Once the necessary minimum works have been completed the intention is to address minor improvements to surfacing and floodlighting should remaining resources permit.

Due to limited resources, further investment will need to be targeted to assets that can demonstrate a sufficient level of usage by stakeholders. Should demand be limited or negligible then a further decision will have to be taken with regard to the future retention and sustainability of that asset.

In order to obtain sufficient information of the assets' usage, a survey questionnaire has been sent out to interested stakeholders and identified users. A copy of the collated feedback is included as **appendix 2**.

The outcome of the surveys have been recorded and will be analysed as appropriate in order to inform improved decision making on the future management of these assets.

E. CONCLUSION

MUGA assets are currently compliant with health and safety requirements. However, further investment will be prioritised by cost and level of usage.

Other considerations that may affect investment decisions are anticipated to be of an educational requirement and, therefore, there may be decisions taken that are in the best interests of the school or educational establishment.

It is imperative to establish a strategic framework and service standards for the effective and efficient use of the Council's MUGA assets. This will guide any future investments to demonstrate best value.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Open Space Asset Management Strategy (Held on file at Whitehill House, Bathgate).

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 – MUGA Asset Management Plan

Appendix 2 – User Consultation

Appendix 3 – Mapping Exercise

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