

8. WATSON PARK, ARMADALE – PROPOSED PROPERTY AND OPEN SPACE INVESTMENTS

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services advising of the proposals for the improvement of facilities at Watson Park, Armadale, and in particular, the development of new changing rooms, planned improvements at the bowling club and works to enhance the wider open space and park facilities.

The report recalled that the council as part of its approved General Services Capital programme for 2013/14 to 2017/18 identified the provision of a new changing pavilion together with the undertaking of wider park improvements at Watson Park, Armadale. Appendix 1 contained a plan showing the location of the park, the existing bowling club and facilities together with the proposed new changing facility location.

The proposal consisted of three main property investments and a number of open space improvements including the following:-

- Development of a new stand-alone team sports changing facility
- Modernisation of Bowling Club
- Former Depot & Existing Changing Rooms – Demolition of Storage
- Park Improvements

It was noted that a separate project for the war memorial within the park would be developed in 2018/19 prior to both the pavilion project and wider park improvement project.

IN conclusion the report advised that officers working collaboratively with stakeholder had identified deliverable proposals that would enable the modernisation of the bowling club and the delivery of new changing facilities which would support pitch and wider park improvements. Through the active engagement with stakeholders and ongoing dialogue it was hoped that the community would become more empowered to enable additional investment and greater management roll in Watson Park.

The report recommended that Council Executive:-

1. Approve the progressing of a new changing facility in partnership with the community football club;
2. Approve working in partnership with the bowling club management committee to identify and undertake a programme of compliance and condition works to sustain and where possible improve the facility;
3. Approve the undertaking of the wider park improvements noted in the report and that these would commence following development of the new changing facility to minimise disruption and potential additional costs;

4. Note the stakeholder consultation and engagement undertaken to date and the outcome of this, which was reflected in the investment proposals contained in the report; and
5. Note the ongoing engagement with stakeholders and the wider community to develop proposals further and encourage community empowerment in the management of the assets subject to investment.

#### Decision

To approve the terms of the report.