

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Council	Date:	18 March 2021
Subject:	The Saintbridge Recreation Ground Trust		
Report Of:	Jon McGinty, Managing Director		
Wards Affected:	Matson and Robinswood		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Jonathan Lund, Corporate Director		
	Email: Jonathan.lund@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel: 396276	
Appendices:	1. Governance Arrangements		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To make recommendations for governance of the Saintbridge Recreation Ground Trust by establishing a management committee with delegated powers to act within defined limits.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.2 Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that

- (1) The Governance arrangements set out in Appendix 1 are approved and adopted.
- (2) A Saintbridge Recreation Ground Trust Management Committee is established comprising the three city councillors elected to represent the Matson and Robinswood Ward, the two cabinet leads with responsibility for communities and recreation and one appointee from each of the other political groups on the Council not otherwise represented.
- (3) The Management Committee is given the terms of reference and the delegated powers set out in the Governance Arrangements set out at Appendix 1 to this report.
- (4) In order to lawfully establish a Saintbridge Recreation Ground Trust Management Committee which is not required to be politically balanced, this resolution is approved without dissent.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Saintbridge Recreation Ground, Reservoir Road, Matson was originally conveyed to Upton St Leonards Parish Council in 1898 and was transferred to Gloucester City Council on local government reorganisation in 1972. Saintbridge Recreation Ground is held by the Council in trust for use as a Recreation Ground and is an unregistered charity. There is no formal or approved arrangement in place to administer the Charity and, as a consequence, decisions about the charity have to be made by the Council as a whole acting as the Trust.

3.3 At a meeting held on 15 December 2020 it was agreed that formal governance arrangements should be developed, with operational responsibility for the charity being devolved to a working group or sub-group of the Trust. This report responds to that resolution.

3.4 Set out at Appendix 1 is a proposal to establish a Saintbridge Recreation Ground Management Committee. This would be a Committee of the City Council with delegated powers to manage the affairs of the trust within defined limits. The key features of the proposal are:-

- a) A membership of five City Councillors being;
 - i. The three City Councillors representing the Matson & Robinswood Ward
 - ii. The Cabinet Member with responsibility for communities
 - iii. The Cabinet Member with responsibility for recreation
 - iv. One appointee from each of the other constituted political groups on the Council not represented in (i-iii) above

- b) Delegated authority to deal with all of the affairs of the Trust except for the following:
 - i. The acquisition, sale, leasing or disposal of any part of the property belonging to the Trust;
 - ii. Make decisions or entering into contracts with resource implications of more than £10,000.

In the case of i and ii above the Management Committee shall make recommendations on these matters for determination by the Council (acting as the Trust)

- c) The Chair of the Management Committee shall be elected annually by the Management Committee.

- d) The Committee shall make an annual report of its activity to Council (acting as the Trust).

3.5 Because the Management Committee will be a Committee of the Council the rules about political balance would normally apply. However, the Council can resolve to appoint a committee which is not numerically politically balanced if that resolution is approved with no Councillors voting against. Council is, therefore, recommended to agree the recommendations set out in this report without dissent.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

4.1 None arising directly from the purpose of this report.

5.0 Environmental Implications

5.1 None arising directly from the purpose of this report.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

6.1 This report responds to an earlier resolution of the Council, as a consequence, alternative options have not been considered.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

7.1 To respond to a resolution of the Council made on 15 December 2020.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

8.1 To establish the Saintbridge Recreation Ground Trust in accordance with the terms set out in this report.

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 None arising directly from the purpose of this report.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

10.1 The rules of political balance apply to the membership of this Committee unless the Council agrees to alternative arrangements in accordance with s17 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which provides that, ' ... different provision is made ...without any member of the authority ...voting against them'.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

11.1 None arising directly from the purpose of this report.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

12.1 None arising directly from the purpose of this report.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

13.1 None arising directly from the purpose of this report.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

14.1 None arising directly from the purpose of this report.

Background Documents: None