



BROMLEY CIVIC CENTRE, STOCKWELL CLOSE, BROMLEY BRI 3UH

TELEPHONE: 020 8464 3333

CONTACT: Kerry Nicholls
Kerry.Nicholls@bromley.gov.uk

DIRECT LINE: 020 8461 7840

FAX: 020 8290 0608

DATE: 9 June 2023

RENEWAL, RECREATION AND HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held on Thursday 15 June 2023

Please see the attached reports marked “to follow” on the agenda.

- 8d PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2022/23 (Pages 3 - 14)**
- 9e HOUSING OPTIONS AND PREVENTION OF HOMELESSNESS GRANT
DRAWDOWN (Pages 15 - 26)**
- 9f LONDON CRICKET TRUST NON-TURF PITCHES FUND (Pages 27 - 32)**

***Copies of the documents referred to above can be obtained from
<http://cde.bromley.gov.uk/>***

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Report No.
FSD23038

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR RENEWAL, RECREATION AND HOUSING

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee on 15 June 2023

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: PROVISIONAL OUTTURN REPORT 2022/23

Contact Officers: John Johnstone, Head of Finance (Adults, Health & Housing)
Tel: 020 8461 7006 E-mail: John.Johnstone@bromley.gov.uk
Murad Khan, Head of Finance (Environment & Corporate Services)
Tel: 020 8313 4015 E-mail: Murad.Khan@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director of Housing, Planning and Regeneration

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report provides details of the final outturn position for 2022/23 for the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 **The Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee is invited to:**

- i) **Note the net overspend of £1.52m on controllable expenditure at the end of 2022/23 and consider any issues arising from it.**

2.2 **The Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio Holder is requested to:**

- i) **Endorse the 2022/23 final outturn position for the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio.**

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: None directly arising from this report
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Sound financial management
 2. MBEB Priority: To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
 3. Budget head/performance centre: RR&H Portfolio Budgets
 4. Total current budget for this head: £17.8m
 5. Source of funding: Existing revenue budget 2022/23
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 190 Full time equivalent
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not applicable
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement: The statutory duties relating to financial reporting are covered within the Local Government Act 1972; the Local Government Finance Act 1998; the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996; the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government Act 2002
 2. Call-in: Applicable: Portfolio Holder decision.
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): The 2022/23 budget reflects the financial impact of the Council's strategies, service plans etc. which impact on all the Council's customers (including council taxpayers) and users of the services.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 This report provides the provisional outturn position for the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio for 2022/23, which is broken-down in detail in Appendix 1, along with explanatory notes.
- 3.2 The final outturn for the “controllable” element of the Renewal, Recreation and Housing budget in 2022/23 is a net overspend of £1.52m compared to the last reported figure of a net overspend of £805k which was based on activity at the end of December 2022.

Summary of Major Variations

- 3.3 The following table summarises the variations over the key areas:

	£'000
Building Control income	137
Planning & Land Charges	196
Supporting People contracts	Cr 123
Temporary Accommodation	1,958
Housing Support	Cr 628
Other variations	16
	<hr/> 1,524 <hr/>

Full Year Effect

- 3.4 The cost pressures identified above are projected to impact in 2022/23 by £821k. Further growth of £1,796k for Housing has been included in the budget for 2022/23; however, there is a total of £2,555k savings assumed from the mitigation and transformation work streams, through the provision of new affordable housing.

Carry Forward Requests

- 3.5 On the 29th of June, the Executive will be requested to approve several carry forward requests relating to either unspent grant income, or delays in expenditure where cost pressures will follow through into 2023/24.
- 3.6 Appendix 2 provides a detailed breakdown of all the carry forward requests for Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio. The carry forwards included in section 1 will have repayment implications if not approved, and those in section 2 relate to grants which will not have to be repaid if not agreed but will impact on service delivery in 2023/24. Future reports to the Portfolio Holder will be required to approve their release from the 2023/24 Central Contingency.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, PLANNING & REGENERATION

- 4.1 £1,116k of growth was included in the housing budget for 2022/23 to reflect the continuing pressures in relation to homelessness and the provision of temporary accommodation. A total of £1,785k savings was also included to mitigate these pressures.
- 4.2 Whilst approaches remain high, the ongoing supply of acquired properties and prevention work has continued to slow the rate of growth in nightly paid accommodation placements. However, the number of approaches are starting to rise alongside increased pressure on nightly paid accommodation rates across London and the Southeast. This has resulted in a £1,958k overspend on temporary accommodation, with a £1,193k overspend on housing overall. As has been reported, work is ongoing to increase the supply of affordable housing to continue to mitigate and reduce the current pressures relating to temporary accommodation particularly in

relation to the increased ability to secure leased accommodation within temporary accommodation subsidy rates however this is becoming increasingly challenging due to the current inflation rises in relation to accommodation costs.

- 4.3 A substantial part of Planning Services' work attracts a fee income for the Council, for example the planning application fees. The fee income and volume of work reflects the wider economic circumstances affecting development pressures in the Borough. There is a risk of income variation beyond the Council's immediate control; however, trends are regularly monitored in order that appropriate action can be taken. Action has successfully been taken to negate the risk of Government Designation for Special Measures due to Planning performance for the current year. However, this is based on the actions identified being implemented to reduce the risk of Government Designation in future years.
- 4.4 There is a risk of substantial planning appeal costs being awarded against the Council by the Planning Inspectorate if the Council is found to have acted unreasonably. For major appeals, which can arise unpredictably, there is often a need for specialist external consultant's advice which creates additional costs.
- 4.5 The key risks in the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio continue to be:
- i) Increased homelessness and the associated costs particularly relating to the increased demand for placements across London
 - ii) Increased rent arrears arising from inflation and increased costs of utilities and so forth
 - iii) Reduced vacant housing association properties coming forward for letting
 - iv) Increased maintenance and repairs costs in relation to the travellers site required to maintain health and safety standards
 - v) Fluctuations in planning applications and need to ensure application processing is sufficiently resourced
 - vi) Increases being seen in construction and maintenance costs
- 4.6 Finally, the ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on budgets are now becoming apparent. Significant losses in income, from commercial rents, are expected as town centres have been severely affected during lockdown restrictions. The impact of increased utility and maintenance costs is also impacting on tenants of commercial properties and their ability to maintain rental payments.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 To meet the ambitions for residents, the Council must use available resources deploy its workforce wisely. This is reflected in the "Making Bromley Even Better" ambition of Service Efficiency - 'To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.'
- 5.2 The "2021/22 Council Tax" report highlighted the financial pressures facing the Council. It remains imperative that strict budgetary control continues to be exercised to minimise the risk of compounding financial pressures in future years.
- 5.3 Chief Officers and Departmental Heads of Finance are continuing to place emphasis on the need for strict compliance with the Council's budgetary control and monitoring arrangements.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A detailed breakdown of the projected outturn by service area is shown in Appendix 1A with explanatory notes in Appendix 1B.

- 6.2 Overall the provisional outturn position for 2022/23 is an overspend of £1.52m.
- 6.3 Costs attributable to individual services have been classified as “controllable” and “non-controllable” in Appendix 1A. Budget holders have full responsibility for those budgets classified as “controllable” as any variations relate to those factors over which the budget holder has, in general, direct control. “Non-controllable” budgets are those which are managed outside of individual budget holder’s service and, as such, cannot be directly influenced by the budget holder in the shorter term. These include, for example, building maintenance costs and property rents which are managed by the Property Division but are allocated within individual departmental/portfolio budgets to reflect the full cost of the service.
- 6.4 As such, any variations arising are shown as “non-controllable” within services but “controllable” within the Resources, Commissioning and Contracts Management Portfolio. Other examples include cross departmental recharges and capital financing costs. This approach, which is reflected in financial monitoring reports to budget holders, should ensure clearer accountability by identifying variations within the service that controls financial performance. Members should specifically refer to the “controllable” budget variations relating to portfolios in considering financial performance.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Legal, Personnel and Procurement Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	2022/23 Budget Monitoring files in ECS and ECHS Finance Section

Renewal, Recreation & Housing Budget Monitoring Summary

2021/22 Actuals £'000	Division Service Areas	2022/23 Original Budget £'000	2022/23 Latest Approved £'000	2022/23 Projected Outturn £'000	Variation £'000	Notes	Variation Last Reported £'000	Full Year Effect £'000
	PLACE DEPARTMENT							
	Planning							
99	Building Control	90	90	227	137	1	213	0
Cr 128	Land Charges	Cr 126	Cr 126	Cr 63	63	2	64	0
1,707	Planning	1,493	1,690	1,823	133	3	100	0
1,678		1,457	1,654	1,987	333		377	0
	Culture & Regeneration							
908	Culture	883	1,259	1,384	125		15	0
4,649	Libraries	4,873	5,672	5,570	Cr 102		0	0
23	Town Centre Management	80	112	87	Cr 25		0	0
5,580		5,836	7,043	7,041	Cr 2	4	15	0
	Operational Housing							
1,314	Housing Strategy, Advice and Enabling	1,460	1,304	1,276	Cr 28	5	51	0
Cr 1,089	Housing Benefits	Cr 1,539	Cr 1,539	Cr 1,502	37	6	0	0
Cr 175	Housing Improvement	Cr 30	Cr 31	Cr 54	Cr 23	7	Cr 43	0
6,406	Allocations and Accommodation	4,295	5,088	7,046	1,958	8	893	288
877	Supporting People	1,070	1,044	921	Cr 123	9	Cr 102	Cr 94
1,488	Housing Options and Support	2,006	1,723	1,095	Cr 628	10	Cr 386	0
8,821		7,262	7,589	8,782	1,193		413	194
16,079	Total Controllable	14,555	16,286	17,810	1,524		805	194
2,141	TOTAL NON CONTROLLABLE	Cr 883	Cr 881	Cr 881	0		0	0
5,555	TOTAL EXCLUDED RECHARGES	5,574	2,454	2,454	0		0	0
23,775	TOTAL RR & H PORTFOLIO TOTAL	19,246	17,859	19,383	1,524		805	194

APPENDIX 1B

Reconciliation of Latest Approved Budget	£'000
Original budget 2022/23	19,246
Carry Forward Requests approved from 2021/22	
Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant expenditure	228
Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant income	Cr 228
Homelessness Reduction Grant	89
Homelessness Reduction Grant	Cr 89
New Burdens Funding Grant expenditure	124
New Burdens Funding Grant income	Cr 124
Local Plan Implementation	120
New Homes Bonus - Regeneration	73
Central Contingency Adjustments	
Accommodation for Ex-Offenders expenditure	70
Accommodation for Ex-Offenders income	Cr 70
Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant expenditure	455
Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant income	Cr 455
Norman Park grant	151
Libraries contract inflation	54
Resources to address Planning minor applications backlog	90
Funding of Economic Development posts	109
Local London membership subscription	50
Libraries refresh	515
Provision for agency workers contract savings	Cr 14
Homes for Ukraine expenditure	821
Homes for Ukraine grant	Cr 821
Homes for Ukraine expenditure	7,182
Homes for Ukraine grant	Cr 7,182
Homeless Prevention Initiatives expenditure	883
Homeless Prevention Initiatives grant	Cr 883
Domestic Abuse Act - new burdens 2021/22 cf	48
Domestic Abuse Act - new burdens 2021/22 cf	Cr 48
Domestic Abuse Act - new burdens 2022/23	33
Domestic Abuse Act - new burdens 2022/23	Cr 33
Other	
Local Plan Review funded from Growth Fund	
- expenditure	600
- income	Cr 600
R&M Planned Maintenance adjustment	20
Insurance	Cr 18
Excluded Recharges	Cr 3,120
Adj to NI budget following reversal of 2022-23 increase in November	Cr 31
Merit Awards allocation from contingency	55
Energy cost pressure allocation from contingency (Libraries)	230
Energy cost pressure allocation from contingency	329
Latest Approved Budget for 2022/23	17,859

REASONS FOR VARIATIONS

1. Building Control Dr £137k

For the chargeable service, there has been an income deficit of £85k for 2022/23. A review of fees and charges was conducted in Q2 to ensure the service complies with Building Account Regulations, which requires that the service operates on a full cost recovery basis (i.e., does not make a surplus or is subsidised on an ongoing basis).

Revised charges were implemented on 1 October, which is helping to increase income and has reduced the shortfall by £185k compared to the Q2 forecast. There was a £44k overspend on the salaries budget, due to use of agency staff to cover vacancies, and a £8k underspend on supplies and services. In accordance with the Regulations, any surplus or deficit in year is charged to or funded from the Building Control Charging Account earmarked reserve, and there is now a total deficit balance of £159k to recover from income in future years.

2. Land Charges Dr £63k

There has been a £63k shortfall of land charges income compared to budget, due to reduced activity over the course of the year.

3. Planning Dr £133k

There has been a £206k shortfall of planning fee income compared to budget, as receipts over the course of the 2022/23 financial year have been significantly lower than last year. There are, however, underspends on supplies and services, which reduces the net overspend to £133k.

4. Culture & Regeneration Dr £2k

There has been an overspend on project related salaries, offset by underspends elsewhere within the Culture and Regeneration Division, including a rebate of £48k for library business rates was received late in the year

5. Housing Strategy, Advice and Enabling Dr £28k

In 2022-23 there were underspends on the some of the contracts within the service and an overspend on salaries of £9k.

6. Housing Benefit Dr £37k

There is a small overall overspend on the Housing Benefit cost centre.

7. Housing Improvement Cr £23k

In year vacancies during a period of recruitment resulted in an underspend of £23k.

8. Allocations and Accommodation Dr £1,958k

There was a total overspend of £1,551k on the provision of Temporary Accommodation for 2022-23. At the end of the financial year, the number of households in Temporary Accommodation was 1,062, at an average cost of £7,650 per household per annum. Whilst the numbers of households in Temporary Accommodation have fallen from an April high of over 1,100, the numbers have not reduced at the rate hoped for with the progression of the transformation programme. Overall, TA numbers supported by LBB have risen as have the annual average costs which continues to impact on this budget. The 2022-23 outturn figure is after allowing for the Homeless Prevention Initiatives allocation in contingency and exceptional winter top up of the Homelessness Prevention Grant top totalling £883k which were draw down in the previous Budget Monitoring cycle.

These figures exclude other schemes like More Homes Bromley, Orchard & Shipman, ex-residential care homes, and the Bromley Private Sector Leasing Scheme. Once these schemes have been included there were 1,525 households in Temporary Accommodation on 31st March 2023.

Transformation savings totalling £1,286k were identified at the start of 2022-23 to provide a longer-term alternative to expensive nightly paid accommodation. Included in this initial figure Meadowship Homes (£1,043k) and (Burnt Ash Lane £91k) continue to progress and schemes at Bushell Way, Anerley Town Hall car park and Beehive are now complete. The Full Year Effect of these savings is estimated at around £2.2m.

There was an overspend on salaries of £69k. This was due to the cost of funding two short term posts to meet the additional workload created by the new schemes. There are some vacancies within the service which partly offset this additional cost.

	£'000
Summary of overall variations within Allocations and Accommodation:	
Temporary Accommodation	1,551
Beehive Affordable Housing	257
Bad debt provision / write-offs	253
Salaries	69
PSL Incentive Payments, Rent Deposit Scheme and Furniture Storage	Cr 172
Total variation for Allocations and Accommodation	<u>1,958</u>

9. Supporting People Cr £123k

A £123k underspend on the Supporting People was a result of procurement exercises during 2021/22 and 2022/23 containing costs within inflation that had accumulated in the budget whilst the previous contracts had been fixed for a number of years. There has been a virement of £26k from this budget to the HOPE contract in the Housing Strategy, Advice and Enabling service area to fund in-year one off additional costs.

10. Housing Options and Support Cr £628k

During the financial year, there were a number of vacancies within the service with some posts being difficult to fill. Temporary posts were created to try and address this. The final underspend for the year was £191k.

As reported in budget monitoring, there was an underspend of £437k on the work carried out around Homelessness Prevention, which is been impacted on by the challenges in recruiting staff during the course of the financial year.

Waiver of Financial Regulations:

The Council's Contract Procedure Rules state that where the value of a contract exceeds £50k and is to be exempt from the normal requirement to obtain competitive quotations the Chief Officer must obtain the agreement of the Director of Corporate Services, the Director of Finance and the Director of Commissioning and (where over £100,000) approval of the Portfolio Holder and report use of this exemption to Audit Subcommittee bi-annually. Since the last report to the Executive, no waivers have been actioned.

Virements Approved to date under Director's Delegated Powers

Details of virements actioned by Chief Officers under delegated authority under the Financial Regulations "Scheme of Virement" will be included in financial monitoring reports to the Portfolio Holder. Since the last report to Executive, one virement has been actioned. to implement contract upgrades for the HOPE contract. £26k has been vired from the underspend in Supporting People to the Housing Strategy and Enabling service area. This is one off virement for 2022-23 only.

RENEWAL, RECREATION AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO C/F REQUESTS**Grants with Explicit Right of Repayment****1. Defra Biodiversity Net Gain Grant £13,216**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) awarded the Council an allocation of £43,467 of Biodiversity net gain grant in 2022/23. The Council incurred eligible expenditure of £30,251 in this financial year, and Defra has permitted to the Council to claim the full 22/23 amount, on the basis that the unspent amount is ringfenced and the Council will provide evidence of spend in future.

2. New Homes Bonus Funded LEP Programme £72,521

Improvements to Penge High Street were one of four projects that the London LEP had agreed to fund from the New Homes Bonus top slice grant. These works were due to take place in previous years and £72,521 was carried forward from 2020/21. These improvements are now planned to be delivered until 2023/24, therefore the funding remained unspent in 2022/23. It is now requested to carry forward this funding to the current financial year and increase the Regeneration revenue budget accordingly to enable the final phase of the scheme to be completed.

3. Rough Sleepers Initiative £42,663

This funding has been carried forward to bolster the delivery of rough sleeping funded work in 2023/24, primarily to secure private sector accommodation to prevent or relieve homelessness. A Private Rented Procurement Officer has been recruited to lead on this area of work.

4. Homes for Ukraine grant £5,415,265

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) launched the Homes for Ukraine scheme on the 14th of March 2022. The scheme allows people living in the UK to sponsor a Ukrainian national or family to come and live in the UK providing there is suitable accommodation available. The grant also covers any additional costs that the Authority may incur. Part of the funding was a one-off payment that can be carried forward into the new financial year to continue to support the Ukrainians living in Bromley.

Grants with no Explicit Right of Repayment**1. Homelessness Reduction Grant £89,000**

This money was set aside in 2018/19 to fund work preventing and relieving homelessness for young people and will be required to implement the initiatives identified through the work with the DLUHC specialist adviser. The work has not been completed and it is requested to carry it forward to 2023/24 when it is expected that the work will be completed.

2. Accommodation for ex-Offenders £63,669

A Private Rented Procurement and Sustainment is in post to lead on increased private sector accommodation for single people. This funding will be used to extend

the secondment opportunity, for a further year to assist the Housing Options Team to meet their duties in preventing and relieving homelessness, under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

Other Carry Forward Requests

1. Local Plan Implementation £120,000

A carry-forward is requested to meet costs associated with the review of the Local Plan, which has slipped into 2023/24.

Report No.
HPR2023/042

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: EXECUTIVE

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 15 June 2023

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Key

Title: HOUSING OPTIONS & PREVENTION OF HOMELESSNESS GRANT DRAWDOWN

Contact Officer: Lydia Lewinson, Head of Housing Options and Support
Tel: 0208 313 4680 E-mail: lydia.lewinson@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Sara Bowrey - Director of Housing, Planning and Regeneration

Ward: All Wards

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Council's Housing Department has a statutory obligation to provide advice and information to all residents, to prevent or relieve their homelessness in line with the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.
- 1.2 The Council receives Homelessness Prevention Grant funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC) to assist it in undertaking these duties, including specialist funding for vulnerable groups within the local authority region. In previous years, this funding has been received on an annual basis; however, in this round, the Council has been allocated £3.75m in funding for 2023/24 and a further £3.78m for 2024/25. Included within this funding is a dedicated Domestic Abuse Allocation of £69k for 2023/24 and a further £100k for 2024/25.

The Council has also been allocated up to £148k funding per annum for 2023/24 and 2024/25 for the Accommodation for the Ex-Offenders Programme (AFEO) and in addition, £428k for Rough Sleeping Initiative 5 funding for 2023/24.

- 1.3 This report sets out the breakdown of the pots of DLUHC homelessness funding received, how it will be utilised through initiatives and schemes to prevent homelessness, and how it will enhance the homelessness service offered to those fleeing domestic.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The Executive is requested to approve the drawing down and spend of the:
 - i. Increase in Homelessness Prevention Grant for 2023/24 of £360k.

- ii. The Accommodation for the Ex-Offenders Scheme grant funding of up to £148k per annum for 2023/24 and 2024/25
- iii. The Rough Sleeping Initiative 5 (2023-24) grant funding of up to £428k.

2.2 To note that the report sets out the planned allocation of resources for the above three Grants..

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact:
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Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority :
For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices.
For people to make their homes in Bromley and for business, enterprise and the third sector to prosper.
-

Financial

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1. Cost of proposal: £893k (£169k Domestic Abuse, £296k Accommodation for Ex-Offenders & £428k Rough Sleeping Initiative)
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost: N/A
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Operational Housing
 4. Total current budget for this head: £7,262k
 5. Source of funding: Department of Levelling Up, Homes and Communities.
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 6 Officers Fixed Term/Secondment
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
 2. Call-in: Applicable: Executive Decision
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications:
-

Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: N/A
-

Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: N/A
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected):

The Council provides frontline homelessness services from the Civic Centre, by phone and email, to residents each weekday and emergency out-of-hours services each evening, weekend and bank holiday. In 2022/23, the Housing Options and Support Service received

3165 approaches from households needing housing advice and support. Of these, 1719 households went on to receive a full homelessness assessment. This number is predicted to rise with the current economic crisis, high rents in the private rented sector and the increased mortgage/lending rates.

2. Impact Assessments: Vulnerable Adults and Children

The legislation pertaining to homelessness requires appropriate support and suitable accommodation to be provided to vulnerable people and households with children, at risk of homelessness. This funding allows advice, homelessness assessments and support to be provided to these households, including making referrals for additional support to colleagues in other departments including social care, and other public and voluntary sector organisations. Approx 1,500 families approached the Housing Options and Support service in 2022/23. Funding these services for vulnerable adults and families plays a key part within the Council's overall provision of homeless intervention, prevention and accommodation services.

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

The Homelessness Prevention Grant 2023-25

- 3.1.1 The Homelessness Prevention Grant is provided to each local authority to work with residents needing housing advice or assistance. This includes undertaking homelessness assessments and the provision of accommodation where customers are deemed to be in priority need. The grant also funds a range of housing options, which help the Officers prevent or relieve homelessness for residents approaching the Council. Bromley has received a Homelessness Prevention Grant for 2023/24 of £3.75m and £3.78m for 2024/25.
- 3.1.2 Bromley continues to face increased homelessness and the associated costs, particularly concerning accommodation placements for homeless families. On the 31 March 2023, the Council had 1547 households in temporary accommodation and 2548 on the Housing Register evidence of the housing need within the borough.
- 3.1.3 Under section 179 (1) of the Housing Act 1996, as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, authorities must provide information and advice on:
- Preventing homelessness.
 - Securing accommodation when homeless.
 - The rights of people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, and the duties of the authority.
 - Any help that is available from the authority or anyone else for people in the authority's district who are homeless or may become homeless and, how to access that help.
- 3.1.4 The Homelessness Prevention Grant provides financial support to allow the Council to deliver homeless services within the local authority area. The Housing Options and Support Service also offers outreach within excellent partnership arrangements, including the co-location of services with Bromley Homeless, HMP Probation Services, Women in Prisons and Green Parks House. Our work through this funding will continue to support vulnerable people who are in housing need. They will also be assisted by our Support and Resettlement and Money Advice teams, whose work is crucial in reducing the impact of homelessness.
- 3.1.5 During 2022/23, the Housing Options and Support Service prevented and relieved homelessness for 380 households and accepted a homelessness duty to 589. With the increase of staffing resources and new housing options, the prevention and relief performance outcomes are expected to rise, which will assist in reducing the number of homelessness acceptances.

3.2. Domestic Abuse Allocation

- 3.2.1 Within the DLUHC Homelessness Prevention Grant provision is a Domestic Abuse Allocation of Allocation of £69k for 2023/24, and a further £100k for 2024/25. The Department would like to work with Standing Together to improve the Council's response to those fleeing domestic abuse and to gain DAHA accreditation.
- 3.2.2 Standing Together is a national charity bringing communities together to end domestic abuse. In pioneering the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to domestic abuse in the UK, their aim is for organisations and agencies to work in partnership to identify and effectively respond to domestic abuse. (These organisations and agencies include the police, criminal justice partners, local authorities, social services, healthcare workers, faith communities, charities and housing services and providing.)

3.2.3 Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)

In 2014 Standing Together, in partnership with two housing associations - Gentoo Group and Peabody created the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), to improve how the housing sector responds to domestic abuse. They set up an accreditation process as a nationally recognised charter mark that has been endorsed by central government.

3.2.4 DAHA Framework details standards in eight priority areas, which the Housing Department will engage with, working with internal and external partners:

1. Policies & Procedures
2. Survivor-led case management
3. Publicity & awareness raising
4. Safety-led support
5. Perpetrator accountability
6. Intersectional & anti-racist practice
7. Staff development & support
8. Partnership & collaboration.

The Housing Department will implement practices, systems and policies to ensure they meet each of these standards before applying for accreditation. The Housing Department will be assigned a dedicated DAHA Officer, from Standing Together who will guide and assist us through the accreditation process.

3.2.5 The Department propose to appoint a fixed term Project Officer to lead on this project for 2 years, working alongside managers and officers across the Council. The post and DAHA accreditation and assessment fees will be funded from the Domestic Abuse Act - new burdens 2023 - 2025 funding and additional funding from the Homelessness Prevention Grant.

3.2.6. Accreditation and Assessment Fees

The DAHA accreditation membership annual fee for 2023/2024 will be £1,500 + VAT £300 = **£1800. This will be paid annually.**

The DAHA assessment fee will be **£5000.00**, which will be paid in advance.

Year	Domestic Abuse Allocations funding	DAHA Fee and funding	Project Officer	Remainder
2023/24	£69,000	£1,800	£47,683	£20,517
2024/25	£100,000	£6,800 (Includes £5,000 assessment fee)	£48,878	£44,322

The Housing Department wish to seek agreement to proceed with recruiting a Project Officer and to apply to undertake the DAHA accreditation. The fixed term post, (if not awarded as an internal secondment) will be subject to redundancy due to the duration of the contract. Any redundancy payments will be payable from the the Domestic Abuse Act - new burdens funding. The remainder of the funding (£64k across two years) will be used as a resource to undertake any work or initiatives required to achieve the accreditation and to raise awareness of domestic abuse across the borough.

The outcome for the Council will be more than financial, reducing the cost for housing and the public purse. The DAHA process also improves the quality of services for individuals approaching the Council due to domestic abuse. We want to ensure the services are joined up and delivered in an empathetic and safe manner, utilising all the resources available to us as a local authority. The accreditation will allow residents to know the breadth of our work, ensure services are empathetic and robust in tackling domestic abuse, in line with good practice.

The Accommodation for Ex-Offenders Programme

3.3.1 The aim of the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders programme (AFEO) is to increase access to new private rented sector tenancies for ex-offenders who are, or are at risk of becoming, homeless. The project is intended to:

- Reduce the number of homeless prison leavers sleeping rough on release.
- For prison leavers owed a homelessness duty, increase the proportion that secure a PRS tenancy as their outcome, with every individual being in settled accommodation with a minimum expected tenancy length of 12 months.
- Increase in the number of offenders that are in settled accommodation 3-months post release.

3.3.2 The Accommodation for Ex-Offenders programme (AFEO) was first introduced in July 2021 to support homeless prison leavers to access the private rented sector, reducing the chances of this cohort rough sleeping and reoffending. The new funding is available from April 2023 until March 2025 and is intended to build on the progress already made, with the ambition of supporting ex-offenders into sustainable accommodation with a reasonable expected tenancy length of 12 months, wherever possible.

3.3.3 Bromley Council bid for the second phase of the AFEO. The Council has been allocated up to £296,257 funding across the two year period. The proposed spend for the funding is within the table below:

	Accommodation for Ex-Offenders Funding	2023-24 (Year 1)	2024-25 (Year 2)
Fixed costs	Project Support Officer x 1 Fixed Term post Private Rented Sector Officer x 1 Fixed Term post	£90,787	£90,787
Flexible costs	Landlord Incentive Package. £114,684 *This includes the Help2 Rent Insurance Scheme	£57,342	£57,342
	Total	£148,129	£148,129

The following performance outcomes, have been agreed:

30 new tenancies for ex-offenders by end of March 2024
 A further 30 new tenancies by end of March 2025
A total number of 60 tenancies by end of March 2025.

3.3.4 DLUHC schedules payments each year financial year of up to £148,129, split across two payments (April and November), based on the performance outcomes in Council in its quarterly returns. DLUHC will pay the fixed costs within the scheme £181,573 at six-monthly intervals. The variable costs will only be awarded against the successful PRS outcomes and the associated spending by the Department in the previous period.

Challenges to delivering the scheme include attracting landlords willing to accept ex-offenders as tenants. The Council have an obligation to inform the landlord of the tenant's background; often, this can lead to them not being successful in acquiring a suitable property.

Procurement within the borough is increasingly complex due to high rents within a competitive private rented sector market. In Phase 2, we propose to pilot a landlord insurance scheme as an incentive to landlords when asking them to consider ex-offenders as prospective tenants. The Help2 Rent insurance scheme costs, on average, £331 per property, and the Department proposes piloting up to 20 insurance bonds with landlords using this new initiative. At the same time, we plan to review our procurement methods to ensure we maximise the housing options and supply available to re-house this cohort.

3.3.5 The Help2Rent Insurance scheme offers the following benefits to landlords:

- Legal expenses cover up to £25k
- Malicious damages cover up to £5k
- Up to 12 months' rent arrears cover (up to a maximum rent of £2500 pcm)
- £330 of mediation cover
- Underwriter is Royal Sun Alliance
- If a landlord makes a claim it will go straight to the insurance company rather than to the council
- No tenant referencing required
- Help2rent have a PRS team that procure properties at LHA and market on their website, and we are able to invite our clients to register with them to seek PRS.

The Rough Sleeping Initiative 5 Tranche (2023-24 payment)

3.4 The Council receives grant funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC) to enable it to undertake work with to tackle rough sleeping. Following a bid round, the Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI) funding has been allocated to each local authority for a 3 year period. This is the second year of the funding, DLUHC will make payment of £428,111 in two 6 monthly, tranche payments. The funding is ring fenced for Rough Sleeping Initiative services and will be spent on initiatives, resources and staffing as detailed in the table below. Staff will be recruited either by LBB or through a partner agency adhering to procurement rules. All fixed term posts, (which are not awarded as an internal secondment) will be subject to redundancy due to the duration of the contract. Any redundancy payments will be payable from the RSI grant funding.

	2023/24
Rough Sleeping Initiative Funding Award	£428,111
Employment Support Officer (ETE)	£47,256
Support & Resettlement Officer	£43,770
Rough Sleeping Team (Co-ordinator, and support workers)	£85,505
Private Rented Sector Incentives	£100,000
Personalisation Fund	£3,750
Flexible Surge Funding	£120,000
Tenancy Starter Fund	£10,000
Tenancy Sustainment fund	£17,830

3.5 It is proposed that the Council accept the DLUHC Homelessness Prevention Grant, RSI-5 and the AFEO funding to enable the provision of a range of services and housing options to vulnerable residents to prevent or relieve homelessness and to fulfil its statutory duty.

4. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Currently there are 7 officers employed on fixed term contracts in the service.

The Fixed-term Employees (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2002 prevent fixed-term employees being treated less favourably than permanent employees.

The ending of a fixed term contract is a dismissal in law and therefore if the grant funding was to cease, there could be redundancy implications if the employees have more than 2 years service. This would be managed in line with the Council's HR procedures for managing change which include the requirement to mitigate redundancies and seek suitable redeployment across the Council.

5. PROCUREMENT CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 This report primarily concerns draw down of grant. Any procurement arising will be subject to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

5.2 The Corporate Procurement Team will be consulted on the specifics of any procurement arising.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 This report details the proposed spend of three housing grants totalling £893k as set out below:

	2023/24	2024/25	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Domestic Abuse funding	69	100	169
Accommodation for Ex-Offenders	148	148	296
Rough Sleeping Initiative	428		428
	645	248	893

6.2 The 2023/24 budget already includes a sum of £3,387k for the Homelessness Prevention Grant which is ringfenced for the following principles:

- To fully enforce the Homelessness Reduction Act and contribute to ending rough sleeping by increasing activity to prevent single homelessness.
- Reduce family temporary accommodation numbers through maximising family homelessness prevention and reduce the use of unsuitable B&Bs for families.
- Ensure financial viability of services by contributing to the costs of statutory duties, including implementing the Homelessness Reduction Act and supporting with the costs of temporary accommodation.

The final allocation of £3,747k is therefore an increase of £360k, and it is requested that this is drawn down to the housing budget, with £69k allocated for Domestic Abuse work in line with the grant allocation (increasing to £100k in 2024/25), and the remainder of £291k used to offset increased temporary accommodation pressures.

6.3 The Accommodation for Ex-Offenders grant is ringfenced for spend detailed in the Council's application, and the Rough Sleeping Initiative grant is ringfenced for the providing Rough Sleeping Initiative funded services that are approved by DLUHC.

6.4 Details of the proposed spend are summarised in the table below:

	2023/24	2024/25	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Domestic Abuse</u>			
DAHA accreditation	2	7	9
Staffing (1 FTE)	47	49	96
Raising awareness/other initiatives	20	44	64
	69	100	169
<u>Accommodation for Ex-Offenders</u>			
Staffing (2 FTEs)	91	91	182
Landlord incentives	57	57	114
	148	148	296
<u>Rough Sleeping Initiative</u>			
Staffing (4 FTEs)	176		176
PRS incentives	100		100
Personalisation	4		4
Surge funding	120		120
Tenancy starter fund	10		10
Tenancy sustainment	18		18
	428	0	428
Total	645	248	893

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 This report requests the Executive approve the drawing down and spend of three grants as detailed in the main body of this report.

7.2 Under the Housing Act 1985 Section 1 (1), the Council is the Local Housing Authority. As such, the Council's homelessness duties are contained within the Housing Act 1996, Part 7, as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. The Council has a legal duty to provide interim (i.e. emergency) accommodation to homeless applicants, if, during their enquiries, there is a reason to believe that an applicant may be homeless, eligible for assistance, and in priority need.

7.3 The Accommodation for ex-Offenders Grant is provided by the Government with the aim of reducing reoffending and homelessness by supporting ex-offenders who might otherwise become homeless to access the private rented sector.

7.4 The Government Grant for the Rough Sleeping Initiative provides councils with long-term funding to support those sleeping rough or at risk of rough sleeping.

7.5 In accordance with the Financial Regulations and Procedures 2015, 3.2.2, "the Executive is responsible for taking in-year decisions on resources and priorities in order to deliver the budget policy framework within the financial limits set by the Council." The council must abide by any conditions stipulated by these government grants.

Non-Applicable Headings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT 7. PROCUREMENT AND PROJECT TIMESCALES AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS 8. 9. TRANSFORMATION/POLICY IMPLICATIONS. 10. IT AND GDPR CONSIDERATIONS. 11. STRATEGIC PROPERTY CONSIDERATIONS.
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	[Title of document and date]

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Report No.
HPR2023/032

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: EXECUTIVE

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS
Committee on Thursday 15 June

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Key

Title: LONDON CRICKET TRUST NON-TURF PITCHES FUND

Contact Officer: Paula Young, Head of Culture
Tel: 020 8461 7202 E-mail: paula.young@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director of Housing, Planning, Property and Regeneration

Ward: Penge & Cator, Biggin Hill, Orpington, St Mary Cray

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 The London Borough of Bromley has been approached by London Cricket Trust offering a £40k grant to fund the installation of four NTPs (Non-Turf Pitches) in four parks across the borough. This report seeks approval to accept the funding and proceed with the works.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Members of the RRH PDS:

- 2.1 Review the contents of the report and provide any comments to the Executive.

That Members of the Executive:

- 2.2 Agree to accept the England and Wales Cricket Board/ London Cricket Trust Grant, agree to proceed to procurement for the installation of the Non-Turf Pitches, and agree to the scheme being added to the capital programme.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

Summary of Impact: Following completion of the NTP (Non-Turf Pitch) installations usage will be either open and freely accessible or bookable at sites where designated sports managers or operators are put in place. Installation of these NTPs will increase physical activity in the wider community, with associated health benefits.

Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority:
 - (1) For children and young People to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
 - (2) For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices.
 - (4) For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment great for today and a sustainable future.
 - (5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
-

Financial

1. Capital cost of proposal: Externally funded £40k from London Cricket Trust
 2. Ongoing costs: None
 3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
 4. Total current budget for this head: N/A
 5. Source of funding: ECB/LCT via the DCMS (Department of Culture, Media & Sport)
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance
 2. Call-in: Applicable: Executive Decision.
-

Procurement

Summary of Procurement Implications: A preferred installation contractor will be selected via the council's procurement portal based on fixed price quotes.

Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: N/A
-

Carbon Reduction and Social Value

Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: N/A

Customer Impact

Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected): Unknown

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Council officers have been approached by the LCT (London Cricket Trust) regarding their NTPs (Non-Turf Pitches) installation programme across London boroughs. They and Kent Cricket want to increase cricket provision in the borough.
- 3.2 London Cricket Trust are currently delivering the 5th phase of the NTP installations and are now seeking confirmation of sites for the 6th phase of the programme. The 1st phase of the programme commenced in 2018, and to date the majority of London boroughs have already benefitted from the programme.
- 3.3 Bromley Council has been earmarked a grant of circa £40,000 to install NTPs at four sites in the borough. There is no capital match funding requirement and London Cricket Trust has said that the pitches that will be installed have an estimated life expectancy of 20 years. At the end of the 20 year period there is no requirement for the Council to replace the NTPs.
- 3.4 The maintenance of the NTPs is minimal (estimated at less than £500pa), and mainly relate to refreshing the markings. Any costs after the initial five years (within the first five years LCT manage any defects and maintenance), will be covered by the income received from bookings to use the NTPs.
- 3.5 Ideally the ECB would like to keep the grass to 25mil during the cricket season which surrounds installations. However, they understand that LBB/Idverde do not want to incur additional revenue maintenance cost year on year. Therefore, the ECB have agreed there will not be a requirement for any additional grass cutting other than what takes place currently at the sites earmarked for installations.
- 3.6 All NTP installations are 30m x 2.4m wide and can be used by established cricket clubs and casual usage alike. The activation of sites will be supported by a Kent Cricket SE London development officer encouraging as much usage as possible. This will ensure that the sites receive bookings and a small income.
- 3.7 Subject to approval the council will request quotes via the procurement portal from up to 6 nationally recognized suppliers securing at least 3 quotes selecting the successful contractor based on best value.
- 3.8 Once the NTPs have been installed an SLA/memorandum of understanding will be agreed between Bromley Council, Kent Cricket, London Cricket Trust, English Cricket Board and any site operator regarding roles and responsibilities in relation to the capital funding and operating requirements.
- 3.9 London Cricket Trust shared two successful case studies of NTP installation in other London boroughs, Sanderstead Recreation Ground in Croydon and Seven Kings Park in Redbridge. The Croydon site had two NTPs installed in 2019. The investment in these facilities has contributed to achieving the council's Outdoor facilities strategy ambitions, and the NTPs have generated enough income for the council to reinvest in future maintenance of the facilities. The Redbridge site was already established in terms of cricket provision. However, LCT have developed new starter kits which have engaged several local schools in using the site.

3.10 The below table outlines the sites earmarked for NTP installations, DSM stands for Designated Sports Managers who manage some of the sites:

Location of NTPs to be installation	Post Code	IMD	Operator	Activities & Clubs Onsite
Alexandra Rec Ground	SE26 5ND	6	None	FC Seymour Villas and Bowls Club in place, Football is the dominant sport
Biggin Hill Rec Ground	TN16 3LB	7	None	Pavilion is vacant subject to property review, opportunity to link up with local school Charles Darwin regarding Cricket activity
Goddington Park	BR6 9DH	8	DSM	Football already extensively played across the site (Orpington FC)
Poverest Park	BR5 2AB	7	DSM	Predominately a football site

4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

4.1 The cost of using the sites will be low cost with some free provision.

5. TRANSFORMATION/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Making Bromley Even Better Priority:

- (1) For children and young People to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
- (2) For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices.
- (4) For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment great for today and a sustainable future.
- (5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 All capital installation works will be funded from the ECB/LCT grant. This project will require the Executive to agree an addition to the Capital Programme before this funding can be utilised.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This report to Members of the RRH PDS and the Executive requests approval for the acceptance of grant funding totalling circa £40,000 (circa 10k per site NTP installation) from the English Cricket Board/London Cricket Trust. This report comes before the Executive as a drawdown of such a grant must be approved in this way in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

7.2 Although there is no statutory duty on Councils to provide NTPs, this use of the ECB/LCT grant accords with the corporate strategy of Making Bromley Even Better.

7.3 The installation of the NTPs will be small value works contracts to be procured as correctly detailed in the Procurement Implications.

7.4 The English Cricket Board have asked the Council to enter into a Memorandum of Association rather than a grant agreement as regards the roles and responsibilities of each party in relation to the operation and expected levels of use for each pitch. Legal Services will assist officers in concluding this documentation with the ECB.

8. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This report seeks to draw down a grant of £40k from the English Cricket Board and London Cricket Trust to fund the installation of four NTP's across the borough and add these works to the Capital Programme. The Approval of Executive is required to add the proposed works to the Capital programme.
- 8.2 In addition, the report indicates the intent to proceed to procurement for a suitable Contractor to undertake the works at an estimated value of £40k.
- 8.3 The proposed procurement is a works contract and the value falls below the thresholds set out in Part 2 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, so is only subject to Part 4 of the Regulations.
- 8.4 It is proposed to use a closed Request for Quotes process, using the Councils e-tendering system, in line with the requirements of 8.2.1 of the Councils Contract Procedure Rules for a contract of this value.
- 8.5 The procurement must comply with PCR 2015 principles of transparency and equal treatment. Any time limits imposed, such as for responding to adverts and tenders, must be reasonable and proportionate.
- 8.6 The Councils specific requirements for authorisation to proceed to procurement are set out in 1.3 of the Contract Procedure Rules with Officer Approval only required for a contract of this value. Approval to proceed is sought via this report as it aligns to the decisions for drawdown of grant and addition to the Capital Programme. Any subsequent Contract Award decision will be within the threshold of Officer decision.
- 8.7 In accordance with 2.1.2 of the Contract Procedure Rules, Officers must take all necessary professional advice.
- 8.8 As the resulting contract will be over £30k, an Award Notice will need to be published in Contracts Finder.
- 8.9 The procurement actions identified in this report are provided for within the Councils Contract Procedure Rules and can be completed in compliance with their content.

9. CUSTOMER IMPACT

91. It is anticipated there will be a significant uptick on the number of participants at these sites with the support of Kent Cricket in terms of 'activating' the Non-Turf Pitches.

Non-Applicable Headings:	Personnel implications; Property implications; Carbon reduction; Ward Councillor views.
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Appendix 1 – Pictogram (Impact LCT has had regarding installation of NTPs across London Boroughs)