

**Subject:** London Marathon Trust Grant for the North Hub Playground  
**Agenda Item:** Public item 8  
**Report No:** 4  
**Meeting date:** 22/05/2012  
**Report to:** Board  
**Report of:** Mark Camley, Director of Park Operations

**FOR DECISION**

---

**This report will be considered in public**

---

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1. At an early stage of the North Park and North Park Hub design London Marathon Trust (LMT) Limited was identified as a potential funder for creating an inspirational playground based on natural play principles. Designs have been progressed to create an inclusive playground that appeals to children of all ages (from toddlers through to teenagers). LMT has agreed in principle a grant towards the playground to the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC), subject to signing the grant agreement.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Board members are asked to **NOTE** that they will be asked, in the private session of this board meeting, to approve entering into the grant agreement, and allow this work to be carried out during the implementation of the North Park works.

**3. TIMING**

- 3.1. The decision is **URGENT**, as preparations are being made to take the designs are being finalised and made ready for planning.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1. The predecessor body to the London LLDC, the Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC) were looking to create a destination in the north of the Park - community hub and café with a small playground. It was noted that the Diana (Princess of Wales) Memorial Playground in Kensington Gardens attracts one million visitors a year, and that to attract this number of visitors to the new playground a substantial investment would be needed.
- 4.2. Following discussions, LMT agreed in principle to making a grant in order to deliver a quality playground that would attract a wide range of children and get them active. As part of the agreement, LMT's contribution would be acknowledged in the playground.

4.3. LMT is also considering making a separate grant of towards a community track on the stadium island. This is subject to a separate agreement.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1. This would allow the Development Corporation to finalise the designs and procure the building of the playground. The funding would be restricted to expenditure on the playground only, and the Development Corporation would need to provide evidence to this effect to LMT. If there was an unforeseen issue regarding the use of the playground further down the line then the Development Corporation may need to return some of the funding to LMT.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. The legal team have advised throughout the process, and there are no outstanding legal issues.

## **7. PRIORITY THEMES**

7.1. This investment contributes to all the priority themes previously set by OPLC - Promoting convergence and community participation; Championing equalities and inclusion; Ensuring high quality design; Ensuring environmental sustainability.

7.2. The proposed scheme is aimed at creating a play scheme that will be used by the widest range of children, encouraging natural play and enjoyment of the open space.

## **8. Appendices**

- **None**

<b>List of Background Papers:</b>
-----------------------------------

None
------

**Report originator(s):**

Mark Camley

**Telephone:**

0203 288 1857

**Email:**

markcamley@londonlegacy.co.uk