

Committee: King George's Fields Charity Board	Date: 8 March 2012	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No:
Report of: Corporate Director, Communities, Localities & Culture Originating Officer: Lisa Pottinger, Head of Sport and Physical Activity		Title: Exclusive Use of Mile End Stadium as a Games Time Training Venue by the United States Olympic Committee Wards Affected: All wards	

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides details of the proposed use of Mile End Stadium as a Games Time Training Venue by the United States of America Olympic Committee (USOC).

2. **DECISIONS REQUIRED**

King George's Fields Charity Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 Confirm its support for the USOC to have exclusive use of Mile End Stadium as a Games Time Training Venue from the 16th July - 15th August 2012 and to authorise signing of the agreement.

3. **BODY OF REPORT**

- 3.1 Following negotiations with the United States Olympic Committee in 2011, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the USOC, the Council and GLL which outlined the parameters for the exclusive use of Mile End Stadium during the 2012 Olympic Games. The MoU would then be subject to a formal agreement, which confirms the arrangements for use of the site.
- 3.2 Exclusive use of the stadium will have minimal impact on community use. Over the same two week period in 2011 approximately 1,000 visits were recorded at the Stadium. However, due to the anticipated travel difficulties associated with the Olympic Route Network and Ramadan falling within this period, a significant reduction in community use of the facility would be anticipated in July and August 2012.

3.3 In contrast to the minimal impact on community use, The American Track & Field Team training at Mile End Stadium provides a number of community benefits for the borough which include:

- Capital investment in the borough's sporting infrastructure
- Improvements to Mile End Stadium site security and
- A Community engagement programme

In addition to these benefits, there is also the reputational kudos associated with one of the borough's facilities being used by the world's best athletics team.

3.4 The Mile End Stadium Athletics track had been in situ for over 20 years and was coming to the end of its life. With no Council capital funds available to replace it, there was a significant risk that the track would not be recertified for community use by the UKA (United Kingdom Athletics) at its next assessment. The grant provided by The USOC in return for exclusive use between 16 July and 15th August enabled the track to be resurfaced in September 2011, at no cost to the Council. In addition, further capital investment by the USOC will also see the throwing circles and associated field areas upgraded over the next two months.

3.5 Hosting the American Team at Mile End Stadium presents a number of security related challenges, for which the USOC has assumed responsibility. Initial assessments have highlighted security improvements which should be made to the site and these improvements would benefit the facility in Legacy.

3.6 Mile End Park Stadium and Leisure Centre have higher levels of vandalism and anti-social behaviour than the borough's other leisure centres. The installation of additional CCTV cameras linked into the Command Centre at Mulberry Place will provide improved surveillance, ensure swifter tasking of enforcement personnel and reduce incidences of vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

3.7 The borough will also benefit from a community engagement programme with the USOC which provides opportunities to view warm up practice sessions with the US team, attend coaching clinics delivered by American Olympic coaching staff.

3.8 The Board is asked to note and confirm its support for USOC's exclusive use of the Mile End Stadium and agree for the legal agreement to be signed.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 4.1 The report asks the board to note and confirm support for the USOC's exclusive use of the Mile End Stadium between the 16th July and 15th August. The USOC provided a grant that enabled the track to be resurfaced in September 2011 at no cost to the Council, the community will benefit further from additional capital investment and improvements to the site security along with the community engagement programme.

5. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)

- 5.1 The Board has the power under the 2000 Scheme set up by the Charity Commission to let land provided it is for one of the purposes of the King Georges Field Trust for up to 10 years.
- 5.2 Lettings of the sports facilities at the Mile End Leisure Complex are not normally brought to the Board but due to the exclusive use arrangements for the Stadium and the enhanced security measures the Board's consent is sought to this letting. The proposed agreement for the exclusive use hire of the Stadium and the non exclusive use of parts of the Leisure Centre will bring improvements to the facilities which will then be available for community use. There are also "softer" benefits being negotiated under the agreement for example places for school children to watch practice sessions, clinics by USA National Team coaches and donation of sports memorabilia.

6. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 6.1 There are no direct sustainability implications in this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Managing financial risk is of critical importance to the Directorate and maintaining financial health is essential to sustaining and improving service performance. Specific risks are project managed, recorded and progress is monitored through the directorate risk register process.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 It is envisaged that improvements to site security, including the installation of CCTV cameras with active monitoring will significantly reduce anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the stadium and leisure centre.

9. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 9.1 Efficiency improvements are incorporated into capital works conducted on the site.

10. APPENDICES

**Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)
List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report**

Brief description of “background papers”

*Name and telephone number of holder
and address where open to inspection.*