

King George's Fields Trust Board Meeting 15 September 2021	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: James Thomas, Corporate Director Children and Culture	Classification: [Unrestricted]
Updates for King George's Fields Trust (KGFT): September 2021	

Lead Member	Councillor Sabina Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Sports
Originating Officer(s)	Stephen Murray, Head of Arts Parks and Events
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Reason for Key Decision	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
Forward Plan Notice Published	See forthcoming decisions webpage
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	[State Priority and/or Outcome from the Strategic Plan 2020-23]

Executive Summary

This report provides Trustees with updates on the KGFT activities and financial information in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission. The report seeks approval for the KGFT draft unaudited accounts for 2018-19 and 2019-20, and the Trust's annual reports for 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. It also provides an update on urgent repairs required to the outdoor lighting at Stepney Green Astro turf.

Recommendations:

The Board is recommended to:

1. Approve the draft unaudited accounts for 2018-19 and 2019-20.
[Appendices 1 and 2 to follow]
2. Approve the draft annual reports for 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21
[Appendices 3, 4 and 5].
3. Note an update on urgent repairs required to the outdoor lighting at Stepney Green Astro turf

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The King George's Fields Trust (KGFT) board is required to approve accounts to be audited and submitted to the Charity Commission for England and Wales. This report provides the draft unaudited accounts in advance of the final audited accounts being available.
- 1.2 Once the final audited accounts are available, a further report will be submitted to the Board to enable them to approve the annual accounts and reports for submission to the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 There are no alternatives as KGFT is a registered charity and bound by the legislation for charities.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 **Annual Reports and Accounts:** The preparation of the Trust's accounts has been severely delayed due to a range of issues. As a consequence, the Trust's annual accounts for 2018-19 and 2019-20 are now overdue for submission to the Charity Commission.
- 3.2 Steps have been taken to address this matter and the unaudited accounts for 2018-19 and 2019-20 [Appendices 1 and 2 to follow] have been prepared for submission to the appointed auditors Arnold Hill, subject to the Trust's approval.
- 3.3 The draft annual reports have been produced in keeping with the requirements of the Charity Commission for organisations with a turnover of over £1million. The draft annual reports for 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 are at Appendices 3, 4 and 5.
- 3.4 **Update on Stepney Green Astro turf.** The floodlights at Stepney Green Astro turf are currently not working. The replacement parts are not available in the UK and the European lighting company (that is the sole supplier) is facing long delays in supplying the parts to the UK. As a consequence, the Parks team has investigated an alternative scheme to refurbish the floodlights by converting the light heads to LED lights, which will be cheaper to run and more energy efficient than the existing fittings. The cost of refurbishing the floodlights is estimated to be £30,000 and the funding for this will be found from within the Trust's resources.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The King George's Fields Trust manages lands and facilities which are open to all. Where charges have to be made, such as artificial football pitches, charges are kept at affordable levels for the local community.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no further statutory implications.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 The financial implications arising from the unaudited accounts are contained in the Appendices to this report.

6.2 The council needs to approve any financial contribution made in relation to capital costs that the trust will incur in refurbishing the floodlights within the park.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 The Council is the Trustee of the Mile End Charity pursuant to the Governing Documents which is a Scheme dated 28th February 2000. The Council's Constitution establishes the King George's Fields Charity Board to administer the charities affairs and discharge the Council's trustee functions.

7.2 The purpose of the charity is to preserve the Park Lands in perpetuity as a memorial to King George V under the provisions of the King George's Fields Foundation. The 1965 Scheme which established the Foundations gave its purpose as "to promote and to assist in the establishment and to promote the preservation throughout the United Kingdom of Playing Fields for the use and enjoyment of the people ..." Additionally, the trustees may "apply the land to such charitable purposes as are set out in the Recreational Charities Act 1958"

7.3 As trustees, the Board must make sure that the charity is carrying out the purposes for which it is set up, and no other purpose. Further, the Board must act in the Charity's best interests and manage the Charity's resources responsibly.

7.4 The framework for accounting by charities imposes on charities a legal duty to submit to the Commission annual reports, accounts and returns. The duty to file accounts and the trustees' annual report with the Commission applies to all Chartered Incorporated Organisations irrespective of income and to all other registered charities whose gross yearly income exceeds £25,000.

7.5 The recommendations in the report are ones that the Board can approve as Trustees of the Charity. _____

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- List any linked reports
- State NONE if none.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Unaudited accounts for 2018-19 to follow
- Appendix 2 Unaudited accounts for 2019-20 to follow

- Appendix 3 Annual report for 2018-19
- Appendix 4 Annual report for 2019-20
- Appendix 5 Annual report for 2020-21

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

Stephen Murray. Head of Arts Parks and Events.