

**Grounds and Environmental Services Committee**

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**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Title:** Astral Park Task and Finish Group

**Purpose of the Report:** To seek the appointment of members to the Astral Park Task and Finish Group in order to continue with the review of this Town Council asset.

**Contact Officer:** Mark Saccoccio, Town Clerk

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<b>Corporate Objective</b>	<b>To ensure value for money, operational efficiency and a structure which will underpin current and future service delivery by the Town Council</b>	
<b>Implications:</b>		
<b>Financial</b>	√	The outcomes arrived at by the Task and Finish Group may well influence future charging regimes
<b>Human Resources</b>	√	The outcomes arrived at by the Task and Finish Group may well influence the way future assets are managed.
<b>Operational/Service delivery</b>	√	The outcomes arrived at by the Task and Finish Group may well influence the way future assets are managed.
<b>Procedural/Legal</b>	√	The outcomes arrived at by the Task and Finish Group may well influence the way future assets are managed.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

Should members be minded, the proposals is:

- 1.1 For the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee to appoint no less than 4 Members to the Astral Park Task and Finish Group.**

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As Members are minded, the Astral Park Task and Finish Group met for the first time in December 2018. Its purpose to carry out a “root and branch” review of the facility and to offer the Town Council direction in terms of its operating model. During the discussions, it was agreed that the scope of the group be widened in order to consider and address the management of all town council assets that were capable of being hired out.
- 2.2 Despite best endeavours, it proved impossible for the review to be completed in advance of the local council elections which took place in May of this year. Therefore, in order to safeguard the work carried out so far and to maintain momentum, it was agreed by Council at its meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> April that:
- “The work of the Task and Finish Group continues into the new Council administration and until such time as it can arrive at proposals to inform future management of town council assets”**
- 2.3 In accordance with the above recommendation, the purpose of this report is to seek the appointment of at least three Members to the Task and Finish Group. Given the complexity of the task in hand and the progress that has so far been made (see appended report), there is justification in seeking to re-appoint to the Group those that previously sat on it. With one exception, 3 of the 4 Members who previously sat on the Group could continue should they fit to do so. The decision as to who should make up the Group rests with this Standing Committee.
- 2.4 To support the work of the Task and Finish Group, the following timetable provides key milestones. It is anticipated that the Group should be in a position to present its recommendations to the 9<sup>th</sup> September meeting of this committee.

### Astral Park Task and Finish Group – Proposed Timetable

Date:	Committee:	Comments:
29 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Council	Endorsed that the work of the Task and Finish Group continues into the new administration and until such time as it can arrive at proposals to inform future management of town council assets.
10 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Grounds and Environmental Services	To appoint no less than 3 Members to the Task and Finish Group whose purpose is to continue the work started in the

		previous administration into the way town council assets are managed and operated.
June 2019	Task and Finish Group	Officers to arrange the first meeting of the reconvened group. It is anticipated that further meeting(s) be scheduled between June and September.
9 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Grounds and Environmental Services	Recommendations arrived at by the Task and Finish Group to be made to the Standing Committee. A decision will be made as to the need to continue or otherwise with the Task and Finish Group.
14 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Personnel Sub-Committee	Any recommendations arriving from the Task and Finish Group that have human resource implications are to be made to this meeting.
18 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	Policy and Finance Committee	Any decisions arrived at by the Personnel Sub-Committee will be considered by the Policy and Finance Committee
2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2019	Grounds and Environmental Services Committee	Budgetary implications will be considered here and included within the emerging service area budget.
27 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Council	Should it be necessary, ratification would ultimately rest with Council.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 To date, considerable progress has been made on the review. Based on what has been achieved so far, there is every possibility that recommendations from the group will be presented to the September meeting of this committee. Based

on the council's committee reporting process, it is unlikely that any recommendation(s) would be in place before the end of this financial year (2019-20).

End.