



**Report to the** East Area  
Committee

29 July 2025

**Wards:** All Wards

Barbara Robson Playing Fields Delegation Report
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**Report of the** Director of Legal Services and Partnerships

This item is not exempt  
Therefore exempt reasons are not applicable

1. Purpose of the Report and Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting of 23rd June 2025, the Corporate Trustees Committee undertook its annual review and reaffirmed the delegation of its function as corporate trustee in relation to Barbara Robson Playing Fields, to the East Area Committee for the 2025-26 Municipal Year; to the extent permitted by the delegations to Area Committees in Part B of the Constitution, including any executive delegations given by the Leader.
- 1.2 This report requests that Members of the East Area Committee consider the options for the future management of Barbara Robson Playing Fields and determine whether to retain or onwardly delegate the powers delegated to them, as set out in the Terms of Reference.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the East Area Committee determine whether to retain or onwardly delegate the powers delegated to them in respect of the Barbara Robson Playing Fields for the 2025-26 Municipal Year, as set out in the Terms of Reference, to the extent permitted by the delegations to Area Committees in Part B of the Constitution, including any executive delegations given by the Leader.
- 2.2 That the East Area Committee notes the Terms of Reference as set out at Appendix A.
- 2.3 That should the East Area Committee determine to delegate the decision-making powers to a sub-committee thereof, the Committee receives an annual update on the work undertaken by the Trust, in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

- 2.4 That, where exceptional circumstances require decisions to be taken on events which fall outside of the Committee meeting cycle, authority is delegated to the Head of Service, Area and Neighbourhood Management or Community Manager to take the decision, in consultation with Members.
  - 2.5 That the Area Committee receive a further update detailing the outcome of the review of the financial and administrative processes undertaken by Corporate Finance and Legal Services.
3. Reasons for Recommendations
- 3.1 To enable oversight of Barbara Robson Playing Fields to be undertaken at a local level, making best use of local knowledge of the area and its residents.
  - 3.2 Where a Local Authority is trustee of a charity it is the corporate body, acting in accordance with its usual procedures, which is “the trustee”. The terms of the charity must be clearly understood. Keeping the governing document, delegations, financial and administrative processes under review helps to ensure that actions properly reflect the charitable operations.
  - 3.3 Adoption of the Terms of Reference will ensure the continuation of a consistent approach across all Trust parks in the City.
4. Impact on other Executive Committees (including Area Committees)
- 4.1 There is no impact upon other Committees.
5. Background
- 5.1 The Barbara Robson Playing Fields were originally conveyed to Trustees on 12 April 1928 to hold in trust for the purposes of the Recreation Grounds Act 1859. That Act provided that any lands may be lawfully conveyed to trustees, to be held by them as open public grounds for the resort and recreation of adults, and as playgrounds for children and youths, subject to any reservation, restrictions, and conditions which the donor or grantor may think fit: The restrictions placed upon the use of the Playing Fields are set out in Schedule 3 of the transfer. In February 1968, the Trustees transferred the Playing Fields to the Council to act as Trustees of the Playing Fields.
  - 5.2 The Council’s Constitution states in Part B at paragraph 14.2 in relation to Corporate Trustee Committee

*The Committee may, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, delegate the discharge of any of its functions to an Area Committee or officer of the Council.*

- 5.3 These delegations are reviewed annually and were reaffirmed by the Corporate Trustee Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025; Minute 3 refers as follows: -

**Agreed: -**

*(a) That the Corporate Trustee Committee delegates its function as corporate trustee in relation to Barbara Robson Playing Fields to the East Area Committee for the 2025-26 Municipal Year to the extent permitted by the delegations to Area Committees in Part B of the Constitution including any executive delegations given by the Leader, and*

*(b) that the Corporate Trustee Committee expressed a preference for the Area Committee to create a sub-committee, of size, to be determined by the East Area Committee.*

- 5.4 Hull Culture and Leisure (HCAL) managed the booking provision and license permissions for use of parks in the city on behalf of the Council (subject to meeting certain conditions). HCAL's role is to undertake the necessary checks and licences prior to permissions being granted to use a site. However, the East Area Committee needs to give permission in principle for use of the land for an event, prior to detailed consideration of the proposals from the applicant by HCAL.

- 5.5 Officers in Corporate Finance and Legal Services have commenced a review of financial and administrative processes applicable to the Trust as a charity and a further report will be submitted to the Corporate Trustee Committee in due course and the East Area Committee/Sub-Committee will be consulted in this process. This will also include a review of Park assets and booking/charging processes for events.

6 Issues for Consideration

- 6.1 The East Area Committee is requested to review the delegations and how these are exercised to determine whether the delegations are retained at Area Committee level or onwardly delegated to a sub-committee thereof.

## 6.2 Equalities Impact Information

Enabling decisions on the management of the Barbara Robson Playing Fields has no adverse effects on any group with protected characteristics.

Any future decisions taken in relation to the management of the Playing Fields will be subject to the formal report process and therefore, further consideration will be given on each report, taking into account the individual needs and ensuring that any impact is mitigated.

The approval of future events will also consider any likely impact and ensure that these are open and accessible to all.

## 7. Options and Risk Assessment

- 7.1 Option 1 - That the East Area Committee retains the corporate trustee function in relation to Barbara Robson Playing Fields for the 2025-26 Municipal Year.

This delegation is subject to the existing delegations to Area Committees set out in Part B of the Constitution, including executive delegations from the Leader.

This adopts a consistent approach in line with other parks held in Trust by Hull City Council and creates minimal risk or requirement for additional resources as it would simply add items for consideration to an existing meeting and agenda.

Where exceptional circumstances require an urgent decision to be taken outside of the Committee's bi-monthly meeting schedule, decisions could be taken by the head of service, Area and Neighbourhood Management or Community Manager, in consultation with the trustees.

- 7.2 Option 2 - That the East Area Committee confirms its onward delegation of the corporate trustee functions in relation to Barbara Robson Playing Fields for the 2025-26 Municipal Year, to a sub-committee thereof, to undertake oversight and decision making to the extent permitted by the delegations to Area Committees in Part B of the Constitution, including any executive delegations given by the Leader; and noting the stipulations detailed within the Terms of Reference at Appendix A.

Where urgent decisions are required outside of the sub-committee meeting cycle, decisions may be taken by the East Area Committee to minimise the requirement for additional meetings and to ensure that urgent decisions are undertaken in a timely manner.

A schedule of meetings will need to be agreed in accordance with the Terms of Reference, which will enable the trustees to ensure that their corporate trustee duties continue to be met.

8. Consultation

8.1 No consultation has been required.

9. Comments of the Monitoring Officer(Director of Legal Services and Partnerships)

9.1 The recommendations are consistent with the delegated authority conferred upon the Corporate Trustee Committee in the Constitution. When acting in capacity of trustee, the Committee must deliberate and make decisions in the best interests of the Barbara Robson Playing fields Trust(SL)

10. Comments of the Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance and Transformation)

10.1 The Section 151 Officer notes the recommendations in the report and has no further comments to add (CM).

11. Comments of the Assistant Director OD & HR and compliance with the Equality Duty

11.1 The Assistant Director of OD and HR notes the report however there are no workforce implications for the council. (KR)

12. Comments of Overview and Scrutiny

12.1 This decision has not been subject to pre-decision scrutiny. (Ref. Sc8839 FH))

13. Comments of Councillor Pritchard, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure

13.1 I support the recommendations detailed within the report on the grounds that the Area Committees have extensive local knowledge of the area and are best placed to work closely with the community and understand the needs of their residents.

15. Comments of Councillor Dad, Deputy Leader of the Council

15.1 I support the recommendation contained at Option 2.

Ian Anderson, Director of Legal Services and Partnerships

Contact Officer: Philip Todd Telephone No: 6136119

Officer Interests: None

Background Documents: - A list of background documents must be included. These documents are then available (if not exempt) for public inspection.

Barbara Robson Playing Fields Trust Deeds  
Minutes of the Corporate Trustee Committee 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025  
Terms of Reference (attached)

### Implications Matrix

**This section must be completed and you must ensure that you have fully considered all potential implications**

This matrix provides a simple check list for the things you need to have considered within your report

If there are no implications please state

I have informed and sought advice from HR, Legal, Finance, Overview and Scrutiny and the Climate Change Advisor and any other key stakeholders i.e. Portfolio Holder, relevant Ward Members etc prior to submitting this report for official comments	Yes
I have considered whether this report requests a decision that is outside the Budget and Policy Framework approved by Council	Yes
Value for money considerations have been accounted for within the report	Yes
The report is approved by the relevant City Manager	Yes
I have included any procurement/commercial issues/implications within the report	No
I have considered the potential media interest in this report and liaised with the Media Team to ensure that they are briefed to respond to media interest.	No
I have included any equalities and diversity implications within the report and where necessary I have completed an Equalities Impact Assessment and the outcomes are included within the report	No
Any Health and Safety implications are included within the report	No
Any human rights implications are included within the report	No
I have included any community safety implications and paid regard to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act within the report	No
I have liaised with the Climate Change Advisor and any environmental and climate	No

change issues/sustainability implications are included within the report	
I have included information about how this report contributes to the City Plan/ Area priorities within the report	Yes
I have considered the impact on air quality, carried out an appropriate assessment and included any resulting actions or opportunities necessary to improve air quality in the report.	No