

# Birmingham City Council

## Trust and Charities Committee

13<sup>th</sup> March 2023



**Subject: Highbury Estate – Update report from Chamberlain Highbury Trust**

**Report of: Assistant Director Property**

**Report author: Nigel Oliver**

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

### 1 Executive Summary

To update the Committee on activities by Chamberlain Highbury Trust on the Highbury Estate and to seek the award of a further grant to Chamberlain Highbury Trust.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the report from Chamberlain Highbury Trust set out as Appendix 1
- 2.2 To approve a grant of £33,000 from the unrestricted funds of the Highbury Estate funds for the expenditure to be undertaken by Chamberlain Highbury Trust in the financial year 2023/24.

### 3 Background

- 3.1 The further grant funding is in support of the continuing operations of Chamberlain Highbury Trust in managing the Highbury Estate and in their actions in securing National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) monies.
- 3.2 The Highbury Trust holds the freehold interest of the land in trust as Sole Trustee and is empowered to undertake actions to properly manage the assets of the Trust including the making of awards to support the bids for a refurbishment of Highbury.
- 3.3 The Highbury Estate is held in trust as Registered Charity no. 1039194 since 1994. Chamberlain Highbury Trust, registered charity no. 1169845, has been set in place to best resolve the governance issues and to manage the Estate while seeking external grants to enable the refurbishment of Highbury.

#### **4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal**

- 4.1 Matters are progressed via Chamberlain Highbury Trust as their placement in managing the land and partner organisations on the Highbury Estate resolves the former governance issues and represent the best opportunity to win new monies for the betterment of the Estate. If successful in their bid for NLHF funds monies CHT will accept a 125-year lease of the remainder of the Estate. To continue to properly support them financially in the meantime is an appropriate use of Trust funds. To do nothing is not an option.

#### **5 Appendices**

- 5.1 Appendix 1 Report from Chamberlain Highbury Trust to Trusts and Charities Committee