Purpose of Paper
To update the District Partnership on the potential for improvements to Crossley Playing Fields and to agree the way forward.

Recommendations
That the District Partnership:
- Notes the information presented and support the proposals
- Agrees to set up a Working Group to explore funding options and proposals for Crossley Playing Fields.
- Agree that the Working Group will report back to the District Partnership in 12 months time.
1. **Introduction and background**

1.1 Crossley Playing Fields is a large site with six full size football pitches currently. Crossley is identified in the Manchester FA’s plan for football as being of importance in the borough. However, the existing pitches are not used to capacity as many of the pitches suffer from water logging.

1.2 The site has communal changing and shower facilities which can serve up to four teams with a separate referee facility. The changing rooms have recently been repaired by the Council (at a cost of £28,000) following a number of break ins and vandalism. The work has included repairs to the heating system and boiler, strengthening the roof and a new alarm system.

1.3 In March 2010, planning permission was granted for the redevelopment of the Crossley estate under the PFI4 programme. This planning permission means that there will be the loss of one full size pitch at Crossley Playing Fields. The Planning Committee determined that in order to compensate for the loss of the open space and in lieu of providing additional open space within the new housing, a financial contribution of £250,000 to enhance Crossley Playing Fields should be paid by the developer Inspiral to the Council. The commuted sum will be paid to the Council at the point the PFI4 contract is signed hopefully around Oct/Nov 2011.

1.4 The site has potential for sustaining a wide range of sporting activity, however significant improvement are required to the site. A full feasibility study, encompassing a soil and level survey would be required to determine the extent of works required. However, informal discussions with a pitch specialist have indicated that as a minimum the pitches need landscaping and draining, and security issues addressed. This is likely to cost in the region of £450,000, and significantly more than the £250,000 being made available. There are also issues with methane on this site, which may increase any costs incurred.

1.5 Additional funding sources need to be explored. The Football Foundation and Sport England are two possible sources.
1.6 Crossley has the potential to be a significant site in the delivery of sporting provision in the borough but does need significant improvement. The aspirations for the site are to:

- upgrade the pitches and resolve the water logging issues,
- reconfiguring the site layout to maximise the use of the remaining space,
- incorporate other sports and activities on the site, where possible
- Maximise the use of the site and changing rooms for community groups and organisations.

2. Steering Group

2.1 In anticipation of the PFI contract being signed and the payment of the £250,000 being paid. It is proposed to set up a steering group to explore opportunities for improvements and also what sources of funding could be utilised. The Steering Group would consist of:

- Ward Councillors (Cllr McLaren to Chair)
- Area Regeneration
- Neighbourhood Manager
- Parks & Streetscene
- Integrated Youth Services (Sports Development)
- Cycling/footpaths officer
- Football Club Representatives (Chadderton Park Junior FC and Chadderton JFC)
- Community representatives
- Oldham Community Leisure
- Any others?

3. Recommendations

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