

## **CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Sport and Recreation Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 4 December 2017

**TITLE:** Artificial Football Turf - Update

**DATE:** 10 November 2017

**AUTHOR/S:** Ann-Marie Mori, Policy Analyst, City Future  
Aaron Phillips, Senior Property & Parks Planner, City Networks

---

### **REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY**

It is recommended that this report be considered with the public excluded, as permitted by the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, because:

**s7(2)(i) Negotiations**

---

### **RECOMMENDATION(S) TO COUNCIL**

- 1. That the information about the process to select a site for a future artificial football turf is received.**
- 

### **1. BACKGROUND**

An artificial football turf was first mooted by Central Football in 2010 as part of a regional or national talent centre proposal. Various iterations of the proposal were considered between 2013 and 2015 with several possible turf sites scoped by Council. These included some Council parks, as well as education sector sites able to support an artificial turf development.

In 2015 the Council agreed to include a new capital programmes in the 2015/25 10 Year Plan for \$83,000 in the 2019/20 year (for design and consenting), and \$1,623,000 for construction in the 2020/21 year - subject to 50% part external funding with the assumption the turf would be located on Council land. (Reference Programme 1133 – Artificial Sportsfield)

In 2017 Central Football presented a submission to the 2017/18 Annual Budget to request that Council would consider funding the project earlier than currently allowed for in the 10

Year Plan. Central Football has indicated a preference to locate the turf at Massey University to enable them to establish a 'Home of Football' in the Manawatū. Central Football has proposed the following requirements:

- Artificial turf is restricted to football only (otherwise NZ Football will not contribute financially through FIFA project monies)
- Preferably 3-5 grass turfs alongside/around the opportunity/space to eventually put a half sized artificial turf alongside, for warm ups
- Sufficient changing and referees rooms to service how many fields there are
- Access to a gymnasium/indoor space for training and to accommodate futsal
- Access to other training facilities
- Accommodation nearby to house participants at Regional Talent Centres, National Talent Services, Secondary School tournaments and visiting teams for other regional/national events – for both training and playing
- Meeting rooms and office space for Central Football staff
- A location that is not limited/restricted by perception of ownership or being locked up all the time due to lack of supervision
- Linked to education as there would be significant advantages for Palmerston North as a city, and football as a sport
- Maximum usage during the day, not just the weekends and evenings when it would be used for competitions

Council resolved to 'seek to bring forward the Artificial Football Turf request for information process into the 2017/18 year'. During deliberations on Central Football's submission, Councillors indicated that they were seeking direction on the viable options in terms of the turf location and potential partnership arrangements.

## **2. NEXT STEPS**

Council officers have developed some high level criteria to short-list potential sites for further analysis. Council officers have been guided by the particular code and aspirational requirements of Central Football (as outlined above), as well as other criteria. These detailed criteria can be grouped as follows:

- Purpose of the turf
- Space requirements
- Facilities and infrastructure
- Proximity/accessibility
- Ground and other considerations

Officers have made an assessment of the Council sportsfields available, and of education sector land by considering each opportunity against both sets of criteria.

As part of this exercise officers ruled out locations where:

- Other sporting codes would need to be displaced (e.g. summer codes requiring specialist investment) in order to accommodate Central Football’s requirements.
- An artificial turf, with associated grass fields, with a predominantly football only use would not be suitable from a broader community or school perspective.

As a result of this assessment, the current sites that are considered worthy of more detailed analysis and discussion with stakeholders are:

- Massey University
- Ashhurst Domain
- Monrad Park
- Celaeno Park in conjunction with Cornerstone Christian School
- Skoglund Park in conjunction with Freyberg High School

Some consideration will also be given to the development potential at Arena Manawatū and Palmerston North Boys’ High School.

Initial conversations have been held with these parties with the expectation of continuing these discussions to seek further detailed information early in 2018 to inform the decision making process.

Depending on the outcome of those discussions, officers will then be in a position to recommend a process for selection of a site and establishing any associated partnership arrangements. In this regard consideration will be given to applying the process used last year for the third hockey turf facility.

It is proposed to address these matters under a report to the Sport and Recreation Committee in February/March 2018 in order to align with the Ten Year Plan deliberations.

### 3. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide?	No
Are the decisions significant?	No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?	No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council’s policies or plans?	No

### ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Ann-Marie Mori  
**Policy Analyst**

Aaron Phillips  
**Senior Property & Parks  
Planner**