

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 6 JUNE 2017

BRECHIN INCH

REPORT BY HEAD OF TECHNICAL AND PROPERTY SERVICES

ABSTRACT

Brechin All-Weather pitch was damaged during Storm Frank in 2015 and the report proposes declaring the pitch surplus, along with the toilets and paddling pool, at the Inch, River Street, with a view to exploring the potential of transferring the pitch to a community group.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to declare the properties surplus to requirements and notes the Head of Technical and Property Services, under delegated authority, may consider transferring the pitch to a community group.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN

2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcome contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our communities are safe, secure and vibrant

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The all-weather pitch at the leisure centre at River Street, Brechin was deemed to be nearing the end of its serviceable life when it was flooded in December 2015 during Storm Frank. With the imminent opening of the new Brechin Campus in February 2016 the pitch was to become redundant and would not have been re-useable.

3.2 Like similar Council property the pitch was self-insured and no claim was feasible for the pitch. Similarly the wall around the pitch partially collapsed during the flood and was self-insured. The costs of repairing the wall is estimated at £7,500 and repairs to the pitch would exceed £20,000.

3.3 The pitch is on Brechin Common Good land, and has been partially removed by persons unknown.

3.4 The paddling pool at the Inch in River Street Brechin has been unused for several years, and Meilkie Mill toilets near to the former leisure centre were closed in 2014 and were partially demolished ahead of a proposal to use the area for Brechin Flood Prevention scheme. The community group, Inch Maintenance Preservation Society, (IMPS) have been in discussion with the council for some time regarding taking on the paddling pool and the area of grass in the vicinity, along with the toilet building, to run the facilities as part of a community project. IMPS have already undertaken some upgrading works following the completion of the Brechin Flood Prevention Scheme. The pitch, toilets, paddling pool and associated area are shown on the plan in **Appendix 1**.

4. CURRENT POSITION

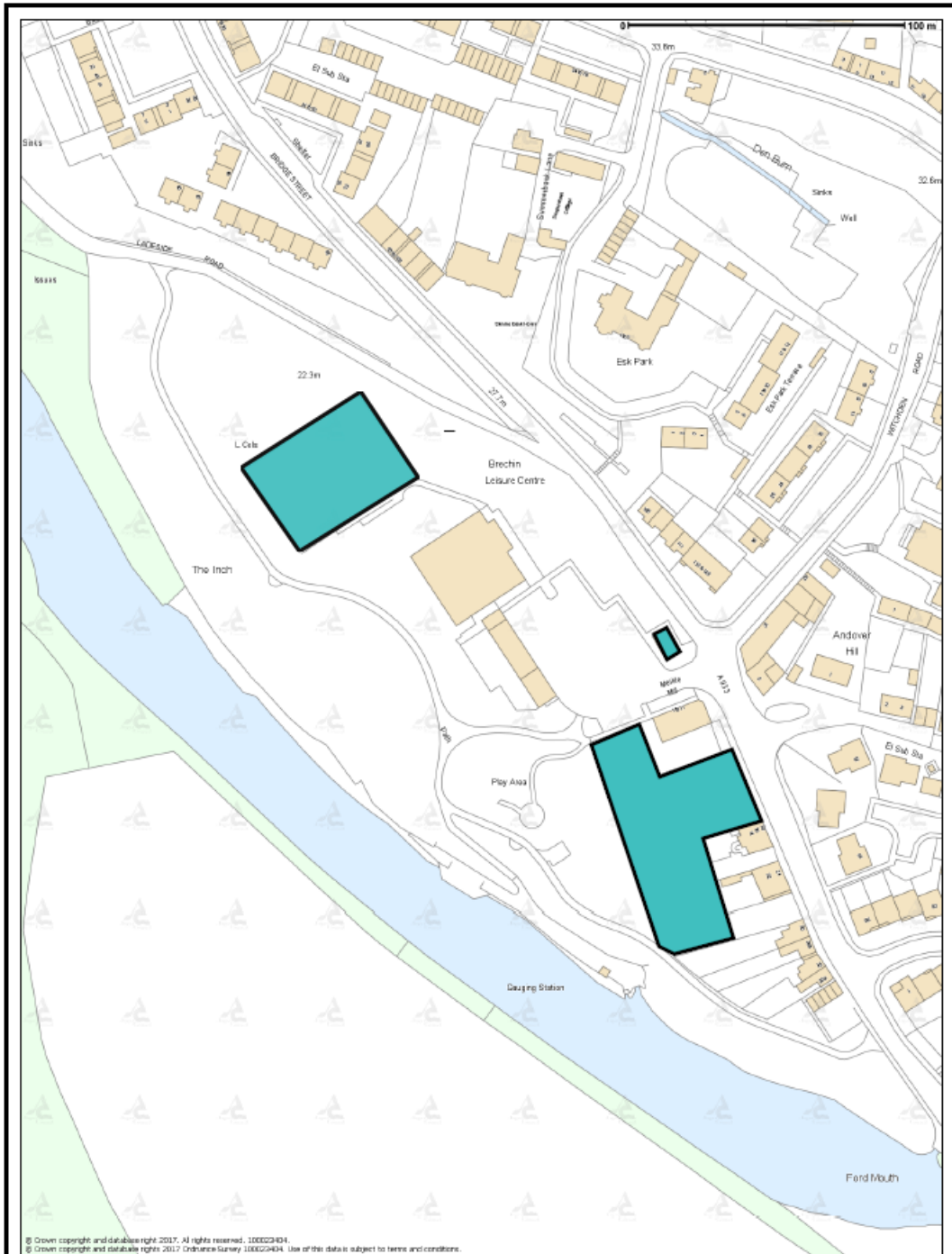
4.1 The Council has been approached by some members of the City of Brechin Community Council along with representatives of the Inch Maintenance Preservation Society (IMPS) with a view to the community taking over the responsibility for the pitch, potentially as an extension of the current proposals for IMPS to take over and run the former paddling pool/former toilets building.

- 4.2 The availability of the property has been circulated to all directorates with no interest being shown.
- 4.3 It is proposed that the wall is rebuilt to secure the area, and thereafter potentially transferred to the community, subject to an agreement being negotiated by the Head of Technical and Property Services.
- 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**
- 5.1 The costs of reinstating the wall to secure the area will be funded by the Council's Property Services Renewals and Repairs funding 2017/18.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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Appendix 1 – Plan of Inch Brechin River Street



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Technical and Property Services



Breachin Inch

Land to be declared surplus

