**Item No: C0822(1) Item 4**

**Subject: Henson Park Plan of Management- Amendments to Leasing and Licensing Provisions**

**Prepared By:** Aaron Callaghan - Parks and Recreation Planning Manager

**Authorised By:** Simone Plummer - Director Planning

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| **RECOMMENDATION**  **That:**   1. **Council notes the need to amend the leasing and licensing provisions of the adopted 2021 Plan of Management for Henson Park. These changes will enable future leasing and licensing for sporting and recreational use of the park, including future use by the AFL and the Newtown jets and for the development of the King George V Memorial Grandstand.** 2. **Council notes the proposed clarifications and amendments which will be made to the Plan of Management in relation to ensuring that public access arrangements in relation to the Amy Street Footpath are safeguarded and strengthened in the Plan of Management and master plan for the park.** 3. **Council publicly exhibit the proposed amendments to the Henson Park Plan of Management (Attachment 1) for no less than 28 days with a 42-day period for public submissions.** 4. **At the conclusion of the public exhibition period, an amended Plan of Management for Henson Park is brought back to Council for discussion on the public exhibition outcomes and for Council to resolve the adoption of an amended Plan of Management for Henson Park.** |

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**DISCUSSION**

At its Ordinary Council meeting on Tuesday 20 July 2021, Council adopted a plan of management for Henson Park.

In 2021, Council was approached by NSW AFL and the Newtown Jets following the announcement that the Sydney Swans were successful in being granted entry into the Australian Football League Women’s Competition in Sydney for 2022. The Women’s Competition is to be conducted during the sporting summer season and the ALF seek to use the Park as a venue for its Women’s team.

Significantly, the AFL approached Council with respect to a major capital works upgrade program for the Park, the proposal for which aligns with the future works identified in the masterplan accompanying the adopted Plan of Management for Henson Park.

The AFL proposed to partner with Council and the Newtown Jets to upgrade the grandstand known as King George V Memorial Grandstand, to improve the facilities and the general amenity of Park and to seek a nonexclusive license for match play and training at no cost for a period of 21 years. (The AFL have estimated the cost of the Project to be $7M to $10M and it is proposed by the AFL that the funding sources will be:

* State Multisport Grant - $5M (paid from the State to AFL - $2.5M and paid in kind through AFL carrying out the construction works – another $2.5M)
* AFL contribution - $2.5M
* Inner West Council - $500,000 capped (on the basis of a Council resolution dated 26 October 2021.

At its Ordinary meeting on Tuesday 26 October 2021, Council in considering an update report on Henson Park resolved in part the following:

1. *Council endorse the proposed redevelopment of the Park Grandstand and supporting amenities;*
2. *Council Officers consult with the Office of Local Government about the appropriate type of agreement for the implementation of the Project and report back to Council;*

To ensure that the provisions in the Plan of Management around leases and licences are robust it is proposed that Council amend Section 3.0 and include an additional page which authorises leases and licenses. **(Attachment 1)**. The changes which have been made to this section of the Plan of Management provide future security of tenure for the key sporting stakeholders by expressly authorising Council to grant leases and licenses for Henson Park, for the purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with the use of the park as a sporting and recreational precinct and to authorise future works including capital upgrades to the King George V Memorial Grandstand.

**Amy Street Footpath**

Since the adoption of the Plan of Management in July 2021, the community has raised concerns about the future of the Amy Street footpath which runs around the northern perimeter of Henson Park and links Amy Street with Centennial Street. The pathway is not impacted by the Proposed Henson Park Development Application (DA 2022 033), nor are there any plans to close this pathway or limit community access, even when ticketed events for the use of the use of the park take place. The only restrictions which will be in place during ticketed events is that the side gates which provide direct access to the sporting ground will be closed during ticketed AFL games. This however will not impede access for park users or residents traversing between Amy Street and Centennial Street.

As part of the proposed Plan of Management exhibition process, the Henson Park Plan of Management will be amended to ensure that the Amy Street Footpath is protected and that this important public issue is clarified for future reference and safeguarded on the public record The amendments to the references to Amy Street footpath clarify that the fence will not be removed, but will be upgraded, and the pathway will remain open.

**Exhibition of the Plan of Management**

As pursuant to Section 38(2&3) of the Local Government Act 1993 Council is required to exhibit any proposed changes to the Plan of Management for no less than 28 days with a 42-day period for submissions. At the end of this period Council needs to consider all submissions received and consider adopting a new Plan of Management for Henson Park.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

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| **1.** | Attachment 1 Henson Park Plan of Management |