

# Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 12 October 2023

## Heart of Midlothian Football Club

Executive/routine  
Wards

Routine  
7 – Sighthill/Gorgie

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Transport and Environment Committee is asked to note this update on Heart of Midlothian Football Club's plans to celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024.

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

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## Heart of Midlothian Football Club

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report responds to the adjusted motion, approved by the Council on 31 August 2023 on Heart of Midlothian Football Club's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 On 31 August 2023, the Council approved the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:
- 3.1.1 To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Heart of Midlothian Football Club in 2024;
  - 3.1.2 To acknowledge the huge impact Heart of Midlothian Football Club have made to sport in the city and across the whole country, as the largest fanowned club in the UK;
  - 3.1.3 To note the positive economic impact the club provided for the city and the extensive charitable endeavours it undertook including the Foundation of Hearts not for profit organisation, the Big Hearts Community Trust and the Hearts Memorial Garden, which offered a peaceful, contemplative space in which to remember those who had passed on;
  - 3.1.4 To note that it was hoped that the Maroon Mile would be funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund and would highlight the local social, economic, and sporting histories which were intertwined in the area;
  - 3.1.5 To agree that Council officers work with officials from Heart of Midlothian Football Club to celebrate the 'Maroon Mile' which runs from the iconic war memorial at Haymarket to Tynecastle Park and arrange a programme of engagement and activities in recognition of this milestone, including opportunities for people to develop traditional and digital skills, and an oral history project to capture the intangible heritage of Gorgie and Dalry;
  - 3.1.6 To call for a report to the Transport and Environment Committee in one cycle to provide a detailed breakdown of this engagement and also how the Maroon Mile could integrate with and complement the work of the Gorgie

Dalry 20 Minute Neighbourhood project and foster inclusion within the Gorgie Dalry community of marginalised groups; and

- 3.1.7 The report should provide detail on works surrounding the Heart of Midlothian War Memorial at Haymarket, including any barriers to the works being completed in time for this year's Haymarket Remembrance Service, with input from planning officers if required.

## **4. Main report**

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### **Haymarket Monument Refurbishment Project**

- 4.1 Plans for the refurbishment of the Haymarket Memorial have been prepared by Heart of Midlothian Football Club.
- 4.2 Following discussions between Council officers and representatives of Heart of Midlothian Football Club, agreement in principle has been granted to proceed with the refurbishment plans.
- 4.3 Since the original approval was given, there have been some changes to the design. These are being progressed as non-material variations and the Football Club are currently preparing the necessary documentation to enable this to proceed.
- 4.4 Council officers will continue to work with the Football Club to support the completion of the refurbishment in time for this year's Haymarket Remembrance Service.

### **Heart of Midlothian 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

- 4.5 Council officers and representatives of Heart of Midlothian Football Club have also been engaging on the Club's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary Celebration Plans and have agreed to align plans for these plans with the 20 minute neighbourhood activities in the area where possible.
- 4.6 Integrated within the Club's plans are a number of outreach activities in the local area to encourage participation in the upcoming events. The 20 minute neighbourhood team will continue with community engagement in the area in autumn and winter this year. Information gathered from both activities will be shared, where appropriate.
- 4.7 The Football Club have submitted a National Lottery Heritage Fund expression of interest with a request for funding to support delivery of their plans.
- 4.8 The Club hope to begin their project in January 2024.
- 4.9 Council officers will continue to liaise with the Football Club and will provide support for their plans, as appropriate.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 The Council will continue to support Heart of Midlothian Football Club on the refurbishment of the Haymarket Memorial and on planning for their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There are no financial implications for the Council arising from the activities which the Council is doing to support Heart of Midlothian Football Club, beyond officer time.
- 6.2 The Club have expressed interest in National Heritage Lottery Funding to support implementation of their plans. Council officers will continue to engage with them and to provide support if required. Council officers have provided a letter of support to strengthen Hearts' funding application.

## **7. Equality and Poverty Impact**

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- 7.1 There are no Equality or Poverty Impacts arising from the update provided in this report.

## **8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications**

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### **Environmental Impacts**

- 8.1 There are no environmental impact arising from this update.

## **9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact**

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- 9.1 Heart of Midlothian Football Club are planning community outreach activities as part of their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary plans.

## **10. Background reading/external references**

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- 10.1 None.

## **11. Appendices**

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