

STOCKPORT COUNTY FC – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Report of the Director of Development and Regeneration

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To approve the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and Stockport County Football Club to set out how we will work together to deliver our shared objectives.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In January 2020 Mark Stott acquired Stockport County Football Club and has had a huge impact in the progress the Club has made both on and off the field and in the local community.
- 2.2 The Club's aspiration is to go even further with this impact with ambition to be in the Championship within the next five years and to deliver a redeveloped Edgeley Park Stadium that can host between 15,000 and 16,500 spectators, together with a purpose-built Elite Training, Community and Educational Campus in the south of the Borough.

3.0 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- 3.1 The Club have worked in partnership with the Council on a number of fronts over the last few years including the Borough Plan, Town of Culture and the Chair of the Club being an active member of Stockport Economic Alliance.
- 3.2 In order to ensure that there is continued alignment between the Council and the Club in delivering the best outcomes for the whole Borough, it is proposed to formalise the working arrangement between the work of the Council and work of the Club to ensure continued alignment.
- 3.3 The proposed framework for this is the Memorandum of Understanding set out in Appendix 1. Whilst this is a non-binding document, it sets out the intention of the parties to work in partnership and the areas where this is likely to happen.

- 3.4 The Memorandum is clear that this is not intended to supersede all usual Council governance, particularly on any commercial or financial matters/commitments.

4.0 EDGELEY PARK

- 4.1 In March 2022, Cabinet approved the grant of a new long lease of 250 years to the Club. This transaction has not yet completed due to a number of commercial points still outstanding between the Council and the Club but it is still the intention of both parties for this to be completed as soon as possible.
- 4.2 In addition the Cabinet report referenced that the Council and the Club would work together to ensure that any highways or parking issues created by use of the stadium would be addressed together and this remains the case.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 There are no additional financial or risk impacts by entering into the Memorandum and these will be reflected in any individual matter which requires further Council governance.

6.0 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal considerations or risks at this time.

7.0 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 7.1 No impact on human resource resources created by the Memorandum

8.0 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1 No impact on human resource resources created by the Memorandum

9.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 9.1 There is no environmental impact created by the Memorandum.

10.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Economy, Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the content of this report and provide any comments for Cabinet.
- 10.2 Cabinet are asked to:

- to approve the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and Stockport County Football Club to set out how we will work together to deliver our shared objectives; and
- Delegate authority to the Director of Development and Regeneration (Place), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and Economy, Regeneration and Housing, to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding; and
- Delegate authority for the Assistant Director (Legal & Democratic Governance), to take such steps and complete such agreements as are necessary to implement the resolutions recommended in this report and any decisions properly made under authority delegated by these resolutions

Appendix 1 – Draft Memorandum of Understanding

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None