

## Report of the Head of Cultural Services

External Funding Panel – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016

### *Third Generation Artificial Sports Pitches*

**Purpose:** To seek approval to submit a proposal to the Collaborative Sports Facilities Group (representing Sport Wales and the Governing Bodies of Rugby, Football and Hockey in Wales) to develop 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation (3G) artificial sports pitches in 2 strategically identified locations in Swansea

**Policy Framework:** Council Policy; Healthy City; City of Sport.

**Reason for Decision:** To submit a formal business case to the Collaborative Sports Facilities Group for the provision of 3G facilities in Swansea.

**Consultation:** Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, Education and Access to Services.

**Recommendations that External Funding panel:**

- 1) Notes the implications contained in this report and approves the submission of a business case to attract up to £400,000 of funding.

**Report Author:** Ian Beynon

**Finance Officer:** Jayne James / Sian Powell

**Legal Officer:** Debbie Smith

**Access to Services Officer:** Phil Couch

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The 'All Wales Artificial Turf Pitch Vision and Guidance' findings indicate that Swansea is the least resourced county in Wales for 3G facilities. The county has the 3rd highest population in Wales and has a vast sports club infrastructure but has no full sized 3G facilities.
- 1.2 Swansea also benefits from well-established leagues and competitive opportunities from recreational to elite level in the key sports which would make best use of such facilities.
- 1.3 In addition the issue of cancellation of matches due to bad weather impacts on training and fixtures as there is a poor record of postponed or cancelled fixtures particularly amongst junior sections. In the past 2 seasons over a third of all junior football matches have been cancelled and Rugby clubs also reported incidents of junior teams losing up to 6 weeks of fixtures due to poor weather. The provision of 3G pitches would help alleviate this issue.
- 1.4 The National Collaboration team has identified Swansea as priority area and has indicated that a submission for funding is likely to receive support. Funding of £600,000 has already been received for 3G pitch provision at Penyrheol and Morriston Comprehensive Schools/Community Leisure centres

## **2.0 Proposal**

- 2.1 Senior officers within the Authority's Cultural Services, Education and Planning Departments, along with key community and national partners considered a range of sites and identified the best options for the introduction of new, strategically located facilities based on the following criteria;
  - Inclusion.
  - Centres of population/Latent demand
  - Physical nature of proposed sites
  - Current and potential management arrangements
  - Match funding
  - Timescale for delivery
- 2.2 Following an evaluation exercise and initial site visits with the National Collaboration team the proposed schemes have been identified as;
  - 2.2.1 The creation of two full sized floodlit 3G facilities at Cefn Hengoed Comprehensive School/Community Leisure Centre and Bryntawe Comprehensive School/ Penlan Community Leisure Centre

### **3.0 Property Implications**

3.1 There are no Property Implications

### **4.0 Equality and Engagement Implications**

4.1 An EIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full EIA report was not required. The reasons for this were:

4.2 The proposal will create all weather playing and training opportunities and will provide existing clubs and groups with improved provision. Sites will not be open access and will only be available for formal, booked provision by existing clubs and groups and for organised activities. The sites will improve playing and training opportunities but may not result in significant additional opportunities for those not already participating. However the project will be designed and planned in the best interests of children as the facilities will be available for Junior programmes and training opportunities which will be factored in at appropriate times as well as playing junior matches which may otherwise be cancelled due to inclement weather.

Accessibility will be an integral consideration when designing the Facilities.

### **5.0 Financial Implications**

5.1 Total project costs will be in the region of £1,100,000. The National Collaboration team has indicated that a grant of up to £400,000 could be provided.

5.2 Up to £300,000 of match-funding will be required from the Authority to make up the shortfall in grant. This will potentially be provided from;

- Existing Capital contingency funding available - £300,000

5.3 Officers are liaising with Swansea FC Community Trust in relation to the remaining £400,000 match funding requirements, as there is an opportunity to access Premier League Funding which would cover any shortfall.

5.4 The sites already have a management infrastructure that controls the leisure centre based facilities. The management team would take on the responsibility for the new facilities at no additional revenue cost or resource.

5.5 Potential running costs for each facility will be in the region of £40,000 - £45,000 and will be funded from the income generated at both sites. This includes the provision of a sinking fund for replacing the carpet and shock pad (if applicable) as well as either repair or replacement of fencing and floodlighting. On the assumption that there is life expectancy of 10 years depending on usage and maintenance then it is

proposed that a sinking fund of between £15,000 - £20,000p.a. per site is put aside.

5.5 The Business Case has identified that the sites will break even.

## **6.0 Legal Implications**

6.1 Generally the terms attached to Grant Funding are legally binding and should be formally recorded in an appropriate document/contract with external delivery partners as required.

6.2 Procurement rules (both EU and the Council's) will have to be fully complied with in all respects in relation to services or the procurement of services from external delivery agents.

6.3 Any documentation entered into as referred to in this Report will have to contain any necessary clauses required by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Financial Services to protect the Council's interests so far as they are able.

6.3 The Service Level Agreement with the Comprehensive schools may need to be amended as a result of the delivery of the project and the Head of Legal will need to be consulted in this regard.

6.4 Any future changes to Community Leisure Centre management arrangements as a result of the Commissioning process will need to be taken into consideration.

## **FOR INFORMATION**

**Background papers:** *None*