



**Report of the Director of Place/Cabinet Member for Investment,
Regeneration and Tourism**

External Funding Panel – 6th June 2018

**PROPOSED ALL WEATHER SPORTS FACILITIES
AT SKETTY LANE/ASHLEIGH ROAD SITE**

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 3rd Generation (3G) artificial sports pitches and a replacement of one of the all Weather Hockey Surfaces at Sketty Lane/Ashleigh Road

Policy Framework: Council Policy - Healthy City; City of Sport. Well-being of Future Generations Act

Consultation: Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, 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 £500,000 of funding.

Report Author: David Jones

Finance Officer: Amie Dyer

Legal Officer: Debbie Smith

Access to Services Officer: Catherine Window

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The county has the 3rd highest population in Wales and has a vast sports club infrastructure has only 2 full sized 3G facilities and no performance centre with 3G facilities other than those used exclusively by Swansea City FC/Swansea City FC Academy
- 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 the planned facilities.
- 1.3 The National Collaboration group has identified Swansea as priority area and has indicated that a submission for funding is likely to receive support, potentially as a national strategic project. This means they consider this site as having national and regional significance due to its multi-sport nature and links to performance and elite clubs, National Governing bodies and Swansea University.

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
 - Performance and elite pathway
- 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 replacement of the existing full sized Water based Hockey surface at Sketty Lane, which will allow fixtures of up to international standard to be accommodated and enhance the site as a centre of excellence for Hockey in partnership with Hockey Wales, Swansea City Hockey Club and Swansea University
 - 2.2.2 The creation of a full sized floodlit 3G adjacent to the Hockey facility to the highest World Rugby specifications. This will allow the site to also incorporate rugby to elite levels supported by the Welsh Rugby Union, Ospreys and Scarlets regional rugby.

- 2.2.3 These new developments along with the existing Athletics and Aquatics facilities, strength and conditioning resources and sport science support from the university will help develop the aspiration of an international sports village within the county.

3.0 Property Implications

- 3.1 The existing hockey surface is already part of an established lease agreement with Swansea University. Should application for the new 3G area be successful, the plan would be to include this in the lease agreement.

4.0 Equality and Engagement Implications

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

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.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 Total project costs will be in the region of £1,500,000. The National Collaboration team has indicated that a grant of approximately 30% could be provided.
- 5.2.1 Up to £140,000 of funding will be required from the Authority to cover our contribution to the hockey resurface. This will be provided from existing Capital budget (sink fund the ATP surface). Swansea University also have up to £140,000 in place as part of their sink fund contribution. These amounts will be considered as match funding towards the overall project bid.
- 5.3 Officers from the commercial department of Swansea University have already put together a business plan and funding case which will go to the Universities Internal funding panel to make up the shortfall for the overall cost of the project, currently estimated at £720,000

Summary

	Current financial year £	Year 2 £	Year 3 £	Year 4 £	Year 5 £	Total £	Ongoing £
Total project cost:	280,000	1,220,000					
Capital	280,000	1,220,000					
Revenue							
Grant applied for:							
Capital	0	500,000					
Revenue							
Match Funding Internal	140,000						
Match Funding External	140,000	720,000					

- 5.4 The site already has a management infrastructure run by Swansea University. This management team would take on the responsibility for the new facilities at no additional cost or resource. The Council has an excellent relationship with the operational staff at the site and has presence on both the Sports Village management group and WNP board.
- 5.5 Potential running costs for both surfaces will be in the region of £50,000 - £55,000, including provision of a sinking fund put aside from income and in a similar manner to the existing capital programme at the site. This is based on replacing the carpet and shock pad 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 £25,000 – £27,500 per year which would be matched by the university.
- 5.6 The Business Case has identified that the sites will break even.
- 6.0 Legal Implications**
- 6.1 Any offer of grant funding is likely to contain terms and conditions which are binding on the Council and the Council will need to ensure that it complies with the same.
- 6.2 In addition the procurement of any goods and services utilising this grant must comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and European procurement legislation as appropriate.
- 6.3 The Service Level Agreement with Swansea University will need to be amended if the new 3G element of the proposal is successful. No service

level agreement changes would need to be made if only a replacement Hockey surface is carried out.

Appendices: EFP1 Pre-Submission

Background papers: *None*