

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: CABINET MEMBER
COMMUNITY SERVICES

KEY DECISION: YES

PORTFOLIO AREA: LEISURE SERVICES

PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: COMMUNITY SERVICES

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL AREAS

SUBJECT:

Grassroot Football Development in Wirral

1. RECOMMENDATION:

1.1 That the Director of Delivery Services be authorised to start working with The Football Association and their representatives, on the development of potential bids and associated business plans to enhance grassroots football facilities in Wirral. All projects will require Wirral Council capital partnership funding, which will therefore be subject to Member approval at a later date.

2. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

2.1 The Football Association (FA) have recently commissioned a strategic review of grassroots football in Wirral – the 'Wirral Local Football Facility Plan'. In drawing up the Plan, they have consulted with local amateur football, Tranmere Rovers, Cheshire FA, relevant officers from Wirral Council and various community groups and organisations.

2.2 The Plan identifies priority areas throughout Wirral for the development of football, within each of the following categories; -

- 3G Football Turf Pitch (FTP) – Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP)
- Improved Grass Pitches
- Changing Rooms Pavilions/Clubhouses
- Small-sided Facilities

This Plan will be the go-to document for football facility investment in Wirral, which the FA have indicated they will support with direct funding. The fact that a project has been identified in the Plan does not guarantee funding; each of the priority projects identified, will still have to follow an application process to show how it will deliver key participation outcomes, be a quality & sustainable facility and demonstrate suitable match-funding.

A typical 3G Football Turf Pitch will cost about £1.3M. The FA have indicated to officers, that they are prepared to offer between 60% and 80% partnership

funding towards each project application – this could mean a contribution of between £780k and £1M towards a typical ATP project.

2.3 The Wirral LFFP identifies ten sites for potential development in terms of artificial turf pitches. Not all these sites are currently owned by Wirral Council and one other site (Anglesey Road, West Kirby) has been added because the site wasn't previously considered at the development stage.

2.4 The ATP projects the Council have prioritised are: -

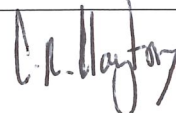
- Woodchurch Leisure Centre
- Lord Leverhulme Playing Fields
- Leasowe Playing Fields/Cross Lane
- Anglesey Road Playing Fields, West Kirby
- Arrowe Park

2.5 The proposal is to make one application to the Football Foundation (the Football Foundation have been appointed by The FA to administer all grant aid applications) for all five sites. The total project cost will be about £6.5M and the potential grant received from the FA could be between £3.9M and £5.2M. The Council would have to make up the differential from the Capital Programme which could therefore be between £1.3M and £2.6M.

3. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Signed:  Executive Member: JULIE MCMANUS CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY Date: 3rd MARCH 2020 SERVICES. Also present:	Signed:  Chief Officer: COLIN CLAYTON Date: 3rd March 2020
Date of Senior Policy Team Meeting(s):	

A list of background papers on this issue is held with:
Contact Officer: Colin Clayton

Date: 27th February 2020

Date of Publication:

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: