

4<sup>th</sup> May 2023

<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>Plymyard Football Pitch Renovation &amp; Maintenance Contract</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Strategic Manager – Parks &amp; Countryside Services</b>

## **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report requests that the Director of Neighbourhoods agrees to award a Pitch Renovation and Maintenance contract to Duncan Ross Ltd.

The cost of the works will be fully met by the £147,000 funding which was agreed as part of the residential housing development of Acre Lane and formed part of the Section 106 Agreement. This contract includes initial pitch renovation works and subsequent maintenance, for a period of up to 48 months depending on budget and performance and is proposed to commence, subject to contract, on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

The initial scope was to improve the playing quality of a minimum of 2 full sized football pitches by installing a new drainage system, however after further discussion and in consultation with the Football Foundation it has been agreed that the best use of the available funding would be to carry out a comprehensive pitch renovation scheme. We have further extended the scope of the work to include all of the pitches on the playing field. The site currently houses 3 full sized pitches, 3 9v9 pitches and 1 mini soccer pitch.

The pitches currently suffer heavily from compaction and the works identified will seek to address this through soil structure improvement operations including decompaction and aeration, along with surface grading, topdressing and re-seeding, the purchase and installation of new goals and sockets for 3 senior pitches, and subsequent maintenance operations. These works will create a more open soil structure, encourage better grass root development, improve drainage while also improving drought resistance – enabling a longer playing season at a consistent pitch standard.

The anticipated value of the contract is £132,000. Some initial improvement works to the site boundary having already been undertaken.

The subject of this report supports the delivery of the Wirral Plan key priority of 'Active & Healthy Lives', by improving playing pitches used by the local community.

This is not a key decision.

This decision affects Bromborough ward.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services is recommended to approve the award of a contract to Duncan Ross Ltd for Plymyard Pitch Renovation and Maintenance.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 The Council has received Section 106 agreement funding to improve pitches at Plymyard Playing Fields. The funding can only be allocated to the improvement of pitches on this site and if not allocated will have to be paid back to the developer, therefor not proceeding with an improvement programme is not a realistic option.
- 1.2 In line with the contract procedural rules a detailed specification of requirements with a bill of quantities was issued in February 2023 (re-issued April 2023 due to pricing issues on returns) and a tender exercise undertaken. Three bids were received on time and in accordance with the schedule issued, with Duncan Ross Ltd meeting the necessary requirements and being the lowest priced bidder. Once the contract is awarded an agreed programme of works will be undertaken.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 The Council has received Section 106 agreement funding to improve pitches at Plymyard Playing Fields. The funding can only be allocated to the improvement of pitches on this site and if not allocated will have to be paid back to the developer, therefor not proceeding with an improvement programme is not a realistic option. The lowest bidder has priced the required bill of quantities and once awarded an agreed programme of works will be undertaken.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The £147,000 funding was agreed as part of the residential housing development of Acre Lane and formed a requirement of the Section 106 Agreement. To establish the best use of the funding, discussions took place with the Football Foundation which carried out a site survey and evaluation of the condition of the pitches and following subsequent recommendations the proposals within this report enable the undertaking of an intensive pitch renovation scheme. Some initial improvement works to the site boundary have already been undertaken.
- 3.2 A competitive procurement exercise was undertaken involving 5 companies with extensive knowledge and experience of turf pitch management and maintenance. Prior to the drawing up of a detailed tender specification, advice, and recommendations on how to best improve the pitches was provided by the Football Foundation.
- 3.3 The contract is for a period of up to 48 months depending on budget and performance and is to commence subject to contract on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The site currently suffers heavily from compaction and the works will seek to address this through soil structure improvement operations including decompaction and aeration, along with surface grading, topdressing and re-seeding, the purchase and installation of new goals and sockets for 3 senior pitches, and additional maintenance operations in the subsequent 2 years.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The cost of the project is being met from Section 106 agreement Funding from the development of Acre Lane.
- 4.2 There are no additional costs associated with the project.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The commission of the services detailed in this report have been undertaken in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
- 5.2 The award of this contract is being made on lowest tender price basis.
- 5.3 The award will be underpinned by a formal contract which will be drawn up by the Council's legal team. The anticipated value of the contract is £132,000.
- 5.4 The contract award is for construction related work and therefore would fall under the CDM Regulations 2013, depending on the scope and length of works.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 There are no direct staffing ICT or asset implications arising from this report.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 Financial risks were considered, however the fixed prices given will remove risks associated with inflation and cost of living implications.
- 7.2 There is a risk that expected time scales may not be met due to weather and site conditions. The contract is being awarded to an experienced contractor who has a track record of delivering pitch improvements. Works will be carefully managed and co-ordinated to achieve the delivery and minimise any delays.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Engagement took place internally with a number of officers at design of specification stage and externally with the Football Foundation. This was to ensure that the specification best utilised the available funding.

#### **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision, or activity. There are no direct equality implications from this report.

#### **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Duncan Ross Ltd is a Specialist Sports pitch company located in the North West of England and its appointment will result in less travel distances and Co2 emissions

than would be the case if the appointed contractor were based a greater distance from Wirral.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 Plymyard Playing Fields provide a well-used and valued community asset that provides leisure and health benefits to the local community.

### **REPORT AUTHOR:**

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## **APPENDICES**

None

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Submitted bids from the three bidders (exempt from publication)

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>None</b>	<b>N/A</b>