



Report to: Strategy, Performance and Finance Portfolio, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Leisure

Decision Date: 4 November 2024

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Paul Peacock

Director Lead: Suzanne Shead – Director Housing Health and Wellbeing

Lead Officer: Cara Clarkson – Business Manager - Regeneration and Housing Strategy

Report Summary	
<b>Type of Report</b>	Non-key decision
<b>Report Title</b>	Grant Contribution - Newark R&M Cricket Club at Kelham Road, Newark.
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To secure Portfolio Holder approval to allocate a capital contribution of £45,000 to Newark R&M Cricket Club to enable it to complete its changing room building to ensure that the Club can continue to offer cricket opportunities for the local community.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>That the Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance and Finance approves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) a Capital contribution of £45,000 to Newark R&amp;M Cricket Club to enable the new changing facilities at the ground to be completed in order that the site can operate as a two-pitch facility in the future in accordance with England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) regulations and the Club’s Development Plans.</li> <li>b) That the Council’s Capital Programme is increased by £45,000 financed by capital receipts.</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative Options Considered</b>	During the last two years the Club has submitted a number of grant applications to various funding bodies with little success resulting in the new changing room building remaining partially constructed and unusable. If the Council is unable to support the Club with a grant to get the build completed the Club will struggle to meet ECB guidelines for the 2025 season based on the level of cricket played at the ground which requires separate changing rooms for each side playing. The current club has two changing rooms in the original pavilion which does not meet the required standard of provision for a two-pitch site, however, if a capital contribution is awarded the club will be able to complete the build project in time for the

	new season. If the Council is not able to support the Club, the building will remain unfinished for a further year and potentially create challenges for competitive cricket at the site which is a risk the Club are keen to avoid.
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	To enable Newark R&M Cricket Club to complete its changing room project in time for the start of the 2025 season in order to comply with England and Wales Cricket Board requirements and to allow the Club to continue to grow and develop.
<b>Decision Taken</b>	As per recommendation

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Newark Cricket Club has existed since 1787 as a functioning cricket club playing from its Kelham Road ground on the outskirts of Newark for over 200 years. The club provides cricket to all cohorts amongst the Newark & Sherwood and Nottinghamshire area consistently with its mission “to provide opportunities for anyone to become involved with recreational and competitive cricket, across all levels, within an open, supportive community, built upon integrity, fair play and the Spirit of the Game.”
- 1.2 In 2010 Newark Cricket Club and Ransome and Marles Cricket Club amalgamated to become Newark R&M CC in order to pool resources and grow the club’s membership base. The merger also brought together the two separate cricket grounds used by the clubs at the former RHP Sports and Social Club at Elm Avenue, Newark which is now occupied by the YMCA and Kelham Road, Newark. The subsequent development of the Elm Avenue site resulted in the loss of the cricket pitch due to space constraints at the site.
- 1.3 In order to mitigate this loss and as part of the overall master planning of sport in the town, linked to the Community and Activity Village project, a replacement second pitch was secured at the Kelham Road site by the District Council. This project was delivered in 2019 through working in partnership with the club, Newark Town Council, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Sport England on land owned by the District Council subsequently leased to the Club on a long-term basis in 2018. The merger of the clubs and the development of the second pitch at Kelham Road has enabled the club to grow its status and player base which now stands at 11 teams including 3 senior men’s team, 3 senior women and girls teams and 5 junior teams equating to 150 active club members.
- 1.4 This new pitch was the initial phase of the Club’s development plan for the Kelham Road site which would be followed by a new changing pavilion to service the newly installed second pitch as well as the existing pitch. Finally phase three will involve the improvement and repurposing of the existing clubhouse by removing the old inadequate changing rooms and creating a more functional and sustainable facility space to support the future growth of the club and the wider community. This would also enable the club to generate additional income which would help the club to be more financially robust in years to come whereby additional income generated will be re-invested in the delivery of the club’s development plan objectives.

- 1.5 Recognising the aspirations of the club, the District Council's recently adopted Playing Pitch and Open Spaces Strategy (PPOSS) has highlighted, as a priority, the need to 'Work with the club to complete all work finishing the changing room block built in 2021 following the club's relocation from what is now YMCA Newark'.
- 1.6 Table one below sets out the overall costs of phase 1 and phase 2 of the project to date and how the ground improvements have been funded.

Phase	Project	Cost £	Funder partners	Funding £
One	New Pitch	82,662	NSDC - S106	39,615
			Newark Town Council	13,047
			England and Wales Cricket Board	30,000
<b>Total Phase 1</b>				<b>82,662</b>
Two	New Changing Rooms and power upgrade	384,000	NCC Local Community Fund	15,000
			WE Knight Trust	134,000
			Newark Town Council	86,953
			Rural England Prosperity Fund	100,000
			Newark R&MCC	3,047
			NSDC (subject to approval)	45,000
<b>Total Phase 2</b>				<b>384,000</b>

Table One

- 1.7 The current position is that the club has negotiated a phased build for the changing rooms with the successful contractor appointed through a tender process, with the agreement of the District Council, based on funding secured at the time. The construction of the changing rooms originally started in 2021 and was then paused while further grant funding requests were submitted to various funding partners which unfortunately proved unsuccessful. However, the club were eligible to apply for the Rural England Prosperity Fund and were subsequently awarded £100,000 to progress further works to the changing room project.
- 1.8 At the same time the club has undertaken a successful value engineering exercise to further reduce the 'cost envelope' to complete the build, without compromising its functionality. On this basis the club is now requesting that the District Council considers a request for a grant of £45,000 in order to complete the outstanding works to the changing room and in effect conclude phase two of the overall development. Furthermore, the club is keen to get the works completed through the main contractor, which has delivered the build to date, for completeness and transparency including the necessary warranties that this would provide the club as opposed to further smaller phases which would require multiple sub-contractors.
- 1.9 If the additional grant request is successful the main contractor has agreed to deliver the outstanding works required as a priority to complete the new changing rooms at the current price which is being honoured as a goodwill gesture to the Club. This will ensure

that the project can be delivered in a timely manner and the risk of further cost escalation avoided.

1.10 The £45,000 requested from the District Council represents 12% of the phase 2 project and 10% of the overall spend on phase one and two as all other funding is from external sources including Section 106 monies secured for such projects and grant funding from other national and local funding partners.

1.11 The current status of the build is that it is wind and weather proof with all floors, internal walls and roof in place and the grant will supplement the Rural England Prosperity Fund grant award and help finance all outstanding works to the build to bring it in to operational use including:-

- Water, gas and electrical connections to the building;
- All floor, door and wall finishes;
- All fixtures and fittings required for changing rooms, toilets and showers; and
- Platform lift to ensure the building is accessible.

## **2.0 Proposal**

2.1 That the District Council approves the grant request of £45,000 towards the completion of the club's phase 2 ground improvement plan in order that the building can be brought into use in preparation for the 2025 cricket season and thereby making a positive contribution to the Council's Community Plan objectives. The completion of the changing rooms will contribute to Objective 1 'Improve Health and Wellbeing', Objective 5 'Protect and enhance the district's natural environment and green space' and Objective 7 'Celebrate and invigorate community spirit, pride of place and sense of belonging'

2.2 It is further proposed that the Council's Capital Programme be increased by £45,000 financed by capital receipts.

## **3.0 Implications**

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations officers have considered the following implications; Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

## **3.0 Financial Implications – (FIN24-25/7975)**

3.1 There was a budget in 2018/19 in the Capital Programme for £89,000 for phase 1 of the scheme which included the match funding from S106, Newark Town Council and grant funding from the English and Wales Cricket Board as this project was managed by NSDC on behalf of the Cricket Club. The outturn on the project was £82,662. This meant that Newark Town Council were able to put more funds into Phase 2 of the project.

- 3.2 Since then, phase 2 has started which has a number of funders including WE Knight Trust, approved by the trustees, NCC Local Community Fund, Newark Town Council and Rural England Prosperity Fund and the scheme is £45,000 short to complete the fit out of the changing rooms.
- 3.3 If approved, a budget is required in 2024/25 for £45,000 in the Capital Programme, which can be financed by Capital Receipts.

### **3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 3.5 Newark R&M CC is an inclusive club which has achieved the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) 'Clubmark' accreditation, the scheme for cricket clubs which shows that a club is sustainable, well run and provides the right environment for its members. Clubmark accreditation also means the club is recognised as a safe, rewarding and fulfilling place for participants of all ages, as well as assuring parents and carers that they are choosing the right option for their young people.
- 3.6 Newark R&M CC maintains an open and affordable membership structure with a membership split of 30% adult males, 30% adult women and 40% juniors. Adult male and female team players can typically range from 14-50, juniors begin at 6 and end at 17. The club is predominantly 75% white ethnicity background, however it is seeing an increase year on year from the South Asian community as club members currently representing up to 10% of our membership.
- 3.7 Additionally, the club hosts kwik cricket festivals throughout the summer for any local school within Newark & Sherwood, such as Coddington, Chuter Ede, Winthorpe etc. and ECB initiatives including 'All Stars' and 'Dynamos' cricket designed to encourage more people to visit the Kelham Road site to play and enjoy cricket in a safe environment.

### **3.8 Legal Implications**

- 3.9 If approved, a formal grant agreement will need to be entered into between the Council and the Club, requiring the Club to provide evidence of expenditure as set out in the report. This should assist in minimising risk around accidental misuse and provide necessary controls to manage delivery. The Portfolio for Strategy, Performance & Finance is the appropriate decision-maker to consider this report by virtue of Paragraph 5.1 of the Cabinet Scheme of Delegation set out in the Council's Constitution.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Cabinet Meeting - 20 February 2024- report

<https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/documents/s19096/20.02.24%20-%20Playing%20Pitch%20Outdoor%20Sport%20Strategy.pdf>

Cabinet Meeting - 20 February 2024- Appendix

<https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/documents/s19253/Playing%20Pitch%20and%20Outdoor%20Sports%20Strategy%202023-2033.pdf>

Urgency Decision - 8 April 2022

<https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/documents/s13824/05.05.22%20-%20Urgency%20Item%20-%20Newark%20RM%20Cricket%20Club%20Project.pdf>

Policy and Finance Committee – 30 November 2017

[https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/nsdc-redesign/documents-and-images/your-council/your-council/councillors-and-committees/committee-agendas-and-reports-archive/30.11.17---Agenda-\(Final---Open\).pdf](https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/nsdc-redesign/documents-and-images/your-council/your-council/councillors-and-committees/committee-agendas-and-reports-archive/30.11.17---Agenda-(Final---Open).pdf)