

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

27 JUNE 2019

In accordance with Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman has agreed to take this item as a late item of business in order to release appropriate funding as soon as possible.

JOSEPH WHITAKER SCHOOL ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCH REFURBISHMENT - SECTION 106 FUNDING REQUEST

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek approval to allocate a financial contribution to the refurbishment of the Third Generation Artificial Turf Pitch (3G ATP) at the Joseph Whitaker School from Section 106 (s106) monies held for the purposes of sports provision in Rainworth.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 At its meeting of 22 February 2017 the Councillor's Commission agreed that the remit of the Policy & Finance Committee should be amended to make clear that the determination of how s106 monies should be applied or obligations fulfilled falls within the remit of that Committee rather than the Planning Committee.
- 2.2 The Commission further agreed that the scheme of officer delegation be extended to give the Chief Executive and all Chief Officers delegated powers to determine how s106 monies should be applied or obligations fulfilled where the terms of the s106 Agreement are sufficiently precise or where the amount of the proposed expenditure does not exceed £50,000. However, in cases where the amount of money in question is significant it was agreed that there should be some Member input into this process.
- 2.3 The current 3G ATP is now 11 years old and in need of significant refurbishment which will include upgrades of the sub base and installation of a new shock pad and artificial turf surface which is a typical planned maintenance requirement for such facilities. The original ATP was funded jointly by the school and the Football Foundation (FF) with support from the District Council. In receiving FF grant funding the school accepted the obligation to create a sinking fund for the purposes of future refurbishments.
- 2.4 Accordingly the school has met its obligation to provide its required capital contribution of £218K, however, the tender price for the project with all costs included is in excess of the finance available and therefore there is an identified shortfall of up to £43K. In order to secure the delivery of the project over the summer holiday period and reduce the impact on both the school and the community a request has been made to the Council to make a contribution from s106 receipts held for the provision of sports facilities in Rainworth.
- 2.5 The contribution would come from the s106 monies received from the Warsop Lane, Rainworth housing development currently held by the Council of £274K which has to be used 'for the provision, enhancement or maintenance of sports facilities in Rainworth' as defined in the Agreement AG919a 'Off-site Sports Provision Contribution'. The actual amount of the contribution will not be known until final account stage, however, the

commitment from the Council is not expected to exceed £43K and may ultimately be a lower contribution.

- 2.6 The existing pitch is an important facility for the local community and is highlighted in the recently approved Newark and Sherwood Local Football Facility Plan as priority project in need of refurbishment. The delivery of the project will also contribute positively the Council's Community Plan, Physical Activity and Sport Plan, Playing Pitch Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Partnership Plan.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 That Policy & Finance Committee supports the request from Joseph Whitaker School to contribute s106 monies to the proposed scheme as highlighted above up to £43K in order that the project can proceed as planned.
- 3.2 That Policy and Finance Committee supports the principle that in the unlikely event that the contribution required is in excess of the £43K that the Director of Finance be given delegated authority to increase the contribution by up to a further 10% should this be necessary.
- 3.3 That appropriate provision be made in the Council's capital programme for this scheme.

4.0 Equalities Implications

- 4.1 There are no equality implications in respect of the various protected characteristic groups in connection with this proposal. If approvals are secured as requested the leisure facilities provision will be enhanced for the benefit of the whole community. Joseph Whitaker School operates the community sports facilities and provide leisure opportunities to the whole community and it is anticipated that the improvement to the ATP will have a positive impact in this regard.

5.0 Impact on Budget/Policy Framework

- 5.1 The contribution if approved will be allocated from s106 receipts held for the purpose of 'for the provision, enhancement or maintenance of sports facilities in Rainworth' and will not have an impact on the Council's revenue budget.

6.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

- 6.1 The proposals if approved will primarily contribute to the achievement of Objective 9 'Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents, with a particular focus on developing the best use of community recreation and leisure facilities in order to narrow the gap in healthy life expectancy and other health outcomes' in a priority area for the Council.
- 6.2 Investment in the leisure offer will drive participation in physical activity and sport and improve health and wellbeing in priority areas as identified in the Physical Activity and Sport Plan 2018-2021 where there are higher levels of physical inactivity and shorter healthy life expectancy.

7.0 Comments of Business Manager – Financial Services (FIN19-20/5372)

- 7.1 The capital project for the Council will be a simple contribution scheme of the available s106 monies to Joseph Whitaker School, as they are delivering and project managing the whole scheme.
- 7.2 If the contribution required is less than £43k the remaining monies will go back into the s106 fund and be made available for other projects that meet the relevant criteria regarding the s106 agreement. As discussed in paragraph 3.2, in the unlikely event the contribution required is greater than the allocated monies, the Director - Resources will be given delegated authority to increase the budget by 10%, anything over that percentage will require a further report to this committee.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- (a) **the creation of a £43k capital budget within the 2019/20 capital programme, all to be financed from Section 106 Agreement AG919a 'Off site sports provision' be approved; and**
- (b) **in the unlikely event that the shortfall is in excess of the £43K the Director - Resources be given delegated authority to increase the Section 106 contribution up to a further 10%.**

Reason for Recommendations

To enable the proposed project to proceed in a timely manner in order to enhance the community leisure offer in the Rainworth locality.

Background Papers

Nil.

For further information please contact Andy Hardy, Senior Health and Community Relations Officer on 01636 655708.

Matthew Finch
Director – Communities & Environment