

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

25 OCTOBER 2007

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Arts, Leisure and Cultural Services – Lead Cabinet Member - Councillor Mrs Womphrey,

CHANGING FACILITIES - HAROLD WILSON RECREATION GROUND

1. Summary

Over the years the Harold Wilson Recreation Ground has been used for many sports including, hockey, basketball, general recreation and more prominently for local amateur football. The site includes two full size grass football pitches, an enclosed pitch and a basketball court. Unfortunately original changing pavilion at the site was removed due to the condition of the timber construction being beyond economic repair.

In September 2006 the Harold Wilson Steering Group was reconstituted to explore the development opportunities for the site including the provision of new changing facilities as a priority. The Steering Group consists of residents, residents groups, ward members and Thornaby town councillors. The continued regeneration of the site complements works already carried out on the site to improve the playing surface by providing much improved drainage on the site. This drainage work was carried out in 2003 on the playing pitches at the Harold Wilson Recreation Ground at a cost of £250,000.

New changing facilities can be provided on the site using high quality modular buildings. These modular facilities allow for the changing facilities to be easily extended should this be appropriate. These buildings have a high quality finish including a brick appearance and a pitched roof and meet the required standard set down by the Football Foundation.

£50,000 has been approved from SBC capital programme to lever in external funding and a provisional £100,000 of external funding is awaiting confirmation, with a further £30,000 identified from CFYA as a spend to save investment a project can be delivered for around £180,000 which is sufficient to provide changing facilities for 2 football teams (including showers) referee changing facilities, storage room and spectator and disabled toilets.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet approves the utilisation of the £50,000 capital to support this project.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To provide appropriate and fit for purpose changing facilities at the Harold Wilson Recreation Ground to increase participation, by the development of site facilities to include 2 changing rooms with shower/wc, storage room, officials room with showers/wc, spectator and appropriate disabled facilities.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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SUMMARY

Over the years the Harold Wilson Recreation Ground has been used for many sports including, hockey, basketball, general recreation and more prominently for local amateur football. The site includes two football pitches. Unfortunately original changing pavilion at the site was removed due to the condition of the timber construction being beyond economic repair.

In September 2006 the Harold Wilson Steering Group was reconstituted to explore the development opportunities for the site including the provision of new changing facilities as a priority. The Steering Group consists of residents, residents groups, ward members and Thornaby town councillors. The continued regeneration of the site complements works already carried out on the site to improve the playing surface by providing much improved drainage on the site. This drainage work was carried out in 2003 on the playing pitches at the Harold Wilson Recreation Ground at a cost of £250,000.

New changing facilities can be provided on the site using high quality modular buildings. These modular facilities allow for the changing facilities to be easily extended should this be appropriate and funding allows. These buildings have a high quality finish including a brick appearance and a pitched roof and meet the required standard set down by the Football Foundation.

£50,000 has been approved from SBC capital programme to lever in external funding and a provisional £100,000 of external funding is awaiting confirmation, with a further £30,000 identified from CFYA as a spend to save investment a project can be delivered for around £180,000 which is sufficient to provide changing facilities for 2 football teams (including showers) referee changing facilities storage room and spectator and disabled toilets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cabinet approves the utilisation of the £50,000 capital to support this project.

DETAIL

1. Over the years the Harold Wilson recreation ground has been used for many sports including, hockey, basketball, general recreation and more prominently for local amateur football.
2. Historically the site has been subject to vandalism, fly tipping and arson attacks, with considerable damage being caused and over recent years severe damage to the sports pavilion.

3. In 2003 over £250,000 of funding was secured and improvements were made to the playing pitch surfaces, as part of these improvements the original pavilion was removed due to the condition of the timber construction being beyond repair.
4. With the playing pitches being brought back into use but with no provision for changing facilities temporary containers are currently used on the site, the facilities do not meet the needs of the users and have a revenue cost to the Council for their hire.
5. On 26 September 2006 an open meeting was held to discuss the re-formation of a steering group and in November 2006 the Harold Wilson Steering Group re-formed and pursued options for further investment on the site. The steering group consists of residents, residents groups, ward members and Thornaby town councillors.

The group since established have made some real progress: -

- A set of protocols have been agreed by the group
- A separate funding group was established and identified top 5 potential funding bodies
- Sub Group produced a mission statement/project brief
- Funding letter sent to top 5 funding bodies for initial contact, Impetus Environmental Trust, The Football Foundation, Biffaward, Sport England.
- Meetings held with the FA to discuss potential support from Football Foundation
- Proposed facilities/site plan agreed
- Consultation remit approved and timescale agreed

6. £50,000 has been approved from SBC capital programme to lever in external funding and a provisional £100,000 of external funding is awaiting confirmation, with a further £30,000 identified from CFYA as a spend to save investment a project can be delivered for around £180,000.
7. The group have approved plans to work in partnership with a specialist contractor to develop and deliver the project on site, with facilities which support the national and regional aspirations of the FA and meet the targets of the new National Games Strategy the proposed facility will not only meet the needs of current users but will help to encourage further participation.
8. Following the approval of the Steering Group to move forward with the development of the changing facilities as described a further consultation took place with the ward councillors who agreed with this proposal even though their preference is for a more substantial scheme on this site.
9. Proposals for the facility include build of a module changing facility which will accommodate 2 changing rooms with showers and w/c, a room for storage of equipment, an officials room with showers and w/c and spectators male/female wc with disabled facilities. The module building will be designed in accordance with the appropriateness for the site and taking into consideration potential for expansion of the facilities in the future as need dictates, the building will be finished with a pitched roof and exterior Brick slip tiles for a visual effect.
10. The next group meeting is scheduled for 12 November 2007 where the final plans will be approved prior to consultation, which will commence on 13 November 2007.
11. With assistance from the FA an application to football foundation will be submitted during November 2007, which along with an application to ENTRUST in October 2007 confirmation of funding should be no later than February/March 2007 dependant on appropriate planning approval and criteria satisfaction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The council has earmarked £50,000 of capital to be used as match funding for the delivery of this project. Grant applications of £50,000 each have been sent to Impetus Environmental Trust via Entrust and the Football Foundation following initial positive responses from both. £30,000 of revenue costs will also be contributed by Care for Your Area as a spend to save investment. Following the development of the site maintenance costs will be met from existing budgets.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. No specific legal implications as a direct result of this project.

RISK ASSESSMENT

14. The associated risks are against budgets where revenue costs are met although the initial review has shown that income is cost neutral against maintenance and running costs to be offset against current budgets.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

15. The improvements and upgrades to facilities on the site will link into the following areas of the Community strategy ensuring a better quality of life for everyone in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees, now and for future generations: -
 - Liveability Theme – Improving the quality of life for local people, through working with clubs and associations within the community, promoting community cohesion and participation and improving our facilities thus improving the local environment
 - Safer Communities – by improved facilities and security to tackle crime and the fear of crime and anti social behaviour
 - Children and Young People – By encouraging participation with youth teams we will promote health, well-being and achievement
 - Healthier Communities and Adults – By encouraging participation with Adult teams and supporting these teams we will promote healthier communities by the use of sport tackling key health issues

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

16. Consultation carried out with Steering Group members, Thornaby Town Council and Ward members during scheduled Steering Group Meetings.
17. Full community consultation to be carried out once site plans finalised.

Name of Contact Officer: Jamie McCann

Post Title: Head of Direct Services

Telephone No. 01642 527071

Email Address: Jamie.mccann@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Councillor I Dalgarno

Councillor M Eddy (Village Ward)

Property

Changing facilities will need to be included in the corporate asset management plan and be subject to annual building survey. The building will be added to the council's list of assets for insurance purposes.

Facilities as detailed in the analysis.