

**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

**WARMINSTER AREA BOARD**

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**COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

**Warminster Football Ground**

**Executive Summary**

This report deals with an application for the transfer of Warminster Football Ground to be transferred to Warminster Football Club in accordance with Wiltshire Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy.

**Proposal**

The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by Warminster Football Club for the transfer of Warminster Football Ground. The applicants' proposal is set out at Appendix 2.

**Reasons For Proposal**

This proposal supports and implements Wiltshire Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy.

**Recommendation**

To approve the transfer subject to the matters referred to in paragraph 9 of the report.

**Jacqui Abbott**

Warminster Community Area Manager

## **WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

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#### **COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

##### **Warminster Football Club**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by Warminster Football Club for the transfer of Warminster Football Ground (see plan attached at Appendix 1). The applicants' proposal is set out at Appendix 2.

#### **Background**

2. Wiltshire Council is supporting the principle of the transfer of community assets in order to empower and strengthen local communities. The Council believes that transferring appropriate public assets to communities leads to more responsive services that better meet local people's priorities.
3. Transfer of an asset can also provide the opportunity to lever more resources into a community and provide a more accessible and responsive base from which to deliver local services.
4. A community group or organisation can benefit from greater financial stability and build confidence through having ownership (or long term security through a lease) of a physical asset. This financial sustainability can help the organisation become less dependent on grants, provide security for further borrowing and opportunities for further growth.
5. Typically, organisations that would be considered appropriate are Voluntary and Community Groups/Associations, Town or Parish Councils, Trusts or Charities, or Social Enterprise Groups.

#### **The application before the Area Board**

6. The application from Warminster Football Club is attached at Appendix 2 and relates to the transfer of Warminster Football Ground.
7. The application was submitted in accordance with the Council's application process and meets the requirements for consideration by the Area Board.
8. The Community Area Manager has consulted with Strategic Property Services, who have undertaken appropriate consultation with service

departments across the Council. Local consultation has been undertaken by the applicant in accordance with the application checklist and the outcome of the consultation is included within the application. Cllr Keith Humphries, the local member, has been apprised.

### **The views of Council officers**

9. On behalf of the Council, Strategic Property Services (who have overall responsibility for the Council's estates and property) has provided the following observations to the Area Board.
  - 9.1 The land is leased to Warminster Football Club for 25 years from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1991.
  - 9.2 As the applicant is not a town or parish council, the land is to be transferred by a 125 year lease. This will restrict use of the land to community football club purposes. If the land should cease to be used for this purpose the lease will end and it will revert to Wiltshire Council.
  - 9.3 The land is subject to planning restrictions which protect the existing use. Therefore, the property is of low value. Warminster Football Club is responsible for all outgoings under the terms of the lease so there are no financial implications.

### **Recommendation**

10. To approve the transfer subject to the matters in paragraph 9 above.

**Jacqui Abbott**  
Warminster Community Area Manager

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