

Beverbrook Playing Fields Project

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To ask Members to consider the referral of the Beverbrook Playing Fields project to the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. **Agree to refer this project to Executive for consideration under the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme.**
- 2.2. **Encourage the applicant to enter into discussion with Wiltshire & Swindon Activity & Sports Partnership regarding this project.**

3. Links to the Corporate Business Plan Priorities:

- 3.1. This proposal can be linked to the Council's priorities of Partnerships and Customer Focus through community based projects supporting the delivery of Community Plans and all other Council priorities; especially those associated with Equalities and Diversity and Healthy Lifestyles.

4. Background

- 4.1. Area 5 has awarded £50,000 to the Beverbrook Playing Fields Project in 2 tranches as follows:
- At a meeting held on the 2nd October 2001 this committee resolved that £25,000 be contributed from the 2001/2002 Area Committee capital budget towards the provision of playing pitches at Lower Beverbrook, Calne.
 - At a subsequent meeting on the 17th September 2002 a second tranche of £25,000 was allocated by this committee towards the 'Calne Playing Fields Project'.
- 4.2. Under normal circumstances Capital grants are expected to be drawn and spent within 2 years of the award being made. However, in exceptional cases larger schemes and those applying for lottery funding may be granted an extension to this deadline. This project falls into this category.
- 4.3. It is recognised that some major partnership projects originating from the Community Areas and financially supported by the Area Committees can, struggle to obtain funding to enable them to realise their schemes. It is appreciated that where this is the case, additional capital funding from the Executive might ensure the viability of some valuable partnership schemes.
- 4.4. Appropriate schemes in such circumstances can act as a trigger for Area Committees to refer the project to the Executive Capital Partnership Funding for additional funding.
- 4.5. Where an Area Committee has awarded a minimum of £15,000 capital funding, Members of that Committee may request that the Executive consider providing additional funding.
- 4.6. The Executive will not make an award that exceeds the contribution by the relevant Area Committee.
- 4.7. Should Members of the Executive agree to support a scheme, the Council's total contribution should not exceed 50% of the total project cost.
- 4.8. It is normal practice for a referral to be made at the same time as the Area Committee award is granted. In this instance the original award was made prior to the introduction of the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme.

- 4.9. The Beversbrook Playing Fields project is an ambitious and valuable scheme, which falls within the circumstances detailed above (in 4.3 and 4.4). Officers are of the opinion that Members would wish to continue and further their support of this project by considering its referral in retrospect of the original Area Committee Award.

5. Officers Observations/Recommendations

- 5.1. In the North Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), approved as Supplementary Planning Guidance by North Wiltshire District Council in January 2001, the Calne Community Area was identified as having a significant shortfall of playing pitches. The PPS recommended a minimum additional provision of playing pitches in Calne of 6.45 hectares/16 acres. Football and rugby were identified as having the greatest need.
- 5.2. The lack of recreation land and facilities in the Calne Community Area is identified as one of the issues in the Calne Community Area Plan 2004 – 2014.
- 5.3. The Calne Community Plan Update 2006 lists '*New developments to include recreational planning gains*' and '*Attract funding to implement new projects identified*' as 2 milestones which are ongoing under the issue of '*lack of recreation land and facilities*'.
- 5.4. Calne Town Council is facilitating this project, which aspires to provide a multi-sport facility at Beversbrook, Calne. The project aims to meet the current sporting needs identified by consultation undertaken with the Community Area by a professional consultant on behalf of the Town Council. At present these uses include rugby, football and cricket. The Town Clerk has advised that the project is not, however, bounded by these needs and will develop over time to accommodate other sports uses as they emerge, for example netball and archery. The Town Council is working on this project in close partnership with John Bentley School and Springfield School and is in the process of drawing up a draft Sports Partnership protocol.
- 5.5. NWDC is a partner in WASP (Wiltshire & Swindon Activity & Sports Partnership) and as such, Officers would urge Members to encourage the applicant to engage with this partnership. This would enable the project to benefit from the partnership's experience and knowledge of community sports needs and the facilitation and provision of those needs. It would also ensure that WASSP is aware of, and able to comment on the project and of the new facilities that will be becoming available to the community.
- 5.5.1. The Government is seeking to improve the delivery of community and competitive sport through the establishment of a 'single system' for sport – a rationalisation of the numerous and often confusing strands that have existed in the past.
- 5.5.2. Achieving the increased levels of participation and the rationalisation of the delivery of community sport is the task of Sport England, the Regional Sports Boards and County Sports Partnerships (CSPs). 45 CSPs are now being established in England with seven in the South West Region, of which the Wiltshire and Swindon Partnership (WASP) is one.
- 5.5.3. WASP is an alliance of organisations which includes the local authorities of Wiltshire and Swindon, Sports Colleges and School Sports Partnerships, Primary Care Trusts, National Governing Bodies of Sport, Sport England, English Federation of Disability Sport, Community Groups, Youth Sport Trust and Sports Coach UK. As others join, so the work and impact of the partnership will increase.
- 5.6. **Officer Recommendation –**
- 5.6.1. Resolve to refer this project to the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme to be considered for a financial contribution.
- 5.6.2. Encourage the applicant to enter into discussion with Wiltshire & Swindon Activity & Sports Partnership regarding this project.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 This report represents a request to the Area 5 Committee to resolve to refer up to the Executive a request for a contribution from the Executive Capital Partnership Fund Scheme.
- 6.1 Following two requests for contributions from the Executive Capital Partnership Scheme on 9th March 2006, one for the Jubilee Lake Scheme in Wootton Bassett £20,000 which was approved and the Box Pavilion £30,000 which was refused the budget available totalled £96,477.
- 6.2 Items discussed whilst considering this item read that the Box Pavilion Scheme will be able to re-apply for Capital Partnership Funding when the project has progressed.
- 6.3 The Executive on 19th July 2005 resolved that an annual sum of £10,000 be ring-fenced from the Capital Partnership Funding Budget to provide contributions to awards made from the Landfill Tax Credits Scheme.
- 6.4 The Executive Capital Partnership Scheme is one-off and non-recurring. It will be necessary for a growth item to be put forward at the appropriate time in the budget cycle for this scheme to continue.

7. Human Resources Implications

- 7.1. There are no Human Resources implications directly relating to this report.

Documents used in the preparation of Report

'Beverbrook Sports Project' (background information) Calne Town Council, 'Calne Connection', North Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy 2001, Minutes of the Calne Area (5) committee meeting held on 2nd October 2001, Minutes of the Calne Area (5) committee meeting held on 17th September 2002, Calne Community Area Plan 2004 – 2014, Calne Community Area Plan Update 2006.

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY & REGENERATION STRATEGIC MANAGER TO AREA 5 COMMITTEE 25th July 2006

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