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| Date of Meeting              | 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2006  |
| Title of Report              | <b>Application to Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme</b>  |
| Portfolio                    | <b>Partnership Working</b>  |
| Link to Corporate Priorities | Healthy Lifestyles, Customer Focus, Equalities & Diversity & Partnership Working  |
| Key Decision                 | YES – If the decision is made to award funding to the applicant it will have a significant impact and effect on the Calne Community Area. |
| Executive Workplan Ref       | B296  |
| Public Report                | YES   |

**Summary of Report**

This report seeks consideration of a single application seeking capital funding of £50,000 from the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme. The applicant is Calne Town Council and regards the development of the Beversbrook Playing Pitch Project.

The Area 5 Committee has awarded a total of £50,000 to the Beversbrook Playing Pitch project in two tranches. At a meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2006, the Area 5 Committee agreed to refer the application to the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme for consideration.

The Beversbrook Playing Pitch Project is a large-scale project that will enable the development of football, rugby and cricket pitches along with changing and development facilities. The total cost of the project is estimated at £1.75 million

Following the recommendation made on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006 the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme has a capital balance of £96,477. £10,000 is ring-fenced annually to provide contributions to awards made from the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. It is anticipated this will continue for a further 2 years making the available balance for applications £76,477 before this application has been considered. The Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme is a one off non-recurring budget.

**Officer Recommendations**

**Members approve funding the Beversbrook Playing Pitch Project £25,000 in line with Option 1, conditional on:**

- **The balance of all funding being committed and in place to enable the full project to be delivered as detailed in the grant application**
- **The grant being drawn down within 12 months of the award being made**
- **The Councils funding being recognised in all future publicity relating to the project**
- **Agreement by the applicant to undertake a thorough evaluation of the project.**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

| Financial Implications | Legal Implications | Community & Environmental Implications | Human Resources Implications | Equality & Diversity Implications |
|------------------------|--------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| YES                    | NONE               | YES                                    | NONE                         | YES                               |

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report is asking Members to consider a single application seeking funding from the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme. The applicant is Calne Town Council and regards the development of the Beversbrook Playing Pitch Project.
- 1.2 The Beversbrook Playing Pitch Project is a large-scale project that will enable the development of football, rugby and cricket pitches on the northern outskirts of Calne. Alongside the development of the pitches a large changing facility will also be constructed that will include an area for either social events or meetings.
- 1.3 The total cost of the project is estimated at £1.75 million
- 1.4 The Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme is a one off non-recurring capital budget. There are two ways this scheme can be approached for funding. If the project is district wide then a direct application can be made to the Executive. If the project is based within one community area, then it can only be considered providing the Area Committee has already awarded a minimum of £15,000 and then refers it to the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme.
- 1.5 The Beversbrook Playing Pitch Project has been awarded a total of £50,000 from the Area 5 Committee. At the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2006 the Area 5 Committee referred the application to the Executive for consideration.
- 1.6 The Beversbrook Playing Pitch Project is applying for £50,000 from the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme.

## 2. Options and Options Appraisal

### 2.1 Option 1:

**Members approve funding the Beversbrook Playing Pitch Project £25,000 conditional on:**

- **The balance of all funding being committed and in place to enable the full project to be delivered as detailed in the grant application**
- **The grant being drawn down within 12 months of the award being made**
- **The Councils funding being recognised in future publicity relating to the project**
- **Agreement by the applicant to undertake a thorough evaluation of the project**

- 2.2 Awarding £25,000 from the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme will have a positive impact in supporting the Beversbrook Playing Pitch Project to become a reality that responds directly to community need. If this award is made this will take the Councils overall contribution to the project to £75,000 and will not exceed 50% of the total cost of the project.
- 2.3 Officers believe that an award of £25,000 is an appropriate sized contribution in respect to the size of the project and the Councils contribution already committed through the Area 5 Committee.
- 2.4 In line with previous awards made from the scheme it is important that Members can be confident that the balance of all funding is in place so that the project can be underway as soon as possible. In respect to Beversbrook this condition is crucial given that the largest potential funding partner will not be confirming their financial support until October 2006.

- 2.5 The Executive Capital Partnership funding scheme is a one off non-recurring budget, therefore, it is important that awards are drawn down and projects are delivered as soon as possible. This approach then avoids large sums of capital being tied up for long periods of time. It is with this in mind that officers feel any award made to Beversbrook should be conditional on the grant being drawn down within 12 months.
- 2.6 **Option 2: To defer any decision until the majority of funding is in place and encourage the applicant to re-submit their application later this year.**
- 2.7 The Beversbrook Playing Pitch Project is a large-scale project with the total cost estimated to be £1.75 million. A variety of funding partners have been approached to support the scheme, the largest of which is the Football Foundation who have been asked to contribute 54% of the total project cost. A decision from the Football Foundation is expected in October 2006. Members may feel it is appropriate to consider this application after the Football Foundation decision has been made, as the initial awards made by the Area 5 Committee already demonstrate significant support for the project.
- 2.8 With a scheme this size and the range of funding partners having being approached, the Councils financial support for the project will act as a substantial lever to larger funding contributions. Deferring a decision on whether to make an award from the Executive could reduce the impact the applicant hopes to achieve of demonstrating the significant support of local authority partners in the project.
- 2.9 **Option 3: To refuse the application for funding for the Beversbrook Playing Pitch Project from the Executive Capital Partnership Scheme.**
- 2.10 The proposed project will contribute to addressing local need raised through the Calne Community Area plan and links with the Councils own Corporate Priorities associated with Healthy Lifestyles and Equalities and Diversity. The applicant has met the main criteria for the Executive Capital Partnership Funding scheme.
- 2.11 To refuse the application for funding would not be in line with the Councils approach to supporting community led initiatives, in particular those which directly align with the Councils Corporate Plan.

### **3. Background Information**

- 3.1 Two awards of £25,000 each were made to the Beversbrook Playing Pitch Project in October 2001 and September 2002. Under normal circumstances capital awards should be drawn down within 2 years of the grant being awarded. However, in exceptional cases larger schemes may be granted an extension to this deadline where lottery or equivalent funding is being sought. In respect to the two Community Area Awards made by Area 5 this project falls under this category.
- 3.2 The Beversbrook Playing Pitch Project is responding to a need identified in the North Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy (2001) which recognised the Calne Community Area of having a shortage of pitches and identified an additional 16 acres was required.
- 3.3 The Calne Community Area Plan highlights the lack of recreation land and facilities as a key issue for people from across the community area. The North Wiltshire Community Strategy places importance on the need to increase opportunities for physical activity, promoting healthy lifestyles and increasing opportunities and facilities at a local level. This is also identified within the Councils own Corporate Priorities around healthy lifestyles.

- 3.4 Calne Town Council has undertaken consultation across the community area ranging from residents, local clubs and Parish Councils. The results of the consultations and the letters of support indicate that the facility is both needed and will bring significant benefits to a range of local sports clubs who are restricted by their current facilities. Work has been undertaken with the local schools to create a local sports partnership in the Calne Community Area.
- 3.5 The Wiltshire and Swindon Sports Partnership have been contacted and made aware of the proposed project at Beversbrook.
- 3.6 Calne Town Council owns the land and a detailed planning application for the Beversbrook Playing Pitch Project is currently with the Councils planning department. Calne Town Council will manage and maintain the facility.
- 3.7 The Beversbrook Playing Pitch project is a large-scale project costing around £1.75 million. At present Calne Town Council is the major funding organisation having committed £600,000 to the development on top of the £230,000 spent on purchasing the land. If the application to the Football Foundation is successful, an additional £1,000,000 will be brought into the project. A local fundraising programme is underway to contribute to the £190,000 shortfall and the applicant is confident this will be achieved through additional partners contributing to the project both through the supply of materials and match funding.
- 3.8 If the Football Foundation bid is unsuccessful then Calne Town Council will draw up a phased plan for the project to ensure the facility can still be developed over 10 years. If this is the case then previous awards made to this project by the Council will need to be reassessed to ensure they still meet the criteria in which funding was granted previously.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 If Members approve this award in line with Option 1 as detailed in the recommendation, the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme will have a balance of £51,477 remaining for grant applications in the 2006/07 financial year.
- 4.2 Members should note the figure above also includes a further two years worth of contributions towards the Landfill Tax Credits scheme, which the Executive Capital Partnership Scheme must ring-fence. It is anticipated that the Landfill Tax Credits Scheme will continue to run until 2009.
- 4.3 Members should note this is a one off non-recurring budget. If Members wish this scheme to continue once the initial funding has been allocated then a growth item will need to be considered for 2007/2008 when setting the budget.

#### **5. Community & Environmental Implications**

- 5.1 This scheme is an excellent example of the Council helping to support partnership projects and activities. Awards made by the Executive will enable applicants to contribute to the continuance and/or the improvement of cultural, social and community activity and well being across North Wiltshire, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent on the individual project.

5.2 The proposed project will help address issues identified in the North Wiltshire Community Strategy and the Calne Community Area Plan, all of which have stemmed from widespread community consultation.

5.3 The rural proofing questions have been considered and there are no negative impacts.

## **6. Equalities & Diversity Implications**

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the Community Planning, Community Area Awards and Partnership working service area, which the Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme comes under. The completed Equality impact Assessment can be found on the Z: drive under “Equalities and Diversity.”

6.2 The proposed project aims to widen the participation of local people in sports, particularly football, rugby and cricket. As part of the Football Development plan the applicant has identified the following target groups:

- Girls & Women
- Children & Young People

Once the project is open, pro-active work will take place to widen the participation of the target groups in using the facility.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

7.1 If option 1 is approved in its entirety Officers are of the opinion that this presents a low risk to the Council.

7.2 If there is a delay and a subsequent change to the size and nature of the proposal then Members will need to re-consider the award before releasing the funding.

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| <b>Appendices:</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix 1: Beversbrook Application to Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme</li> <li>• Appendix 2: Additional Information</li> <li>• Appendix 3: Breakdown of Costs</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme Criteria</li> <li>• Calne Community Area Plan</li> <li>• North Wiltshire Community Strategy</li> <li>• NWDC Corporate Plan 2006</li> <li>• Calne Town Council Application to Football Foundation</li> </ul> |

### **Previous Decisions Connected with this Report**

| <b>Report</b>  | <b>Committee &amp; Date</b> | <b>Minute Reference</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Beversbrook Playing Fields Project: Referral to Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme | Calne Area (5) Committee    | CA20                    |