

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 2 JUNE 2015  
title: EDISFORD ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCH PROJECT  
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 This committee approved the submission of a bid to Sport England for grant funding to assist the Council refurbish the artificial turf pitch at Edisford. A capital sum of £22,000 was allowed for in the 2015/16 budget to match an anticipated grant from Sport England of £25,000, the overall scheme budget was £47,000.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley
- Corporate Priorities - To encourage economic development throughout the borough, with specific focus on tourism
- Other Considerations – To develop, with relevant partners, measures to support the visitor economy

### 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council has, since early 2014, pursued a grant from Sport England for the refurbishment of the ATP at Edisford, which has deteriorated over time, through general wear and tear.

2.2 Following a lengthy process, the Council has been offered a grant by Sport England. The scheme submitted to Sport England was for an overall value of £52,950. The additional estimated sum of £5,950 was for fencing work, which was identified after the internal capital bid had been submitted, and the Council's capital programme had been set. The current grant offer from Sport England is for £26,450, based on this overall sum.

### 3 PROPOSALS

3.1 The surface of the football area will be changed to a third generation (3G) surface. This means it will have a longer fibre pile and be held in place by the use of rubber crumb pieces, giving a more forgiving surface for football.

3.2 There is also a capital scheme this year (2015/16) for lighting at the facility, which is going to be used to replace the floodlights. The cost of the new lighting technology at this time is such that it does represent value for money to make the investment now. The Value of the lighting capital scheme for Edisford All Weather Pitch is £20,000

## 4 ISSUES

- 4.1 New quotes for the re-surfacing and fencing work have been received, and they allow for all the work to be accommodated within the original capital budget of £47,000. Sport England has been asked to clarify if their grant offer (£26,450) will stand against the revised lower sum, or if it will be revised downwards to reflect the lower quote. The support currently indicated by Sport England is above the £25,000 allowed for in the capital programme.
- 4.2 Should Sport England revise down their grant offer to £23,500, then a further £1,500 of resources (in addition to the £22,000 already approved) would be needed from the Council to support the capital scheme. The overall capital scheme would remain at £47,000 but the manner in which it is resourced would change.
- 4.3 Should the Council need to add a further £1,500 of resource toward the scheme then this will be able to be found from existing revenue budgets, and will be made as a revenue contribution towards the capital scheme.

## 5 RISK ASSESSMENT

This report may have the following implications

- Resources – The Council has allocated a capital budget for this scheme and it can be delivered for that sum. Should Sport England reduce their indicated level of financial support, a potential shortfall of £1,500 could be met from existing revenue budgets as a revenue contribution towards the capital scheme. Should the support from Sport England be above £25,000, then a directly relative lower level of financial resources would be needed from the council.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The new surface will lead to reduced maintenance costs in the short to medium term
- Reputation – The surface has been the subject of many complaints recently as it has slowly deteriorated, the grant offer from Sport England will allow it to be replaced

## 6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 6.1 Approves acceptance of the Sport England grant, to a maximum of £26,450, and delegates the Director of Community Services to accept the quotes for the work to install the new pitch surface, subject to any requirement for formal tendering.
- 6.2 Approves the use of existing revenue budgets up to £1,500 (in addition to the approved council financing of £22,000) to support the overall capital scheme of £47,000, should the level of support from Sport England fall below the budgeted £25,000.

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