



CABINET REPORT

Report Title	Request for Capital Grant – Fernie Fields Sports and Social Club
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	06 February 2019
Key Decision:	NO
Within Policy:	YES
Policy Document:	YES
Directorate:	Finance
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr P Larratt
Ward(s)	All

1 Purpose

The purpose of the report is:

- 1.1 To seek approval from Cabinet to award a Capital Grant to Fernie Fields Sports and Social Club of up to £160K to provide funding towards a capital project to improve the Club's facilities including a Community Pavilion within the grounds of its existing facility in Moulton Leys.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the award of up to £160K as a Capital Grant to Fernie Fields Sports and Social Club as included in the approved Capital Budget for 2018-19.
- 2.2 To delegate to the Head of Customer and Communities in consultation with the Borough Secretary to enter into a grant funding agreement with the Trustees of Fernie Fields Sports and Social Club for a grant not exceeding £160k.

3 Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 Fernie Fields is an unincorporated sports and social club created in 1986 that provides football and bowling facilities for local people. It is used by both adults and children and is sited on Northampton Borough Council land with 40 years remaining on the lease.

3.1.2 Fernie Fields Sports and Social Club currently provides facilities for five key user groups:

Association Football – Sileby Rangers FC

Bowls – Whyte Meville Bowls Club

Community activities – Sports 4 Fitness CIC and Moulton Leys Community Group

Social Events – Private Hire

Corporate Meetings – Private hire

3.1.3 The Trustees of Fernie Fields Sports and Social Club have requested assistance with funding a major capital build which includes a new community pavilion to increase access and in particular disabled access. This request was originally made early in 2018 and was included in the development fund for the capital programme 2018/19 which was approved at Council in February 2018.

3.1.4 Sport4Fitness CIC is a Community Interest Company providing multi-sport activities that are affordable to all. They provide sessions on a regular basis at Fernie Fields for children and adults with special educational needs (SEN) and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The current provisions at Fernie Fields require improvement to support the ongoing provision of these services to a wide range of participants to support positive social interaction. In particular, there is no disabled access toilet facilities and no medical room.

3.1.5 The Trustees of Fernie Fields Sports and Social Club have worked to secure funding from a range of organisations including The Football Stadia Improvement Fund, Sports England and Bowls England. The proposed grant would be partly matched with funds from these organisations and the Trustees themselves. The investment would see the facility expanded to include a new entrance structure, community pavilion and kitchen and dining area.

3.1.6 The Trustees have recently been notified that one of their applications for match funding have been successful and they will receive £75,027 towards the total cost to be used on the hospitality extension and the changing rooms.

3.1.7 Full details of the application and the project have been provided by the Trustees, the indicative cost of the proposed improvements is £500K. There are a range of options dependent on the amount of funding secured.

- 3.1.8 Grant funding of £20,000 was applied for and approved on 6th August 2018 via a Cabinet Member Decision. This was to reflect the fact that the construction had commenced in relation to the Community Pavilion.
- 3.1.9 A grant agreement was drafted and signed by the trustees in relation to the £20,000 grant and this has now been paid.
- 3.1.10 The total grant, therefore, applied for is £180,000. £20,000 has been paid as a Cabinet Member Decision and the remaining funds applied for are £160,000.

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 There is a potential shortfall in relation to the total funding and to address this the Trustees propose sourcing additional funding streams including increased revenue from social and corporate events and additional grant applications. The release of any monies will be subject to the shortfall being addressed.
- 3.2.2 The Trustees will also have to demonstrate they have access to funds to support any cost over-run.
- 3.2.3 There are a range of options and the Trustees will have to confirm that only those which are achievable with the funding available from grants and match funding will be progressed.
- 3.2.4 The current programme indicates that the £160,000 funding if awarded from the Council will be apportioned as follows:
 - £3,500 Garage/Storage
 - £13,000 New entrance/toilets to include disabled facility
 - £143,500 Kitchen and Dining Room Extension
- 3.2.5 The £20,000 Grant Funding already allocated was used towards the Community Pavilion.

3.3 Choices

- 3.3.1 Cabinet have the choice to approve the award of the capital grant for £160,000, for a reduced amount or decline the request.

3.4 Next Steps

- 3.4.1 The grant agreement will be drafted, subject to approval and signed by the Trustees.
- 3.4.2 The scheme will be moved from the development pool into the approved programme following approval by the Capital Programme Board at its next available meeting.
- 3.4.3 The Trustees will approve the procurement and appointment of the construction companies to enable work to commence

3.4.4 The Head of Service for Customers and Communities will release the appropriate value of Capital Grant in staged payments in accordance with the grant agreement and progression of the build.

4 Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 There are no policy implications arising from this report.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 There are no risks associated with this request. The resources required are in the main body of the report and will only be released at the appropriate stage of the build and subject to any shortfall in funding being met.

4.2.2 The Council's Senior Project officer will ensure that the works invoiced are completed on site and carried out to a useable satisfactory standard.

4.2.3 The scheme is currently in the development pool of the Capital Programme and formal cabinet approval is required to move the scheme into the approved Capital Programme.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 Fernie Fields Sports and Social Club are an unincorporated body, they are not therefore a legal entity and have no capacity to enter into contracts, accordingly the Trustees will individually take on the contractual responsibilities and obligations of any grant funding agreement.

4.3.2 There remain risks in the shortfall of funding pursuant to paragraph 3.2.1 and where the Council should not release any monies until the costs have been verified and evidence of additional funding from other revenue streams provided to the Council.

4.3.3 The Council must ensure the business case to deliver the works is robust prior to the release of any grant funding, that it will provide best value for the residents of the Borough of Northampton and that the criteria for releasing funding to the organisation is fully supported by the council's key outcomes.

4.3.4 In the event the grant funding is approved by Cabinet, the grant funding must only be released when certified to the satisfaction of the Council at the completion of each appropriate stage of the build in accordance with the Schedule of the Grant Agreement.

4.3.5 The Trustees of Fernie Fields Sports and Social Club will need to evidence the contractor for the works has been procured in competition before any decisions to agree funding are made.

4.3.6 State aid has been considered as the total proposed funding will exceed the de-minimis threshold. The main considerations for the Council are the applicability of the block exemption for sporting infrastructures and the

potential effect of distorting trade between the EU member states. On the basis the Fernie Fields Sports and Social Club is serving the immediate locality with a predominantly local audience any risk would be low.

4.4 Equality and Health

4.4.1 There are no equality and health issues. Supporting this application will improve accessibility to these sports facilities. Many charitable organisations have expressed an interest in using the enhanced facilities including:

Northamptonshire Young Carers
Northampton Rotary
Autism Concern
Deaf Connect
Northampton Children Recovering from Cancer
Northampton Association of Youth Clubs
Northamptonshire Sport

4.4.2 Sport4fitness are liaising with representatives of other charities and organisations to ensure that the enhanced facilities reflect the needs of as wide a range of potential attendees as possible.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Trustees of Fernie Fields Sports and Social Club, Cabinet Members, Corporate Management Board, key user groups of Fernie Fields Sports and Leisure Club.

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 This supports the Council's Corporate Plan objectives: Making the best use of our assets, working with partners to provide joined-up services, empowering communities to develop their areas and developing stronger and more resilient communities.

4.7 Other Implications

4.7.1 None

5 Background Papers

Extract from Cabinet Report dated February 2018

Cabinet Member Decision dated 6th August 2018

Application for funding –Expansion to existing facilities Partnership Grant Application
18-19

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