

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	John Blackledge, Director Community and Environmental services
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Third Sector Engagement and Leisure Services
Report Author (Officer name and title):	John Hawkin, Chief Operating Officer, Community and Environmental Services
Implementation Date of Decision:	5 June 2018

Blackpool Playing Pitch Strategy: Refurbishment of Stanley Park All Weather Pitch

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To seek approval for the acceptance of a capital grant from the Football Foundation and appointment of Field Turf, Tarkett Group, to supply and install a new 3G sports surface at Blackpool Sports Centre, Stanley Park.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve the grant offer from Football Foundation of 67% of a total project cost of £458,133, subject to maximum payment of £308,133, towards the refurbishment of the existing 98m x 62m sand-dressed floodlit artificial grass pitch to form a new floodlit 3G football turf pitch.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 Acceptance of the external capital grant allows Blackpool Council the opportunity to upgrade an existing sports facility at a reduced cost and provide residents with a modern high quality football playing surface.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

The Blackpool Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) identified the need for 3G pitches across Blackpool and the Football Foundation and Lancashire FA, working with local sports clubs, identified a model of provision based on North, Central and South sites. No suitable alternative Central sites were identified.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Blackpool Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) was adopted in March 2017 following extensive consultation with local sports clubs, sport governing bodies and key stakeholders.

The PPS provides a strategic framework for the provision and management of outdoor sports.

Following the adoption of the PPS, Officers have developed a Football Development Group to pursue opportunities identified within the PPS Action Plan that has included representatives from Football Association, Lancashire FA, Football Foundation and local partners.

A successful funding application was submitted via the Football Foundation for a grant from the Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund.

The Football Foundation is the delivery organisation and oversee projects on behalf of the Premier League and Football Association, including; assessment of business case, tender via the established procurement framework for FA and ongoing monitoring/evaluation of key development objectives.

5.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.3 List of Appendices:

Cabinet Member Decision - PH23/2016 Blackpool Playing Pitch Strategy

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The Football Foundation requires the Council to: (1) enter into a Grant Agreement with the Football Foundation (2) grant a Legal Charge to the Football Foundation over the land where the refurbishment is taking place as security for the Council adhering to the grant conditions and (3) consent to the Football Foundation entering a restriction on the registered title to the property being developed to protect the Legal Charge.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 A business case has been developed for the ongoing operation of the facility that identifies key groups that will be targeted working in partnership with Lancashire FA and local football clubs, including; development of women and girls football, walking football opportunities to attract 50+ players and increasing opportunities for disabled players. A pricing policy has been approved by the Football Foundation, inline with its objectives of growing the game inclusively.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The capital grant offer is 67% of total project cost of £458,133 subject to a maximum payment of £308,133 requiring a contribution of £150,000 from Blackpool Council.

9.2 Blackpool Council contribution is made up from £100,000 Section 106 Agreement, savings within Community and Environment Directorate and Property Services allocation against savings on maintenance works.

9.3 The Grant Agreement contains provisions for repayment of the grant if the Council breaches certain conditions.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The Football Foundation would oversee all capital projects on behalf of the Premier League and FA Facilities Fund using their national Framework Agreement to ensure contractors are suitably qualified and experienced.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has taken place with Football Foundation, Lancashire FA, Football Association and both Football League Committees along with representatives of all local football clubs. Blackpool Football Clubs have committed to booking agreements to utilise the new facilities to ensure the business case is sustainable.

England Hockey and Blackpool Hockey Club were consulted regarding the change in playing surface and confirmed they did not object to the loss of one sand dressed playing surface as demand for hockey has decreased.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To approve the acceptance of Football Foundation grant and appointment of Field Turf to complete refurbishment of football facilities.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 Acceptance of the external grant provides Blackpool Council with the opportunity to upgrade its sports facilities and the tender process via Football Foundation Procurement Framework provided the most economically advantageous tender.