

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

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| Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker): | John Blackledge, Director for Community and Environmental Services |
| Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes): | Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, and Community Health and Wellbeing |
| Report Author (Officer name and title): | Lisa Arnold, Strategic Head of Community and Wellbeing Services |
| Implementation Date of Decision: | 3 October 2022 |

STANLEY PARK ATHLETICS ARENA

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To gain approval for the athletics track surface to be replaced and wider investment in the arena to ensure regional events can continue to be hosted in Blackpool.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve the investment and project outlined.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To ensure the athletics track is in a safe and usable condition and able to host regional and national events.

- 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:

Do not approve the investment in the facility, however the impact on local residents and reputation of Blackpool as an athletics venue would be impacted.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are

- “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”
- “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Stanley Park athletics track has reached the end of its life and England Athletics have advised that it will not be able to host regional or national competitions from 2023 without significant investment, particularly in the track surface.

5.2 The service collaboratively developed a specification with England Athletics, Blackpool Wyre & Fylde Athletics Club and procurement to ensure the project met the needs of regular users and was suitable for hosting regional and national events.

5.3 A number of bids were evaluated and a successful contractor appointed.

5.4 The total cost of the project is £307,000. £305,000 has been secured within existing council budget and funding of £5,000 has been secured from England Athletics.

5.5 If approved, the work will be completed by the end of 2022 enabling the new track to be available ready for the 2023 athletics season.

5.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? Yes

5.7 List of Appendices:

None.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 The specification has been developed in line with England Athletics recommendations to ensure the facility is accessible to all.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 Council budget and external funding has been secured to cover the cost of the project.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Project completion is delayed impacting on future bookings – this has been considered and contractors will be closely monitored to ensure the project is delivered to agreed timescales.

Cost of the project increases or unforeseen costs arise – this has been considered, the project is a fixed price project and a contingency fund is included within the overall budget to cover any unforeseen additional costs.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 The service collaboratively developed a specification with England Athletics, Blackpool Wyre & Fylde Athletics Club and procurement to ensure the project met the needs of regular users and was suitable for hosting regional and national events.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To approve the investment and project outlined.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 To ensure the athletics track is in a safe and usable condition and able to host regional and national events.