

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



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| DATE | 15th January 2013 |
| PORTFOLIO | Leisure and Culture |
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Prairie Sports Complex**PURPOSE**

1. To seek approval to the concept of the potential development of a sports complex at Prairie Fields and to gain approval to appoint architects, submit a planning application and to apply for external grant funds.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That Standing Order 18 (contracts exceeding £50,000 require public notice) be waived due to the specialist nature of the work and that the Head of Green Spaces and Amenities be given delegated authority to seek tenders for architectural services and to accept the most economically advantageous tender from the select list stated in section 12 of this report.
3. That the Executive approves the submission of applications to the Sport England Improvement Fund and the Premiership Facilities Fund and if successful authorises Officers to accept these awards in relation to the scheme.
4. That Officers submit a planning application for the scheme.
5. That a further report is brought back to the Executive if the planning application and funding applications are successful with a full business plan and project plan for implementing the next stages of the scheme.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

6. Expressions of Interest submitted to 2 sports funding bodies have received favourable responses and we have been invited to submit full applications for funding and deadlines for submitting these applications need to be met.
7. Plans and designs for the project need to be completed to support funding applications and these are also required for planning permission to be in place for the overall scheme

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

8. A number of improvement schemes for the Prairie have been looked at over recent years. These were predominantly around small sided football, and it is our view that this approach would not be financially viable on its own now due to the presence of other similar operations in the town. The revised scheme is a multi-sport development that will replace the existing 'redgra' pitch and provide a new shared pavilion building.
9. Discussions with the Community arm of Burnley Football Club have led to the proposal for the Football Centre with 3G pitch. The scheme will allow BFC Community to expand its current provision towards its targets - to develop women and girls football; to develop an advanced training academy for those youngsters outside the current BFC excellence squad; to develop disability football and in particular work with amputees, leading to a BFC disability team. The 3G pitch will also be available for general hire and will be a valued resource for local clubs and teams.
10. Appendix 1 provides a project overview and the rationale behind the proposed facility/sport mix but in brief the sports and activities to be provided are:
 - Football – 3G artificial grass pitch: BFC Women & Girls Centre of Excellence; BFC Advanced Training Academy; Disability incl. amputee training centre.
 - Football – 10 x grass pitches for fixtures (existing)
 - American Football (Burnley Tornados)
 - Rugby League
 - New changing pavilion with:
 - Golf – practice range
 - Golf – coaching academy with private coaching bays, swing analysis technology
 - Golf – chipping and putting practice area
 - Health and fitness – Gym and multi-use studio area
 - Café or vending area with viewing area
 - Golf pro shop
11. The Prairie scheme is supported by Lancashire FA, the Rugby Football League (RFL), and both the English Golf Union (EGU) and Golf Foundation.
12. The proposal is to appoint specialist sports facility architects from the following list supplied by RIBA. The initial work will be to provide design solutions with associated costs initially up to stage C with the option to progress through Planning to stage E and beyond to full construction if funding applications are successful.
 - HTGL Architects Ltd, 15 Brunswick Street, CARLISLE
 - Jennings Design Associates Ltd, The Warehouse, Saxon Street, Denton, MANCHESTER
 - NJSR Chartered Architects LLP, 57-59 Hoghton Street, SOUTHPORT
 - The Owen Ellis Partnership Ltd, 10 Duke Street, LIVERPOOL

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

13. Through consultation with National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and partners, two potential funding sources for the Prairie project have been identified. The first is through the Premiership Facilities Fund, which is available to Football League Clubs for the development of community football facilities including changing rooms and floodlights (up to £350K), and the second is from the Sport England Improvement Fund (£350K), to fund the 3G pitch. Expressions of Interest were submitted in September 2012 to both of these funds.
14. Officers received notification from Sport England in November that the Prairie project was one of only 39 projects across the country to be chosen to go through to full application stage.
15. Professional estimates for the whole project will be obtained at the next stage, however based on estimates received for previous schemes and Sport England guidelines, the costs are likely to be in the region of:

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| 3G Synthetic pitch | £0.5M |
| Pavilion | £1.5M |
| Landscaping etc | £0.5M |
| Architectural services and planning fees | £60,000 (£25,000 to RIBA Stage E) |
| Total | 2.56M |

16. The shortfall between external funding and the overall cost of the scheme will be subject to an assessment of procurement routes based on the business plan for the Centre. The golf centre and the football centre will be high profile commercial operations designed and run to maximise income and recover investment.
17. The initial design work (up to RIBA Stage E) and planning application fees are estimated at £25,000. This will be met from existing budget allocation for the original Prairie playing fields project.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

18. This scheme meets a number of key aspirations including improving quality of provision of facilities and improving the quality of life.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

19. Discussions are on-going with the following NGBs:
 - FA (Facilities)
 - Lancashire FA
 - RFL
 - EGU
 - Golf Foundation
20. In addition the following have been consulted:
 - Jonathan Sibley – CEO BFC Community
 - Futures Learning Trust
 - Sport & Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA)

- Golf Professional – Towneley Golf
- Lancashire Sport Partnership
- Sport England
- Burnley College
- Pennine Lancashire Authorities (Sport)

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| BACKGROUND PAPERS |
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21. None

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| FURTHER INFORMATION |
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PLEASE CONTACT:

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ALSO: