

Update Report on progress with new football pitch at Beeslack Community High School**Report by Dr Mary Smith, Director, Education, Communities and Economy****1 Purpose of Report**

Following the approval at Council on 25 June 2013 to bid for funds for a new 3G pitch at Beeslack Community High School, bearing in mind the implications of the land arrangements that would need to be in place, this report provides an update on the progress with the plans for an externally funded 3G community pitch at Beeslack Community High School, Penicuik.

2 Background

- 2.1** In June 2013, the Council report on the new Football Pitch for Beeslack Community High outlined that Penicuik is home to several football clubs and groups and practically all of them have recently come together to form an all-embracing organisation called the Penicuik Athletic Community Football Club (PACFC). The organisation is keen to increase the number of playing members especially in the youth section and it believes a dedicated playing hub and training centre is necessary for the realisation of their aspirations. Penicuik is also home to the 2nd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland based at Glencorse Barracks and over the years very strong relations have been forged between the barracks and the local community. The local schools, notably Beeslack High and Mauricewood Primary schools, have played a significant part in this. The Barracks currently has a number of facilities but some of these would benefit from augmentation.
- 2.2** Beeslack already provides an extensive community programme of Educational, Leisure and Sporting activities used each week by over 2000 users (from the Armed Forces and the local community). However the existing pitch is a poor quality shale surface that is not fit for purpose and consequently pupils have to go to other facilities outwith the school premises for some physical education activities. A new fit for purpose pitch would provide much needed sports / physical education facilities for pupils of both Beeslack High and Mauricewood Primary schools, additional and easily accessible facilities for the 2nd Battalion and a new playing and training hub for the Penicuik Athletic Community Football Club (PACFC).

- 2.3** This report provides an update on the anticipated costs of providing the pitch which totals £400,000 and the funding secured which totals £384,462. This is made up of five main funding sources as outlined in the second table below:

Beeslack 3G Project	Pre Estimate Tender
Construction Works	£302,075
Fencing	£40,000
Goal Posts and Nets	£4,000
Goal Storage	£3,700
Anticipated tender	£349,775
Fees	£30,360
Project Contingencies	£20,000
Project Total Cost	£400,135

Beeslack 3G Project	Funding	Update position
Army Covenant Grant	£200,000	Awarded in April 2014. Funds will be released when a contractor has been secured and the work commenced
Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club	£25,000	Grant Awarded to the PYAFC. Funds will be released when project is launched
Beeslack CHS	£25,750	Secured in the school budget
Sport Scotland	£66,250	Awarded
Beeslack Community	48,712	Secured in the school community budget
Midlothian Council Shortfall	18,750	Education Service agreed to cover this shortfall on 16th March 2015
	£384,462	

Costs have increased due to several reasons:

- Further refinements to the brief have been advised by Sport Scotland. These are five sets of goal posts/nets and storage of the goals when not in use which requires increased pitch area and fencing.
- Fencing costs were not included in the original cost estimate, these are approximately £40,000.
- The current cost forecast is £380,135 and allowing for 5% contingency this indicates a total development cost of £400,000.

This is a significant increase and exceeds the budget. Tenders are due back in two weeks and the returned tender prices will be reviewed and savings identified if necessary to bring the project back within budget.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

The table above notes the funding sources including the additional other costs which total £47,700. £225,000 will be released at the point of project commencement and the Education Service has set aside £18,750 to cover the original projected shortfall.

3.2 Risk

This project currently depends on MLC leasing / committing the land for up to 10 years from June 2013. If this or any other aspect of the multi-agency collaboration falls through, the project's future would be in serious jeopardy. The headteacher chairs the steering group for the project and is in continuous discussions with various stakeholders to ensure this risk is mitigated as much as possible.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☒ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☒ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Both the proposed funding and use of this facility are examples of the Council working with other organisations and the wider community to obtain new resources and optimise the use of existing ones. This promotes the Council's position on different models of service delivery and contributes to desired outcomes for best value, co-production, community cohesion and health & wellbeing.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Well documented evidence clearly shows a strong link between engaging young people in sports and reduced youth crime levels and anti-social behaviour. Providing facilities both for the school and the Athletic Club will make a significant contribution to engaging the area's young people.

The facility will also provide added opportunities for other age groups to engage in physical activities in support of the Council's promotion of active and healthier lifestyles, thereby contributing to the prevention of some health-related conditions.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Numerous discussions have taken place with members of the local and regional armed forces, community groups, local councillors, sportscotland and officers within the Council. Both the funding and the running/maintenance of the facility will be through adopting a co-productive approach.

All key stakeholders believe that this project will further enhance community cohesion by promoting and supporting the integration of Armed Service Families into wider community organisations and activities.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

The facilities will be DDA compliant and will be open to all sections of the community.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Construction will comply with the required environmental standards.

3.9 IT Issues

There are no IT implications.

4 Recommendations

Council are requested to

- a) Note the contents of the report, including the funding sources.
- b) Note the progress to date.

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Background Papers:

Council report of 25 June 2013: Opportunity for new football pitch at Beeslack Community High School.