

FIVE-A-SIDE PITCHES, DUNOON STADIUM

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide further details to Members with regards to options for operating the five-a-side all weather pitches at Dunoon Stadium.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of this report.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 This report provides further information requested by Members at the Bute and Cowal Area Committee in May. To summarise: - the group currently operating the facility (Cowal Community Sports Project) have indicated their desire to cease operating the facility and allow the council or another group to take over the running of the facility. They had confirmed that they have not paid any rent nor made any loan repayments to the council since commencement of their lease in 2001. Furthermore, the group had informed the council that they have not reserved any monies into a sinking fund for the on-going maintenance of the all-weather surface or for its replacement at expiry of its useful life.
- 3.2 Members requested that the council look at options to ensure the long term viability of the facility with a view to discussing with other interested parties.
- 3.3 Officer have met with representatives of Dunoon Youth Football League (DYFL) as they were best positioned to work with the council given their long standing commitment to football in the area and recognised for their good work within Dunoon.
- 3.4 The initial meeting was to openly discuss options for the club regarding the running of the facility and to allow the representatives to go back to their committee to discuss future partnership working with the council.

- 3.5 The DYFL committee considered options and sent the council a draft Business Plan to look at short term options with a view to long term sustainability of the facility, with a 1 year financial package option to set out future plans to create a full sized 3G pitch on the current site to allow multi-sports use. The business plan is in draft form at this time and has not been assessed in any way by any relevant officer of the council.
- 3.6 Officers of the council have agreed to continue discussions with the DYFL to assist in applying for grants / creating full business case etc. and will assist with a public consultation with regards the future uses of the facility. Options to create a multi-sports complex will possibly attract other clubs such as Rugby and Shinty within the area.
- 3.7 Moving forward, it would appear that DYFL would be interested with possible support of other clubs in exploring options to run the facility. The council will continue to work with the club to achieve a successful outcome and long term plan for the area.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 Given that the facility is now operating at a loss and the Cowal Community Sports Project have requested that the council consider taking back control of the facility, it is vital that the council continue to work with DYFL to explore options; this will require support from Amenity Services and Social Enterprise Team.

The draft business plan submitted by the DYFL to provide a long term future for the facility requires to be finalised and assessed prior to submission to members for their consideration.

Members are therefore asked at this time to note the information provided and the potential options being considered in resolution to this issue. A further report will be submitted to the October meeting of the Area Committee.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy: Third Sector Support
- 5.2 Financial: Future implications to Amenity Services
- 5.3 Legal: Asset transfer of facility
- 5.4 HR: N/A
- 5.5 Equalities: N/A
- 5.6 Risk: Long term sustainability of facility
- 5.7 Customer Service: N/A

Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services
31st July 2013

For further information contact: Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Amenities