
SYNTHETIC PITCH PROGRAMME – PEEBLES 3G PROJECT

Report by Corporate Transformation and Services Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

24 May 2016

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report proposes the Planning Application Number 15/01460/FUL for the proposed pitch at Victoria Park in Peebles is withdrawn.**
- 1.2 Since its inception there have been significant issues in identifying a suitable site for a full-size, synthetic 3G pitch in Peebles. In total 24 different sites across the town have been considered and examined in detail with the current preferred site agreed by Executive as being the site at Victoria Park.
- 1.3 There continues to be significant public interest, both positive and negative, in the Planning Application for the new pitch at Victoria Park and difficulties faced by Tweeddale Councillors in respect of this issue.
- 1.4 Local Councillors have concluded that recommending to the Planning Application for the Pitch at Victoria Park should be withdrawn, in order to allow alternative sites to be investigated further and to provide adequate time for the Tweeddale Councillors to consult with the wider community of Peebles.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Council**
 - (a) **In the light of the request by Tweeddale Councillors Executive agrees to withdraw the Planning Application for the new 3G Pitch at Victoria Park in Peebles to allow a further period of consultation.**
 - (b) **Agrees to Officers submitting a further report to the Executive in June setting out the way forward for the Peebles 3G Pitch.**

3 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Tweeddale Ward Councillors wish additional time to consult with the community of Peebles. It is now the view of Ward Councillors that this is the best way to proceed and that proceeding with the existing programme is not possible.
- 3.2 Officers advised Tweeddale Councillors that in order not to prejudice other sites in Peebles the existing Planning Application lodged for the Victoria Park site in Peebles should be withdrawn. Were this not done then any future planning application on an alternative site would be highly unlikely to be approved as it would be almost certainly be impossible to demonstrate 'need' if there was an existing planning approval on another site.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

The changes to the pitch programme discussed in this report would require a re-profiling of the capital plan as approved at Council on 11th February 2016. The current profile is below. This will be addressed in the recommended report to Executive in June.

Pitch		Previous	15/16	16/17	17/18	Total
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Peebles	Current Plan	41	90	1606	3	1740

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

- (a) The sportscotland letter of 11 March 2013 with regard to the £500,000 grant funding of Peebles High School facilities, contained a condition to 'deliver a full size 3G in Peebles within a timescale of 2 years'. There is a risk that if a 3G pitch is not delivered in Peebles, sportscotland will lose credibility in the Council and be less willing to fund future programmes. Officers are continuing to seek to remove this risk in discussions with sportscotland and are confident this can be addressed and the risk removed.
- (b) There is a risk that if an agreement cannot be reached around a suitable site that any monies already expended in capital terms will be written back to revenue, which will result in a revenue pressure. If this project continues this will not be necessary.

4.3 Equalities

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on this proposal and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

It is not anticipated that there will be any negative environmental impacts.

4.5 **Carbon Management**

It is not anticipated that there will be any effects on carbon emissions.

4.6 **Rural Proofing**

n/a

4.7 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

n/a

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the final report.

5.2 Corporate Communications – if what you are proposing involves likely media interest or high public information dissemination.

Approved by

Rob Dickson
Corporate Transformation & Services Director

Signature

Author(s)

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Background Papers: APWG 19 April 2016

Previous Minute Reference: APWG 19 April 2016

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