

# North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 25 February 2019

## ITEM 5(c)

Title: Football Foundation  
Grant – Amberley Playing  
Fields

Portfolio: Culture, Sport and Leisure.

Cabinet Member: Councillor Sarah Day

Report from Service Area: Environment, Housing and Leisure.

Responsible Officer: Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure.

Tel: (0191) 6437295

Wards affected: Killingworth.

### PART 1

#### 1.1 Executive Summary:

This report seeks approval to accept an offer of grant funding totaling up to £0.500m from the Football Foundation. The grant will be used to provide a full size Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) at Amberley Playing Fields in Killingworth.

This grant funding has been approved via the investment gateway process and is included in the 2019-23 Investment Plan put forward for approval by full Council on 21 February 2019.

#### 1.2 Recommendations:

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (i) authorise the Head of Resources to accept the offer of up to £0.500m grant funding from the Football Foundation; and
- (ii) delegate authority to Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure in consultation with the Head of Resources, Senior Manager Legal Services and the Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure to enter into a grant agreement with the Football Foundation.

#### 1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

#### 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the “Our Places” priority in the 2018-2020 Our North Tyneside Plan. Specifically: Our People will: “Be healthy and well”. Our Places will provide a “Healthy environment and will continue to regenerate including new schemes in Killingworth”

## 1.5 Information:

### 1.5.1 Background

Officers within the Sport and Leisure team were approached by the Football Foundation in early 2018 who asked the Authority to consider an application for funding to provide a new AGP at Amberley playing fields in Killingworth. The Football Foundation had identified this site as a priority site for investment in partnership with the resident club, Killingworth Young People's Club (KYPC).

The Authority is the freehold owner of the site and whilst KYPC already hold a ground lease from the Authority for land adjacent to the playing fields, this lease is coming to an end. Therefore, the Authority will enter into a new 99 year lease with KYPC for the whole of this area including the playing field site.

In May 2018 Investment Programme Board (IPB) approved a request in relation to the potential development of this facility.

Since then officers have been working in partnership with the Football Foundation and KYPC to develop the joint bid for funding. The bid included a comprehensive business plan for the new facility which deals with on-going revenue and life cycle maintenance implications for the new pitch which will fall under the responsibility of KYPC.

A new lease for the site also gives responsibility for on-going revenue and life cycle maintenance responsibilities to KYPC. As the resident club KYPC are also responsible for the day today management of the new pitch.

The Football Foundation expects that facilities that they fund demonstrate good community use at peak times from clubs and organisations other than KYPC as the resident football club. This is a requirement of the bid as the Football Foundation receives one third of its funding from Sport England who ask for wider use other than just football.

The agreed business plan for the site includes a programme of use for the AGP which lists usage by:

- Rugby Union
- Rugby League
- Archery
- Cricket
- Local Schools
- Newcastle United FC Foundation
- Northumberland FA

In addition, the programme anticipates usage by two mini soccer leagues and an over 35 league with teams coming from all over North Tyneside. The facility will also be used for FA coaching courses as well as coaching programmes for children, especially during school holiday periods. The programme also includes free use of the AGP for those participating in Active North Tyneside programmes hosted at the site such as walking football. There is also an emphasis on developing girl's football and disability football has also been identified as a strategic priority for Newcastle United Football Club (NUFC) Foundation and the Football Association (FA). Provision has also been programmed in for casual community hire. The Club, in partnership with the NUFC Foundation, will run a weekly recreational session aimed

at participants who are not members of any football clubs. These sessions will predominantly be free of charge.

With regard to hire charges to use the facility it has been agreed in the draft lease that the charges will mirror those at Authority managed leisure centres. In addition, a further discount of at least 50% will be given for day time use by local schools. The AGP will, in effect, be used and managed in line with existing AGP's at Authority leisure centres.

The Football Foundation, as main funders, will carry out annual checks to see if the pitch is being used in accordance with the business plan as set out in the submission for funding. Planning approval for the new facility was given on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

An application for funding was submitted in October 2018 and confirmation was received on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 that the application for funding had been approved with an offer of up to £0.500m toward the development of a new AGP. The offer of grant funding must be accepted by 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019.

## **1.6 Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

### Option 1

Cabinet may approve the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of this report to accept the grant offer of up to £0.500m from the Football Foundation and enter into a grant funding agreement with the Football Foundation.

### Option 2

Cabinet may not approve the Football Foundation offer of grant funding.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

## **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

There is an identified gap in the provision of a full size AGP in the north west of the Borough. This was identified in the Borough-wide playing pitch strategy as well as the Football Foundation's local football development plan. Acceptance of the grant from the Football Foundation will support the development of this pitch which in turn will also support the aspirations within Authority's Our North Tyneside Plan.

## **1.8 Appendices:**

None.

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Paul Youlden – Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure. Tel 0191 6437430

## **1.10 Background information:**

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

Football Foundation funding information:

<https://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/>

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

The grant of £0.500m is included within the 2019-23 Investment Plan put forward for approval by full Council on 21 February 2019.

The total cost of the project is £0.714m with the balance of £0.214m being met from section 106 contributions. The project is fully funded and so there are no borrowing requirements arising from accepting the grant or proceeding with the project.

In addition to this, Killingworth Young People's Club have contributed £0.041m to the costs of feasibility and other preparatory works. There are no expected additional revenue costs in administering the grant or as result of accepting the grant. All grant claims will be made in accordance with the Authority's Financial Regulations.

### **2.2 Legal**

As a condition of receiving the grant funding, the Authority will enter into a funding agreement with the Football Foundation. This is a standard document used by the Football Foundation based on its own terms and conditions which cannot be amended. The agreement sets out the conditions under which the grant is provided. This includes detailed provisions for the use and management of the facilities once constructed. The agreement also allows the Football Foundation to seek repayment of the grant in the event that the recipient organisations do not comply with these terms during the 21 year claw back period.

The grant offer is a joint offer to the Authority and the Killingworth Young People's Club (KYPC). KYPC will also enter into the same agreement. The Authority must be aware that under the terms of the agreement it is jointly and severally liable to the Football Foundation. Therefore, should any of the provisions of the agreement be breached by KYPC the Authority could be wholly liable to the Football Association for any claw back of the grant.

KYPC will be entering into a new 99 year lease with the Authority and therefore this risk is mitigated by the terms of the new lease which prescribe the use of the site by reference to the grant agreement. However, given this risk, it is the Authority's expectation that KYPC will enter in this lease prior to any draw down from the grant funds by the Authority.

In addition, as a condition of the grant, the Football Foundation also require a restriction to be placed on the freehold and leasehold title of the site.

### 2.3 Consultation/community engagement

Consultation has taken place with the Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure to ensure alignment with the Our North Tyneside Plan. Significant consultation was carried out with the local community as part of the successful planning application process for the proposed development of the new AGP.

### 2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights issues directly arising from this report

### 2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity issues which arise directly from this report

### 2.6 Risk management

Project management arrangements are subject to overview by Investment Programme Board governance. An officer project group oversees the programme and if agreed the governance of the grant funding will be added to existing risk management register.

### 2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder issues directly arising from this report. Community venues like this, being utilised by a number of local groups, are a welcome addition to the Borough in terms of offering diversionary activities to young people.

### 2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability issues directly arising from this report

## PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Head(s) of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service