

**REPORT TO: EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
9 APRIL 2008**

SUBJECT: LEISURE AND HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAMME UPDATE

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee on the progress made to date in relation to the Leisure and Healthy Living Programme and to seek prior approval for Officers to accept the lowest tender for Buckie and Speyside Synthetic Turf Pitches.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D (13) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the Council's statutory powers to support activities related to the development of recreation, sport, culture and heritage.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:-

- (i) notes the progress made in relation to the Leisure and Healthy Living Programme.**
- (ii) notes that the Leisure and Healthy Living Programme will remain as a distinct programme but will be administered and tracked through the Educational Services Capital Programme.**
- (iii) gives delegated authority to the Director of Educational Services, in consultation with the Joint Chairs, to accept the lowest tender for Buckie and Speyside Synthetic Turf Pitches.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council's Corporate Plan (2004-2007) identified the development of 18 Leisure and Healthy Living capital build projects as a strategic objective.
- 3.2 At the Special Meeting of the Moray Council on 8 February 2007 (*para 4 of the minute refers*), members approved the inclusion of 9 Leisure and Healthy Living related projects within the Capital Plan for the next 5 years (2007/08 to 2011/12).
- 3.3 Since this meeting, the Bishopmill Primary Sports Hall was formally opened on 1 May 2007 and construction of the Grant Park Pavilion (Forres) commenced at the beginning of November 2007.
- 3.4 At the Special Meeting of the Moray Council on 14 February 2008 (*para 2 of the minute refers*), Council funding for the Buckie and Speyside Synthetic Turf Pitches was approved as part of the Capital Plan for 2008/09.

- 3.5 Although the Leisure and Healthy Living Programme will remain as a distinct entity, all projects formally categorised under this Programme will now be administered and tracked through the Educational Services Capital Programme.
- 3.6 A summary of the status of these projects and their respective budget headings categories are listed as **Appendix 1**.
- 3.7 Members are asked to note the progress made in relation to the following projects and agree to give prior approval for Council to accept the lowest tender for the Buckie and Speyside Synthetic Turf Pitch Developments subject to the cost being within the agreed budget.

3.8 Buckie and Speyside Synthetic Turf Pitch Developments

- 3.8.1 Members will be aware that the Buckie and Speyside Synthetic Turf Pitch projects are an integral part of the Natural Grass and Synthetic Turf Pitches Strategy for Moray (2007-2012) which was approved at the Education and Social Services Committee on 3 October 2007, (*para 10 of the minute refers*).
- 3.8.2 At the Education & Social Services Committee on 13 February 2008, members agreed to approve the Action Plan for the development of two synthetic turf pitches at Buckie and Speyside High Schools, (*para 11 of the minute refers*).
- 3.8.3 The Action Plan identified that the estimated cost of each synthetic turf pitch (including floodlighting and fencing) was £506,000. Both pitch developments were included as part of the Educational Services 5-year Capital Plan submission and have been identified for development for the period 2008/09-2009/10.
- 3.8.4 At the meeting of the Full Council on 30 January 2008, members were informed that a stage 2 funding application for £200,000 had been submitted to **sportscotland** for the construction of Buckie Synthetic Turf Pitch and that a decision regarding this award was pending.
- 3.8.5 At the beginning of February, Officers were informed by **sportscotland** that the grant application had been successful.
- 3.8.6 Following this award, and in line with the project milestones identified in the Speyside and Buckie Synthetic Turf Pitch Action Plan, Property Services have issued tender documents to a short list of 6 contractors for the construction phase of this project. To ensure best value, it is proposed that the construction of both pitch developments will be undertaken concurrently.
- 3.8.7 Members will consider approving implementation of these projects in an earlier item to this meeting (Educational Services Capital Plan 2008/09

refers). Should these projects be approved, it is likely that works would begin during July with the pitches being operational by Autumn 2008.

3.8.8 Members will note that plans for up-grading and providing changing facilities that are designed for community use at each school are currently being developed. A report up-dating members of the progress made in relation to this aspect of the project will be made in due course.

3.9 Moray Wheels Project (Buckie Skate Park)

3.9.1 At the meeting of the Moray Council on 30 January 2008, members agreed to give prior approval for Officers to accept the lowest tender for Moray Wheels Project (Buckie Skate Park), subject to the cost being within the agreed budget (*para 23(ii) of the minute refers*).

3.9.2 The revised budget for the Buckie Skate Park was £127,180. The Buckie Skate Park Group also agreed to provide additional funding of £4,180 which was the approximate cost of supplying the handrails for the skate park. The anticipated tender price was therefore £131,360.

3.9.3 Following a previously unsuccessful attempt to tender for this project, the Council's Property Services Section issued tender documents in January 2008 for the construction of this facility.

3.9.4 Tenders were returned on 20 February and the lowest tender received was of a higher value than anticipated. It was therefore necessary for a savings exercise to be undertaken by the Group in partnership with the Council in order to reduce the cost.

3.9.5 After considering a number of options for securing savings, it was agreed that the driveway and pyramid features for the skate park would require to be omitted if the necessary savings were to be made (**See Appendix 2**).

3.9.6 The Buckie Skate Park Group, however, propose to continue to fund raise and undertake the installation of these two features at a later date by themselves (**See Appendix 3**).

3.9.7 It should also be noted that this expense will be in addition to the Buckie Skate Park Group fulfilling their commitment to meet the ongoing running costs for this facility which have been calculated in the region of £2,100 to £2,500 per annum.

3.9.8 The amended changes at a revised tender cost of £132,694.78 have been accepted by Bendcrete who are a specialist contractor in the construction of concrete skate parks. It is proposed that the remaining £1,335 shortfall will be covered by the project contingency allowance or funded by the Group.

3.9.9 Subject to agreement with the contractor, it is anticipated that the 9 week construction period at Ian Johnston Park will start late April and will be completed by the end of June 2008.

3.10 Moray Wheels Project (Elgin Skate Park)

- 3.10.1 Members will recall that an application for £40,000 towards the estimated £145,000 construction costs for the construction of a concrete skate park in Cooper Park, had been submitted by the Council to the Big Lottery Young People's Fund. A decision on this funding application was expected to be known in February.
- 3.10.2 Council has now been informed by the Big Lottery Fund that the grant application has been successful.
- 3.10.3 The proposed plans for the skate park have been enthusiastically endorsed by the young people who attended the Moray Wheels Project AGM on 13 February 2008 and detailed plans are in the process of being generated.
- 3.10.4 On behalf of the Moray Wheels Project, the Council's Property Services Department will undertake the tendering process.
- 3.10.5 In anticipation that the construction of the project will start and be completed by December 2008, Legal Services have generated draft terms of lease for the Moray Wheels Management Committee to consider.

3.11 Grant Park Pavilion (Forres)

- 3.11.1 Members will be aware that construction of the £490,000 Grant Park Pavilion by Robertson Construction Ltd started at the beginning of November 2007.
- 3.11.2 It is proposed that this will be a dual-purpose facility shared by Forres Soccer 7's and the Grant Park Bowling Club.
- 3.11.3 The contractors current programmed date for completing this project is 30 June 2008. Efforts are, however, being made by the contractor to complete ahead of this date.
- 3.11.4 While access to the bowling green has been made available during the construction period, representatives of the Grant Park Bowling Club have expressed concern that changing facilities will not be ready for the beginning of the bowling club season at the end of April and not until June when construction of the pavilion is expected to be completed.
- 3.11.5 Alternative accommodation arrangements were offered by the Council to the Grant Park Bowling for this period, however, the Bowling Club has agreed to make their own accommodation arrangements for the period in question. This issue has therefore been resolved.
- 3.11.6 The Leisure and Healthy Living Project Officer will undertake to provide a report on the progress of this project at a future meeting of the Education and Social Services Committee.

4 SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

- 4.1 The Council's Corporate Plan (2004-2007) identified the development of 18 Leisure and Healthy Living capital build projects as a strategic objective. The Moray Community Plan (2006-2010) recognises the significant community benefit to be derived from this programme and the Moray Community Planning Partnership Natural Grass and Synthetic turf Pitches Strategy (2007-2012) has also identified as an objective the need to provide synthetic turf pitches to be shared by schools and the wider community.

(b) Policy and Legal

- 4.2 The provision of high quality sport and recreation facilities is not only an integral part of the Council's strategy for the development of quality sport and recreation provision in Moray but is also a national priority. In particular, the project aims to fulfil the aspirations for quality grass roots recreation provision, leading to increased levels of physical activity and health, as identified as a key objective in Sport 21 (The National Strategy for Sport 2003-2007) and sportscotland's Reaching Higher: Building on the Success of Sport 21.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

4.3 Financial

All of the above projects feature within the Educational Services Capital Plan submission 2008/09. A budget allocation of £506,000 has been allocated in the Plan in respect to the cost of constructing each synthetic turf pitch.

Budget provision for changing accommodation will be considered by members as part of the 5 year Capital Plan process.

It has been identified that any revenue costs associated with Grant Park Pavilion and the Moray Wheels Projects (Buckie and Elgin) will be met by the community groups operating these facilities.

4.4 Risks

Members will note that there are no risks directly arising from this report.

4.5 Staffing

Members will note that there are no staffing issues directly related to this report.

4.6 Property

Members will note that there are no property issues directly arising from this report.

(d) Consultations

- 4.7 In preparing this report, consultations have been undertaken with the Principal Accountant, Principal Planning Officer, Sports Facilities Manager, Educational Resources Manager, Property Manager, Lands and Parks Officer, Head of Estates Services, Sports Development Officer, Active Schools Project Manager, Community Planning and Development Manager, Educational Services Senior Management Team and the Chief Executive.
- 4.8 All are in agreement with the respective elements of this report and, where appropriate, their comments have been incorporated.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Committee is requested to:

- (i) note the progress made in relation to the Leisure and Healthy Living Programme.**
- (ii) note that the Leisure and Healthy Living Programme will remain as a distinct programme but will be administered and tracked through the Educational Services Capital Programme.**
- (iii) gives delegated authority to the Director of Educational Services, in consultation with the Joint Chairs, to accept the lowest tender for Buckie and Speyside Synthetic Turf Pitches.**

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Background Papers: Contained with Education Services File (Leisure and Healthy Living)

Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Education and Social Services Committee/
9 April 2008/Leisure and Healthy Living Programme.