

REPORT TO: THE MORAY COUNCIL ON 30 JANUARY 2008

SUBJECT: LEISURE AND HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAMME UP-DATE

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to apprise members 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 Skate Park.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Council 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 members:-

- (i) **note the progress made in relation to the Leisure and Healthy Living Programme.**
- (ii) **agree 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.**

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) was begun at the beginning of November 2007.
- 3.4 Council funding for the remaining projects will be considered as part of the Capital Plan for the 5 years 2008/09 to 2013/14.
- 3.5 A summary of the Leisure and Healthy Living Programme projects that have either been completed or feature within the Educational Services 5-year Capital Plan submission is listed as **Appendix 1**.
- 3.6 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 Skate Park subject to the cost being within the agreed budget.

3.7 Moray Wheels Project (Buckie Skate Park)

- 3.7.1 As the lead partner, and on behalf of Buckie Skate Park Group, Council Property Services Section had, in July 2007, undertaken the tendering process for the purpose of selecting a contractor to undertake the construction phase for this project.
- 3.7.2 As noted in the last report submitted to this Committee on 19 September 2007, the lowest tender received was of a higher value than the Group's own estimate of £103,000. After identifying a number of options for securing savings, an estimated funding shortfall of £24,585 still remained.
- 3.7.3 In addressing this shortfall, Buckie Skate Park Group agreed to undertake further fund raising to a value of £4,180. This is the approximate cost of supplying the hand rails for the skate park.
- 3.7.4 At the meeting of the Full Council on 19 September 2007, it was also agreed that £20,000 from the Quality of Life Fund would be allocated to the Buckie Skate Park project (*para 3.4.7 of the report refers*) to meet the remaining shortfall.
- 3.7.5 The revised total budget for the construction of Buckie Skate Park is estimated as £127,180. A partner funding breakdown for this project is outlined under paragraph 4.3 of this report.
- 3.7.6 Following the decision to allocate the additional funding from the Quality of Life Fund, the contractor who submitted the lowest price withdrew their tender for commercial reasons.
- 3.7.7 Property Services consequently advised that it would now be necessary to delay the tendering process until after the winter since the poor weather conditions during this time of year would be detrimental to the construction of the skate park.
- 3.7.8 Tenders will be issued to 6 Contractors in late January 2008, with a programmed start date for works scheduled to begin in the first week of April and completion by mid June. This is subject to costs being returned within budget.
- 3.7.9 To ensure that this proposed timescale can be achieved, members are requested to give prior approval for Officers to accept the lowest tender for the Moray Wheels Project (Buckie Skate Park). This is subject to the cost being within the agreed budget of £127,180.

3.8 Moray Wheels Project (Elgin Skate Park)

- 3.8.1 At the meeting of the Full Council on 19 September 2007, members agreed that “ Council should take the lead role in relation to the Moray Wheels Project (Elgin Skate Park)” (*para 3.5.9 of the report refers*). Members were also informed that an application for £40,000 towards the estimated £145,000 construction costs had been submitted by the Council to the Big Lottery Young People’s Fund on behalf of the Moray Wheels Project.
- 3.8.2 The Big Lottery has subsequently confirmed that a decision on this application is still pending and will not be made known until the first week of February 2008.
- 3.8.3 In the meantime, the revised plans for the skate park were submitted for approval to the Council’s Development Control. Planning Officers have confirmed, in November 2007, that the revised plans are acceptable as a non-material amendment to the original planning permission previously awarded in April 2005 for the construction of a concrete skate park at Cooper Park, Elgin. The location of this park is adjacent to a proposed compound area and other works proposed as part of the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme, details of which are the subject of a recently submitted application for planning permission.
- 3.8.4 Subject to securing Big Lottery funding, it is the intention that the tendering process for the Moray Wheels (Elgin Skate Park) can be progressed this Spring and that construction of this facility can be completed by the end of 2008.

3.9 Grant Park Pavilion (Forres)

- 3.9.1 Following the acceptance of the lowest tender by Robertson Construction Ltd, construction of the £490,000 Grant Park Pavilion started at the beginning of November 2007. Construction of the dual purpose facility, to be shared by Forres Soccer 7’s and the Grant Park Bowling Club, is estimated to be completed by 23 May 2008.
- 3.9.2 Technical issues in order to comply with Building Standards regulations for the construction of the facility combined with poor weather conditions prior to the laying of the concrete foundations had, however, resulted in an approximate 4 week delay in the construction of the project.
- 3.9.3 Members will be pleased to note that the contractor has advised that good progress is now being made and that it is a realistic expectation that the weeks lost can be recovered.
- 3.9.4 The Leisure and Healthy Living Project Officer will undertake to provide a report on the progress of this project at the next meeting of Full Council.

3.10 Moray Sports Facility at Elgin High School

- 3.10.1 Members will be aware that the Moray Regional Sports Facility at Elgin High School had been part of the PPP proposal for two secondary schools in Elgin. This facility incorporated a 6/8 badminton court sized sports hall, a full sized synthetic turf pitch and an all weather athletic track.
- 3.10.2 Now that Elgin High School is no longer included within the PPP initiative, essential upgrading of the School has been included within the Educational Services Capital Plan submission. The provision of a synthetic turf pitch is an integral part of this submission.
- 3.10.3 This proposal will be considered by members as part of the process of approving the Capital Plan in the new financial year.
- 3.10.4 Further consideration will need to be given to the provision of the all weather pitch and athletics track as retaining the existing School reduces the capacity of the Elgin High site to accommodate these facilities.

3.11 Synthetic Turf Pitch Developments

- 3.11.1 The Natural Grass and Synthetic Turf Pitches Strategy (2007-2012) was approved by the Educational and Social Services Committee on 3 October 2007. The document identified the phased development of 6 multi-sport synthetic turf pitches over the 5 –year duration of the strategy for Moray.
- 3.11.2 As part of the Educational Services 5-year Capital Plan submission, synthetic turf pitches at Buckie (Buckie High School) and Aberlour (Speyside High School) have been identified for the period 2008/09-2009/10. Synthetic turf pitches at Keith Grammar School and Forres Academy have been identified for development in the period 2010/2011- 2011/2012.
- 3.11.3 Members should note that in order to secure best value, the proposed synthetic turf pitches are proposed to be dual-purpose facilities and will therefore be used by each respective school during the day-time and made accessible to the wider community during the evenings and weekends.
- 3.11.4 The cost of each synthetic turf pitch development has been estimated as £507,000 and a stage 2 funding application for £200,000 has been submitted to sportscotland for the Buckie synthetic turf pitch development. A decision on this application is still pending and Council has been informed that the outcome of this application will be known by the end of January 2008.
- 3.11.5 Full planning consent for the construction of synthetic turf pitches, fencing and flood lighting at Buckie and Aberlour has now been secured. Members should note that due to the proximity of the pitch to residential housing at Aberlour, the operation of flood lighting has been restricted to 9.00pm Monday to Friday and 8.00pm on Saturday and Sunday.

- 3.11.6 With performance specifications for a design and build option for the Buckie and Aberlour synthetic turf pitch developments having been prepared for the Council by Sports Labs Ltd, it is the intention that Council Property Services will issue tenders to Contractors in early March. This will allow a possible start date in late June with significant progress in constructing the facility anticipated to be made during the school Summer holidays.
- 3.11.7 Subject to the outcome of the sportscotland funding application and securing the necessary building warrants, it is the intention that the synthetic turf pitch developments at Buckie and Aberlour Pitches could be completed and ready for play by October 2008.
- 3.11.8 As agreed by the Educational & Social Services Committee, an action plan for the Buckie and Aberlour synthetic turf pitches will be submitted for approval to this Committee on 13 February 2008. A further report will also be submitted to a future meeting of Full Council which will seek approval of the lowest valid tender for these developments.

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 provision is not only an integral part of the Council's strategy for the development of quality sport and recreation facilities 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 5-year Capital Plan submission 2008/09 - 2012/13.

Expenditure on approved projects at 31 December 2007 is as follows:-

	£000
Moray Wheels Project	0
Grant Park Pavilion	<u>21</u>
Total	21

Moray Wheels Project (Buckie Skate Park)

The revised funding profile for this project is as follows:-

Buckie Common Good	£ 7,000
Community Safety Group	£ 3,500
HIE Moray	£25,000
Buckie Skate Park Group (Cash and In-kind)	£11,680
Lloyds TSB Foundation	£ 5,000
sportscotland	£30,000
The Moray Council (Leisure and Healthy Living)	£25,000
Quality of Life	<u>£20,000</u>
Total	£127,180

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 Chief Financial Officer, Principal Planning Officer, Sports Facilities Manager, Property Manager, Consultancy Manager, Lands and Parks Officer, Head of Estates Services, 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 note the continued progress made in relation to the Leisure and Healthy Living Programme and to give approval for Officers to accept the lowest tender for the Moray Wheels Project (Buckie Skate Park).**

Author of Report: Robin Paterson (Leisure and Healthy Living Project Officer)

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

Ref:DMD/JR/Reports/Full Council/ 30 January 2008/Leisure and Healthy Living Programme.