

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leader and Cabinet

7 July 2011

AUTHOR/S: Executive Director Operational Services / Corporate Manager Planning and New Communities

GAMLINGAY VILLAGE COLLEGE: DUAL USE SPORTS FACILITY GRANT

Purpose

1. To review and confirm payment of the balance of the grant of £150,000 for a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) to Gamlingay Dual Use Sports Facility Scheme.
2. This is not a key decision since it is in line with the budget available for dual use facility grants and meets the objectives of the Council's Dual Use Strategy. It was first published in the August 2010 Forward Plan and added again in May 2011.

Recommendations

3. That Cabinet award the grant to Gamlingay Village College (GVC), to further enhance the sports provision for all residents living in and around Gamlingay.
4. That the grant is subject to our standard Terms of grant, as well as the following:
 - (a) Gamlingay Village College (GVC) to sign a revised Dual Use Agreement with conditions including that the MUGA remains available for community use into the future.
 - (b) That the works are carried out as soon as possible and facility is open by 31 December 2011 at the latest.

Reasons for Recommendations

5. The recommendation is in accordance with Cabinet's previous decisions to award a grant to a grant to improving sports facilities in Gamlingay, made initially in 2007 and confirmed in September 2010. It would accord with the Council's Dual Use Strategy and the approach taken at all other dual use sites.
6. The award should be confirmed given that the future of Gamlingay Village College is now certain.

Background

7. Cabinet initially approved a grant of £200,000 to improving sports facilities in Gamlingay in 2007. The grant was then held in abeyance pending a review of secondary education in South West Cambridge but was confirmed in September 2010 once the future of GVC was more certain. The first phase of the works (£50K grant), to improve the fitness suite, went ahead earlier this year and is due to be officially open by the Chairman of this Council on 2 July 2011.
8. When, following an Ofsted inspection, Cambridgeshire County Council announced a further review of GVC in April 2011, the remaining balance of the grant (£150,000)

intended for the MUGA was held in abeyance. This decision was published on 11 April 2011.

9. On 14 June 2011, the County Council's Cabinet confirmed that GVC would remain open, and would be federated with Stratton Upper School in Biggleswade. (refer **Appendix A**). The College intends to progress with the construction of the MUGA as soon as the current summer term finishes, and as such have requested confirmation that the balance of the grant (£150,000) will now be paid.

Considerations and Options

10. To release the grant will provide enhanced sport and health facilities, increased opportunities and improved access to all members of the community. It would complete this Council's programme of improvements to all nine Dual Use facilities across the District (Comberton, Sawston, Linton, Melbourn, Swavesey, Bassingbourn Cottenham, Impington and Gamlingay).
11. Releasing the grant now would allow the MUGA at Gamlingay to be provided by late autumn, which although slightly later than originally envisaged is not excessively late given the 3 month hiatus whilst the future of the College was under review. Whilst a three-month extension was recommended, the Chair of Governors has confirmed that the intention is to reinstate the original contractor, and to start on site shortly after the current summer term finishes. It is envisaged that works are likely to take approximately 10-12 weeks so it hoped that the MUGA would be provided by October 2011, in advance of the given deadline. The previous conditions of the grant detailed at Para 4 above remain pertinent. SCDC officers have been involved in the procurement process to date, which was also a condition of the previous award. In light of Cllr Smith's comments below, Cabinet may also wish to add a further clause to the grant to ensure the facility remains in community use should circumstances with the college change in the near future. It is suggested that this could form part of the revised Dual Use Agreement.
12. To consider an alternate location or provider at this stage would add delay and would be out of kilter with the Council's other Dual Use Schemes.
13. Not to release the grant would undermine the aims and objectives of the Dual Use Strategy and lead to a possible deterioration of the facilities therefore forcing local community groups and sports clubs to travel further to access adequate facilities, some of which are already used to capacity. Gamlingay is the last of the villages to benefit from the Dual Use Strategy funding.

Implications

14. Financial	Total cost of the MUGA is £159, 850, which is to be funded by: £150,000 from SCDC grant, £10,000 from Gamlingay Parish Council. £12,000 paid to date by GVC for architect's fees and planning application
Legal	A new Dual Use agreement will be signed to ensure community and school use of the facilities. The grant will also be subject to agreed conditions to ensure long-term use and management of the facilities.
Staffing	No significant implication to SCDC staff. Facilities will be staffed and managed by GVC Leisure Ltd

Risk Management	Low risk– no requirement on the council except to provide grant monies and some building control resources
Equality and Diversity	This facility will be used to help deliver the Council's Sports Development programme and encourage participation by specific target groups, including girls and women, people with a disability and Travellers.
Equality Impact Assessment completed	No – Dual Use Strategy predates need for EQIA, however see above for equality & diversity considerations.
Climate Change	A sustainable approach to the construction/installation of this project will be considered where appropriate and achievable within current timescales and resources. Provision of facilities at point of demand reduces need for excess transport emissions.

Consultations

15. Considerable consultation was undertaken prior to the decision to award the grant, including with GVC, Gamlingay Parish Council, Forward Gamlingay, local clubs and the District Councillors which are summarised in the September 2010 Cabinet report.
16. With regard to this report, Cllr Bridget Smith has commented " *I wholeheartedly support the provision of a grant to Gamlingay Village College to finance the installation of a MUGA. However, I should like a couple of points to be built in to the agreement with GVC in order to future protect the MUGA should things not go as planned for GVC. Should GVC not be able to move out of special measures and/or should Stratton School Biggleswade decide against federating either of which may result in GVC facing closure in the near future, I should like an agreement that the MUGA be passed over to Gamlingay Parish Council.*"

Consultation with Children and Young People

17. No further specific consultation has been undertaken by SCDC. In response to its consultation on the future of GVC, the County Council received a large number of comments, which included many from families and young people. These were taken into consideration when it made its decision on the future of GVC.

Effect on Strategic Aims

18. The Dual Use Facility Grants help to meet two of the Councils Aims; ensuring South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for families and making South Cambridgeshire a place where residents can feel proud to live.
19. SCDC's sports development programmes are delivering tangible improvements to resident's lives. Last year's results show that there has been a 4.8% increase in adults (age 16 and over) who participate in sport and active recreation, at moderate intensity, for at least 30 minutes on at least 12 days out of the last 4 weeks (equivalent to 30 minutes on 3 or more days a week). This compares favourably to the rest of the county where there has been no change or a decrease (Active People Survey published by Sport England, June 2010).

Conclusions / Summary

20. Whilst it has taken a considerable amount of time to bring forward this scheme at Gamlingay, the MUGA remains a much needed local facility which would benefit young people in particular. As such, it should continue to be supported.
21. The facilities at Gamlingay are part of the Council's Dual Use Sports Strategy and their construction will mark the completion of all nine schemes, providing a network of local sports centres across the district.
22. The facilities will enhance the current provision for the residents of Gamlingay and surrounding villages. In addition, it will strengthen existing links between schools, clubs and individual users of the current facilities.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- SCDC Cabinet report - 9th September 2010
- New Communities Portfolio Holder report –19th May 2011
- SCDC Record of Chief Officer decision dates 11th April 2011.
- Cambridgeshire County Council Cabinet Report dates 14th June 2011.
- Cambridgeshire County Council letter dated 17th June 2011.

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