

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** Leader and Cabinet

13th January 2005

**AUTHOR:** Chief Executive

### **APPLICANT: LINTON COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE DUAL USE SPORTS FACILITY PROJECT**

#### **Purpose**

1. To consider and make a decision on approving an additional grant towards the Dual Use Sports Centre at Linton Village College.

#### **Effect on Corporate Objectives**

2.

High quality, accessible, value for money services	The provision of the districts sports centres provides a very good value approach
Quality of life	These Dual Use Sports facilities provide residents with the opportunity to improve their health, physical fitness, mental well being and social life
Sustainability	Providing better sports facilities on school sites ensures less travelling and more sustainable leisure opportunities for all
Partnerships	The development of Linton Dual Use Sports Centre is based on a strong existing partnership which has been further developed with this project

#### **Background**

3. In June 2003, Cabinet awarded a total grant of 300,000 towards the Linton Dual Use Sports Project. Due to other development occurring at the school, centred round the building of a new special needs school, the implementation of the sports centre development has been delayed. Tenders have now come back for £1.1M and at a meeting of the funding partners in November a shortfall of £160,000 was identified for the sports project.

#### **Proposal**

4. The original sports project that was considered by Cabinet involved the following:
  - a full size artificial turf pitch with floodlighting, fencing and gates.
  - refurbishment of existing changing areas to increase the space and provide disabled access.
  - extension of the fitness suite to include a separate daytime entrance, small changing rooms and air conditioning.

#### **Extended Proposal**

5. Since Cabinet considered the project, the College has purchased additional land which now provides 3 additional drained grass pitches for community use. An additional tennis/netball court has also been added. This gives “added value” to the project and for the local community.

### **Considerations**

6. The Sports Centre is a very well used community sports facility and amongst other activities offers an important venue for the Exercise Referral Scheme and other fitness initiatives and also hosts the Aztecs Football Club for training and matches.
7. The key objectives of the centre are to:
- Provide access to target sports on an affordable basis through a variety of methods including marketing, managing facilities, concessions for juniors and those on low income. These systems are regularly monitored.
  - Establish new viable sports clubs with teams that include juniors and adults, men and women, non-disabled and disabled people.
  - Achieve sports equity by actively promoting the participation of people regardless of age, income, sex, race or ability in playing, coaching, officiating and promoting sporting activities.
  - Improve standards of play by investing in coaches and officials and providing a full range of competitive opportunities at all levels.
  - Extend links beyond the sports network to raise the profile of the facilities to the whole of the community.
8. Various agencies use the sports centre including the Community Education Youth Section, Cambridgeshire County Council Social Services, Glebe Children’s home and Linton Out of School Club amongst others. At peak times the sports centre, fitness suite, pitches and multi-games area operate at full capacity.
9. Adults and children with special needs are included in the football development programme with the aim of providing a structured range of participation opportunities for people with special needs.

### **Financial Implications**

10. Amount raised before November 04:

£280,000	Football Foundation
£300,000	Cambridgeshire County Council
£300,000	SCDC
£ 50,000	Linton Village College
£ 10,000	Parish Council/local contributions

Total Raised                      £940,000

11. Project costs following the tendering process £1.1M at November 2004, hence the £160,000 shortfall.
12. Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed to fund an additional £60,000 towards the project and Linton Village College has committed £90,000 from its devolved capital allocation over the next 3 years, which will be covered “up front” by the County Council.
13. A small shortfall of £10,000 therefore remains.

## Sustainability Implications

14. The development of new community facilities improves village life and enhances community sustainability. The high levels of usage are evidence of the need to improve the facility to accommodate all users.

## Officers Comments

15. The Dual Use budget is currently standing at £1,245,795. The projects still to be completed as part of the Council's Dual Use Sports Facility Strategy will require an estimated £1.5M before its completion by end of 2007. The total budget available should be increased by the annual provision of £164,500 in 2005/6 and £168,500 in 2006/7, taking it to a total of £1,578,796.
16. Projects are remaining at Swavesey, Gamlingay, Cottenham, Bassingbourn and Impington and it is expected to have proposals ready for Cabinet as follows:

<b>College</b>	<b>Year</b>
Linton	04/5 additional award
Swavesey	04/5
Gamlingay	05/6
Cottenham	05/6 or 06/7
Bassingbourn	05/6 or 06/7
Impington	06/7

17. It is difficult to be precise about final costs and what inflation to add to projects however the Portfolio Holder for Community Development has received the most up to date position on all projects and it is felt that an additional £10,000 for the Linton project can be found without compromising other projects. The total SCDC contribution would therefore be £310,000, which is still less than 40% of the total cost.
18. In the spirit of partnership and the positive response to this shortfall by both the Village College and Cambridgeshire County Council, it is recommended that Cabinet approves the additional grant of £10,000.

## Local Councillor Consultation

19. Councillors JD Batchelor and Mrs GJ Smith have been consulted on the proposals; their comments will be reported verbally. Councillor Dr JPR Orme has commented that many people of all ages from The Abingtons regularly make use of Linton Sports Centre and speak well of it; he is pleased to support the request for enhanced facilities.

## Recommendation

20. To award an additional grant of £10,000 taking the total grant to £310,000.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: Original application form and information, letter from Linton Village College.

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