



REPORT TO BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE 14 NOVEMBER 2017

Regeneration Funding request for Fraserburgh Fitness Centre

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Approve a Grant of £150,000 from the Regeneration Reserve budget for Fraserburgh to the extension and upgrade of the Fraserburgh Fitness Centre.**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 The Fraserburgh Fitness Centre was established in 2004 having agreed use of a redundant Council grounds maintenance storage facility which was otherwise due to be demolished. In 2014, the buildings were transferred from the Council under the Community Asset Transfer scheme. The Centre is located close to the Community and Sports Centre, the new South Links development and other sports and leisure facilities.
- 2.2 The Fitness Centre operates as a Company Limited by Guarantee with charitable status and reinvests all profits into the continual improvement of the facilities and the services they provide. Over the past 13 years, the Centre has grown from its original 300m² to around 1,300m² and has become an important part of the town's sport and fitness infrastructure.
- 2.3 The Centre currently has over 2,000 registered members providing a range of activities for all ages and abilities including martial arts, gym and fitness centre, children's gym, and dance studio facilities. The Centre offers tailored programmes, sessions and personal training for all ages, a remedial massage therapy service for sports injuries as well as spaces for beauty treatments and consultations.
- 2.4 Having grown in size and popularity by continually diversifying their offer, the company now wishes to further extend the building by adding three new squash courts, which will also serve as a multi-use sports space, and upgrading changing and toilet facilities. Planning permission has been granted (APP/2014/2994).
- 2.5 Recreational and club level Squash facilities are no longer currently available in Fraserburgh with the closest facilities being in Banff (26 miles), Inverurie (36 miles) and Aberdeen (42 miles). However the unique design (to international competition standards) of the proposed courts will mean that the centre will be able to host competitive games and doubles matches. The nearest facility accommodating doubles matches is in Glasgow. Sports Scotland, Grampian Squash and Scottish Squash have all indicated their support for this facility.

- 2.6 The company have conducted some research within their membership with 94% of responses indicating support for squash courts. Furthermore, their research indicated that such a facility could attract around 500 uses per month, without taking into account the potential to attract new users.
- 2.7 The anticipated benefits of the project will include increased participation in sports pursuits; greater engagement of all age groups; health and wellbeing benefits; increased visibility and profile (locally and nationally) of the exceptional sports offer in Fraserburgh; increased visitor numbers due to the ability to host competitive squash events, and greater financial viability for the centre.
- 2.8 The project complements the Fraserburgh Regeneration Action Plan 2016-2021, particularly under Theme 3 – *'People, Communities, Health and Wellbeing : to promote a healthy living culture in Fraserburgh building on the assets of our people and facilities'*.
- 2.9 The total cost of the capital infrastructure project is £513,750 (£616,500 including recoverable VAT) and will be financed through a multi-partner grant funding package. Plans are to finance the development through funding applications to the Robertson Trust (£50k); the North Aberdeenshire LEADER Programme (£83,750); Sports Scotland (£100k); the Scottish Land Trust (£100k); and from Aberdeenshire Council. The fitness Centre have also identified £30k of their own funds to commit to the project, which is anticipated to start in the spring of 2018 if all funding can be secured.
- 2.10 The Fraserburgh Fitness Centre approached the Council's Regeneration team seeking match funding of £150,000 towards the capital costs of the project. This request was considered by the Fraserburgh Local Regeneration Group, who felt that it was a strategically important project that made a significant contribution to wider regeneration activities in the town. This request represents a Council contribution of 29.2% of the total project costs, or 24.3% with the VAT element included.
- 2.11 Budget is available within the Regeneration budget for the Fraserburgh Regeneration Action Plan, as agreed by Policy and Resources Committee in September 2016.
- 2.12 The Business Development Executive in Economic Development has reviewed the annual accounts of the Applicant and is content that they are a viable and growing company and have the resources to fund their contribution to the project. Indicative income projections in the project's Business Plan suggest strong forecasted profits over the next 5 years.
- 2.13 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider, and take a decision on, this item under the Financial Regulations under Section B1.1 of the Scheme of Governance as a matter relating exclusively to the Banff and Buchan Area not otherwise delegated to any other Committee.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment has been completed for the project and is included in Appendix 1. The assessment concludes that the project will not discriminate against any users, will actively promote participation amongst all user groups, and does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.2 The Town Centre First principle has been considered in relation to the impact of this project on one of the key towns. It is concluded that there are no negative impacts on Fraserburgh town centre. Positive impacts will be felt through additional visitor numbers to Fraserburgh which will lead to greater footfall in the town centre and additional spend with local businesses.
- 4.3 There are no staffing implications connected with this paper.
- 4.4 There are financial implications connected with this paper, being the request of £150,000 from the Regeneration Reserve.
- 4.5 There are no significant risks associated with this paper or the decision to agree the recommendation

Stephen Archer, Director, Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Alastair Rhind, Strategic Regeneration Executive
Date: 1st November, 2017

APPENDIX 1
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Stage 1: Title and aims of the activity (“activity” is an umbrella term covering policies, procedures, guidance and decisions).	
Service	Infrastructure Services
Section	Economic Development - Regeneration
Title of the activity etc.	Regeneration Funding for Fraserburgh Fitness Centre project
Aims of the activity	Match-funding for construction of squash courts and improvements to changing areas/ toilets for a community owned sports facility.
Author(s) & Title(s)	Alastair Rhind– Strategic Regeneration Executive

Stage 2: List the evidence that has been used in this assessment.	
Internal data (customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).	None
Internal consultation with staff and other services affected.	Discussions with services on Fraserburgh Local Regeneration Group, meeting with officers within Sports and Leisure Services and Area Manager.
External consultation (partner organisations, community groups, and councils).	Squash Scotland, Grampian Squash, Sport Scotland, discussions with existing members of club, planning consultations, other funders.
External data (census, available statistics).	A wide range of policies and information including the Scottish Government’s Objectives around Sport and Health & Well Being.

Other (general information as appropriate).	Social media, consultation with public and members of club.
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Stage 3: Evidence Gaps.	
Are there any gaps in the information you currently hold?	No

Stage 4: Measures to fill the evidence gaps.		
What measures will be taken to fill the information gaps before the activity is implemented? These should be included in the action plan at the back of this form.	Measures:	Timescale:
	N/A	N/A

Stage 5: Are there potential impacts on protected groups? Please complete for each protected group by inserting "yes" in the applicable box/boxes below.				
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unknown
Age – Younger	Yes			
Age – Older	Yes			
Disability			Yes	
Race – (includes Gypsy Travellers)			Yes	
Religion or Belief			Yes	
Gender – male/female			Yes	

Pregnancy and maternity			Yes	
Sexual orientation – (includes Lesbian/ Gay/Bisexual)			Yes	
Gender reassignment – (includes Transgender)			Yes	
Marriage and Civil Partnership			Yes	

Stage 6: What are the positive and negative impacts?		
Impacts.	Positive (describe the impact for each of the protected characteristics affected)	Negative (describe the impact for each of the protected characteristics affected)
Please detail the potential positive and/or negative impacts on those with protected characteristics you have highlighted above. Detail the impacts and describe those affected.	Improved access to new multi-sport facilities suited to all ages and abilities.	N/A

Stage 7: Have any of the affected groups been consulted?	
If yes, please give details of how this was done and what the results were. If no, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating steps?	Positively affected groups are represented within the clubs, groups and societies consulted though they were not segmented for special local consultation.

Stage 8: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce negative impacts?		
These should be included in any action plan at the back of this form.	Mitigating Steps	Timescale
	N/A	N/A

Stage 9: What steps can be taken to promote good relations between various groups?	
These should be included in the action plan.	The governance of the operating charitable organisation represents a wide range of interests.

Stage 10: How does the policy/activity create opportunities for advancing equality of opportunity?	
New facilities in close proximity to population that are accessible, inclusive and meet the highest current (international quality) standards.	

Stage 11: What equality monitoring arrangements will be put in place?	
These should be included in any action plan (for example customer satisfaction questionnaires).	The charitable organisation governing and operating the site have plans to ensure participation and feedback.

Stage 12: What is the outcome of the Assessment?		
Please complete the appropriate box/boxes	1	No negative impacts have been identified –please explain.
	New and enhanced facilities and provision will lead to new opportunities for all without any displacement of negative impacts.	
	2	Negative Impacts have been identified, these can be mitigated - please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen.

	N/A	
	3	The activity will have negative impacts which cannot be mitigated fully – please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen
	N/A	

* Stage 13: Set out the justification that the activity can and should go ahead despite the negative impact.

N/A

Stage 14: Sign off and authorisation.

Sign off and authorisation.	1) Service and Team	Infrastructure Services, Economic Development		
	2) Title of Policy/Activity	Regeneration Funding for Fraserburgh Fitness Centre project		
	3) Authors: I/We have completed the equality impact assessment for this policy/activity.	Name: Alastair Rhind Position: Strategic Regeneration Executive Date: 04/10/2017 Signature:	Name: Gillian Bain Position: Regeneration Officer Date: 04/10/2017 Signature:	
		Name: Position: Date: Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:	
4) Consultation with Service Manager	Name: Morna Harper Date: 12 th October, 2017			

	5) Authorisation by Director or Head of Service	Name: Belinda Miller Position: Head of Service, Economic Development Date: 12 th October, 2017	Name: Position: Date:
	6) If the EIA relates to a matter that has to go before a Committee, Committee report author sends the Committee Report and this form, and any supporting assessment documents, to the Officers responsible for monitoring and the Committee Officer of the relevant Committee. e.g. Social Work and Housing Committee.		Date: 18/10/2017
	7) EIA author sends a copy of the finalised form to: eia@abdnshire		Date:
(Equalities team to complete) Has the completed form been published on the website? YES/NO			Date:

