



REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 8 NOVEMBER, 2018

HILLSIDE PITCH – REFERRAL FROM KINCARDINE & MEARN'S AREA COMMITTEE

1 Recommendations

It is recommended that this Committee

- 1.1 **Note the commitment of the Kincardine & Mearns Area Committee to promoting a 3G pitch at Hillside, Portlethen; and**
- 1.2 **Agree that any decision on the principle of whether there should be a 3G pitch at Hillside and the funding options for such a pitch is deferred until consideration of the anticipated Outdoor Sport and Physical Activity Facilities Strategy.**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 The Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee at its meeting on June 26, 2018 agreed *"to indicate a commitment to promoting a 3G pitch at Hillside, Portlethen, and requested that a report be brought to the Communities Committee to consider funding options for the construction of a 3G pitch to include whether a recommendation to include such provision within the Capital Plan should be recommended to Full Council."* following consideration of a member promoted issue relating to 'Hillside Pitches Portlethen'.
- 2.2 Officers are in the process of developing an Outdoor Sports and Physical Activity Facilities Strategy, with the objective of identifying and prioritising capacity pressures, and potential solutions to those pressures
- 2.3 It is acknowledged that a number of localities, including Portlethen, do experience challenges in meeting demand for outdoor sports facilities, which, in general, are at their greatest during the November to March period. As a result, there are a number of communities where users have expressed a wish for additional outdoor sports facilities, and in some cases have indicated an interest in assisting the council with funding and/or managing potential future facilities.
- 2.4 In the interests of supporting the most effective strategic allocation of resources, it is recommended that consideration of the request from the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee, and other similar requests, would best be undertaken within the context of a more comprehensive review of Outdoor Sports & Physical Activity Facilities. This would seek to ensure that any response is equitable, affordable and will meet needs in an identified priority order.
- 2.5 It is anticipated that pertinent interim findings from the strategy development work will be available early in 2019.

- 2.6 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 in terms of Section D.3.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the ability of the committee to make financial recommendations to Full Council.

4 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no equalities, staffing or financial implications arising from this report. Any future strategies will be developed considering equalities considerations.
- 4.2 For information, a typical synthetic surface can cost between £500,000 to £700,000. If a changing facility is required, this can add additional financial costs which could necessitate additional costs of between £250,000 to £400,000.
- 4.3 A Town Centre Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

Laurence Findlay
Director of Education & Children's Services

Report prepared by Tim Stephen, Service Manager for Culture & Sport Facilities and Funding
Date October 8, 2018