

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Property Sub Committee
DATE	2 September 2015
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	New 3G Pitch, Northfield Academy
REPORT NUMBER:	CHI/7599
CHECKLIST RECEIVED	Yes

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with information on the delivery and future management of the new 3G pitch located at Northfield Academy.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Committee is asked to: -

- a) Note the progress being made with the delivery of the new facility.
- b) Note the process which has been put in place to maximise the usage of the facility by the Community.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs of running the new pitch will be met by Education and Children Services with revenue produced from the use of the pitch covering the running costs.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant other implications in relation to the proposals, although the continued management of the pitch will have to be undertaken by Education and Children Services and Sport Aberdeen.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The property Sub Committee of 26 May 2015 approved a report titled Disposal – Land at Devil’s Den, Woodside. The Committee resolved to:

- (i) the offer submitted by Anderson Strathern LLP, on behalf of CALA Management Limited be accepted;
- (ii) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be instructed to conclude missives for the sale of this property incorporating various qualifications as are necessary to protect the Council's interests in accordance with the Joint Venture agreement entered into with the adjoining owners;
- (iii) to instruct officers to report back to the next meeting of the Sub Committee detailing how it is intended to deliver the new 3G pitch including detail on proposed management of the new facility and a plan showing how the community of Northfield will access and benefit from this facility; and
- (iv) that officers liaise with the Media Team in relation to an appropriate press release.

This report is therefore dealing with point (iii) above.

The pitch is being delivered by GSS Developments as part of the consortium agreement which was drawn up to market the Devil's Den site. Construction of the pitch has commenced and it is intended that the development will be completed 25 September 2015.

The new third generation (3G) pitch will be added to the Council's list of managed assets and will be made available to the school and community for access. The administration of the bookings outwith the school day will be through Sport Aberdeen and will be inline with the Council's current bookings and lettings policy.

A draft programme has been developed for the facility which details proposed opening times and configuration of the pitch for bookings and a copy of this is attached in appendix 1.

In order to maximise the usage and revenue to the Council from the facility it is essential that it is programmed effectively. This will be carried out in conjunction with the main partners and a user group is being developed. The main stakeholders on this user group will be Northfield Academy, The Scottish Football Association, Byron Boys Football Club, Northstars Football Club and Sport Aberdeen.

The development of the 3G pitch will assist the Council in its objective of increasing sport and physical activity participation levels within the city. Within the Northfield area a number of initiatives have been developed which will be enhanced with the development of the pitch these include:-

Northfield Community Sports Hub – The hub is at the heart of the local community and was launched in June 2015. The aim of the sports hub is to increase the number of people participating in sport in the local community, improve access to sport and support local clubs to work together. The current membership of the hub is Aberdeen Boxing Club, Auchmill Golf Course, Byron Sports Club, Northstars Football Club and

Northfield Academy. Although the primary purpose of the new facility is football the hub are keen to develop this further and it is envisaged that where practical there will be boxing and introductory golf activity for primary aged children taking place on the pitch.

Project Fit – Project Fit is a programme of diversionary sports activities for young people in the Northfield area of Aberdeen. Northfield Youth Action Group identified a need to provide activities that young people could attend which were free of charge and in their local community. Activities are led by Sport Aberdeen coaches with the support of Aberdeen City Council Street Work team and other partners include; Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Police Scotland, Dennis Law Street Sports and Northfield Academy. Sessions began in April 2013 and continue to date with a weekly multi sports session and a weekly swimming session during the school term. Participants range in age from primary 5 to senior 5 and on average there are 20 participants at each of the sessions. It is envisaged that on completion this programme will utilise the facility on a Friday evening.

Specialist PE input – For the second consecutive year physical education staff from Northfield Academy are providing a half day PE support in three local primary schools (Bramble Brae, Manor Park, Quarryhill) to ensure that the 2 hours of quality PE provision is provided. Through this delivery arrangement the young people from the local primary schools will be able to experience the sports facilities.

Coach Education – It is essential that we continue to increase the number of qualified coaches in the city. To support this approach, time will be allocated on the pitch for a consecutive eight week block in February and March of each year for recognised Scottish Football Association Courses. These sessions will be promoted to the local community in the first instance with a limited number of spaces being free of charge to the local Northfield Community.

## 6. IMPACT

Corporate –

The development of this pitch will provide a high quality sports asset which will assist the Council in delivering on its goal to increase the sport and physical activity participation levels within the city.

The project will also help to delivery the objectives in Aberdeen the Smarter City, in particular “promote and improve opportunities for physical activity and sport to enable Aberdeen’s citizens to lead more active, healthier lives.

Public –

The provision of the facility will be of interest to the public particularly within the Northfield area.

Consideration has been given to whether an Equalities & Human Rights Impact Assessment is required with a view being taken that it is not necessary.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The future management of the pitch will be undertaken by Sport Aberdeen and E&CS who will ensure all appropriate risk management measures are in place for the facility.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS


Appendix 1 – Draft programme

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Neil Strachan

Team Leader Estates

 [nstrachan@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:nstrachan@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

 01224 52(3062)