

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE:	16 September 2010
DIRECTOR:	Annette Bruton
TITLE OF REPORT:	Options for floodlighting football pitch at Manor Walk
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/10/068

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update on work being undertaken to investigate floodlighting options for the football pitch at Manor Walk, Middlefield. The report follows on from the interim response to Councillor Gordon Graham's motion considered by the April 2010 meeting of the Education, Culture and Sport Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 1) Note the two options (A and B) and their attendant financial implications.
- 2) Note that while the site is zoned for future residential development, local services and Community representatives are in support of the floodlighting proposal as a short-term measure.
- 3) Note that Option B would allow for the equipment to be dismantled and reused elsewhere, in the event of future residential development.
- 4) Note that funding has been identified to fund the installation and annual maintenance and electricity costs associated with Option B.
- 5) In light of the above points, approve Option B and instruct Officers to progress the installation of the floodlighting.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In addition to the ongoing revenue costs associated with the electricity supply, the financial implications for the two options for the purchase and installation of infrastructure are as follows:

Option A	Option B
£21,245.86 + VAT	£7,286.56 + VAT

A budget has been identified to progress the installation of option B from the Neighbourhood Planning regeneration budget. Revenue costs for Option B have been confirmed as £350 per annum, which can be funded from the street lighting Revenue Budgets. The revenue costs comprise £150 +VAT for electricity costs and £200 maintenance costs.

No funding has as yet been identified to fund Option A.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

This report is in keeping with the Community Plan Challenge to develop Aberdeen as an Active City, encouraging participation and developing active communities, and links to the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, "Fit for the Future". The report also contribute to "Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking" in recognising the role that Sports and recreational space can make in tackling anti-social behaviour, increasing community cohesion and participation. There are also strong links to the "Closing the Gap", regeneration strategies and the local 2010 Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Middlefield and Northfield Neighbourhood Community Action Plan.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The football pitch is located within an area adjacent to Manor Walk currently zoned for future residential development within the Aberdeen Local Development Plan Main Issues Report. The land is currently remitted to the Housing and Environment Directorate. Any future housing development is likely to accommodate some of the 300 households, which would require to be re-housed from the Middlefield area, following the Scottish Government's recent decision to approve the redevelopment of the Haudagain roundabout.

The proposed floodlighting would be seen as a temporary measure at this site, and would be installed with a view to minimising opportunities for vandalism. Feedback from both residents and services would suggest there would be significant local benefit to introducing floodlighting as a short-term measure to improve local facilities and enhance a much needed local diversionary activity. This will also allow time to address the options for a permanent floodlit site in the greater Northfield area in the future.

6. REPORT

In 2010, Councillor Graham submitted a Motion to the Education, Culture and Sport Committee:-

"That this Council works with the youths of Middlefield Community Flat to develop proposals to floodlight the football pitch at Manor Walk"

Officers gave an interim response to the April 2010 Education, Culture and Sport Committee and were remitted to provide a follow up report on progress.

Lighting engineers have provided the following options and attendant costs for installing floodlighting at Manor Walk:

Option A	Option B
Light pitch area from around perimeter, inclusive of power supply, cabinet, timer, underground cabling & 8 x No. 8 metre column with floods	Light pitch area from Manor Walk side only, inclusive of power supply, timer, underground cabling and 2 x No. 12 metre columns each with 2 x No. floods
£21,245.86 plus VAT	£7,286.56 plus VAT

Option A, while significantly the more expensive option, would allow for floodlighting to be introduced around the perimeter, at a level which be expected for a permanent, all weather facility.

However, Option B provides lighting from one side only, at a lesser cost, whilst still providing a lighting standard acceptable for the pitch area. This option also provides a cost effective solution, which would allow the equipment to be reused at some point in the future; to an alternative site, as and when the current site is developed for housing.

Local representative groups and services have been consulted on the floodlighting proposal and the options. Responses received at the time of writing indicate support for the floodlighting and a preference for Option B, in light of the fact that the site may be developed in a few years.

Environment Services did raise concerns about investing in an area, which has been prone to vandalism. However, local residents and services have highlighted a number of local factors that may help mitigate opportunistic vandalism, including:

- the fact that local young people have themselves requested the facility as a diversionary activity, and
- the growing sense of community ownership of the area encouraged by the Middlefield Project and particularly the Healthy Roots team at Manor Park Garden, who have been working in partnership with the local Polish Community who use the pitch.

In terms of funding, budgets have been identified to cover the purchase, installation and ongoing revenue costs associated with Option B. Given the significantly greater costs, a budget to fund Option A has not been identified.


Regarding timescales for completing works, Option B could be progressed immediately. Once the Street Lighting service receives the instruction, manufacture and delivery is likely to take approximately 10 weeks, with installation taking a further two weeks. Where possible, all efforts would be made to expedite this timescale to provide the facility as soon as possible to allow young people to have use of the facility during the darker nights. It is

proposed the floodlighting would be on timer, which would automatically switch off at 10pm, in order to avoid creating a nuisance for local residents.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report and minutes of Education, Culture and Sport Committee meeting of 15 April 2010

Local services and community representative responses to the floodlighting proposals and options.