

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 9

meeting date: 3 SEPTEMBER 2019
title: RIBBLE VALLEY 3G PROJECT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE – HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide an update on the project to build a new artificial turf facility at Edisford.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – To help make people's lives safer and healthier.
- Other Considerations – None.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Committee are aware of the project to provide a new outdoor artificial pitch facility at Edisford. When complete this will provide a full size 3G pitch, 2 five a side 3G pitches and 3 tennis courts plus a toilet block and classroom.

2.2 This report provides an update on the progress to date with the build.

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 The work on the project is progressing well, though the weather has hampered some aspects and made it difficult for the contractor. However, it is still expected that the facility will be handed over to the Council in September.

3.2 There have been a number of variations issued to the contract to address issues which have arisen during the build as well as some designed to improve the facility to the benefit of users and reduce ongoing maintenance costs.

3.3 A very successful meeting took place with existing and potential new users during July. The purpose was to explain how the facility will operate once open and to open the dialogue about their requirements for space at the new facility. This has resulted in the completion of a draft booking sheet and users being contacted to confirm their acceptance of the space they are being offered.

3.4 As with any issue involving competing demands for the same space, there has had to be some compromises from users, simply to accommodate as far as possible everyone's first choice. It was decided that the early evening time slots would be made available for younger children, to avoid them having to try and play at 8 or 9pm. In addition, preference was given to clubs and users who were able to commit to 4 or 8 month bookings to ensure that the Council was able to block book out as much of the space as possible without having to rely on short term bookings.

3.5 The capital scheme budget for the facility was first estimated at £1,430,440 and was approved by Policy and Finance Committee in February 2019. Since this time the

main element of the works have been tendered and the contract awarded at a lower price. After allowing for contingencies the budget will be revised to reflect the successful tender and the other associated costs of the scheme to £1,323,010. The indication at this time is that the full scheme will be within budget.

3.6 As the facility approaches a position where it will be functional, the revenue costs that were originally budgeted will now be reviewed in order to best reflect the scheme that is now nearing completion and the anticipated levels of income.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – The capital scheme budget has been revised to £1,323,010 to reflect the contract price of the successful tender. The indication at this time is that the full scheme will be within budget. The associated revenue budgets are also to be reviewed.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – None
- Reputation – The provision of sport is not a statutory requirement for local authorities. However, this Council has invested in this important aspect of provision for the benefit of local residents throughout the Borough, including the provision of grants to assist local clubs and organisations provide their chosen activities.
- Equality and Diversity – The new facility is fully inclusive.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 The development of the facility will provide much needed opportunities for the Borough's sports clubs and groups and once opened it will be one of the best of its' kind in the North.

5.2 The budget for the project has now been revised to £1,323,010 to reflect the successful tender and the other associated costs of the scheme.

6. **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

6.1 Note the report

6.2 Approve the booking policy adopted for the allocation of space.

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge, extension 4479.