

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**CABINET**  
**WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY 2018**  
**WITNEY ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCH PROJECT**  
**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES**  
**(Contact: Martin Holland, Tel: (01993) 861556)**

(The Cabinet's decision on this matter will be a recommendation to the Council)

**I. PURPOSE**

To consider the inclusion of provision within the Councils capital programme for the replacement of the pitch surface at the Witney artificial turf pitch.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council be recommended to include provision of £344,000 within the 2017/18 capital programme to facilitate the replacement of the pitch surface at the Witney artificial turf pitch.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Witney artificial turf pitch is located at Henry Box School and is owned by the Council, it opened seventeen years ago and the pitch playing surface requires replacement. It is a dual use facility which the School uses during curriculum time and the community at all other times. The facility is managed on behalf of the Council by its leisure management contractor GLL Better.
- 3.2 To reduce the capital cost to the Council of replacing the playing surface Officers applied for and received a grant from the Football Foundation. In accordance with the grant terms and conditions the replacement surface is required to meet the FIFA specification for a 3g long pile football specific playing surface which is not suitable for Hockey.
- 3.3 There is strategic need for the provision of 3g pitches within the District as evidenced by Sport England research, the Councils Playing Pitch Strategy and local demand. Currently the site is predominantly used for football, with 90% of the community use allocation being booked for football. The local hockey club currently uses the site for one night a week; all other training and competitions take place at Wood Green School which has a playing surface suitable for competition hockey.
- 3.4 The Hockey club has been consulted and arrangements for their booking to transfer to Wood Green School discussed. Their club night coincides with youth team football bookings at the School on the same night; the proposal is for the clubs to swap venues so the hockey club can continue to train weekly. Henry Box School and the clubs/teams that also use the facility have been consulted.

3.5 While taking advantage of the grant funding officers also took the opportunity to achieve added value. The project will also see the replacement of the existing floodlighting with energy efficient LED fittings, new fencing, and goals.

#### **4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS**

Members could choose not to accept the reports recommendation and/or suggest alternative solutions.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1. The funding strategy for this project is as follows:-

Football Foundation Grant	£212,000
Section 106 Funding secured	£6,389
WODC Capital financing	£125,611
Total	£344,000

5.2. There are no revenue implications to the Council arising from this project.

#### **6. RISKS**

The delivery of this project is via the Football Foundations frame work (grant condition) which provides full project management and main contractor procurement for a fixed fee which reduces the risk of cost overruns to the Council.

#### **7. REASONS**

End of life replacement of the carpet is necessary to ensure the availability of the facility for community use. The project accords with the Council's priorities to meet the current and future needs of residents and to provide efficient and value for money services whilst delivering quality front line services.

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