

TO: THE MONITORING OFFICER (TOM CLARK, SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL)

RECORD OF ACTION TAKEN BY A CABINET MEMBER UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

Subject: Release of S106 Formal Sport contributions for sports pitch improvement works at London Road Recreation Ground, Hassocks and Clayton Green Recreation Ground, Clayton

Cabinet Member: Cllr John Belsey

Has the Cabinet Member received a report prior to taking the decision?

Yes

In the case of a key decision and where the Cabinet Member has received a report.

This is not a key decision.

Alternative options considered and rejected.

Considered trying to address the issues though standard end of season renovation works but due to the on-going problems with grass coverage and drainage, further- more extensive- works are required in addition to these, to improve the playing pitches immediately and provide long term protection for the facilities.

Record of decision taken.

Authorise release of £8,836.21 from Formal Sport s106 contributions.

Statement of reasons for making the decision.

Officers consider this an appropriate expenditure of Formal Sports contributions to improve the playability of the pitches.

Date of decision:- 9 September 2020

Is the decision to be protected from call-in? (i.e. If any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interest) - see Scrutiny Procedure Rule 14 (M)

No

Signed:.

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Cabinet Member

This record must be forwarded immediately to the Monitoring Officer (TC) and copied to the relevant Cabinet Member.

For Monitoring Officer

Date of publication of Member Information Services

Date of decision can be implemented (on the Thursday after publication of the Member Information Service unless already protected from call-in)

Capital Project Justification Form

Clayton Green and London Road Recreation Ground: Sports Pitch Improvements

Purpose of project:

To improve the playing pitch surfaces on two football pitches and one cricket pitch at Clayton Green Recreation Ground in Clayton and one football pitch at London Road Recreation Ground in Hassocks.

Both sites are very popular recreation grounds used by local residents and sports clubs for adult and junior use.

On a number of occasions over recent years training and matches have had to be cancelled as the pitches became waterlogged, which meant the clubs had to find alternative venues at short notice and there has been an associated loss of income for the Council.

Recent pitch inspections carried out by the Sussex County Football Association under their Ground and Natural Turf improvement programme noted that both sites suffered from poor grass coverage across the pitches which leads to bare patches that become waterlogged through the playing season. Both pitches only achieved 55% grass coverage in total and only 40 – 45% of this was with the desirable sports pitch grasses.

The proposed work will help to improve the pitch drainage and reduce cancellations, allowing a greater number of matches to take place on this pitch and reducing pressure on other pitches.

The work will consist of:

- Top dressing the three football pitches with sports sand
- Over-seeding the three football pitches with sport pitch rye grass in season to increase grass coverage
- Scarifying and overseeding the cricket outfield at Clayton Green Recreation Ground

The main benefits of good drainage are:

- Improvement of the quality, firmness and durability of the turf
- Quick drying of the soil for extending playing time
- Improved air movement in the soil
- Improved root development
- Better soil structure
- Higher soil temperature and longer growing season

Formal Sports

Land at Mackie Avenue (P35/609B) – £8,836.21

Total s106 funding - £8,836.21

Balance required from capital reserves - £0

Capitalised Salaries included in the project total : N/A

Other sources of funding :(i.e. big lottery etc.) N/A

Revenue implications:

Improvements to the facilities will ensure the pitches continue to be booked and used by the local football clubs and reduce the risk of cancellation which will lead to a reduction in the loss of income.

Value for money assessment:

A do nothing approach will result in a decrease in usage and a deterioration in pitch condition, and therefore a reduction of income collected by MSDC. A failure to invest will necessitate a continued annual increase in maintenance costs. There would also be a risk of injury resulting in potential insurance claims; and an increase in disruption to football club fixtures.

Business Unit/Service: Commercial Services & Contracts

Head of Service: Judy Holmes

Divisional leader: Rob Anderton

Project Manager: Stuart Brown

Cabinet Member: Cllr John Belsey

Ward Members: Cllr Benedict Dempsey, Cllr Sue Hatton, Cllr Alexander Sparasci

This project contributes to achieving the Corporate Plan in the following ways:

The Corporate Plan priority 'Strong and Resilient Committees' and 'Effective and Responsive Services'. The Plan sets out proposals to invest in the Council's parks and open spaces and to support the health and wellbeing of residents.

Summary of discussions with Cabinet Member:

The Cabinet Member is supportive of the scheme.

Risk Analysis:

The main risks of the project and the likelihood, severity and financial impact (rated low, medium, high) of each of these risks are:

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Financial impact
1. Incidents during construction	low	low	low
2. Severe weather impacting on construction	medium	low	low
3. Incident following construction	low	low	low

Mitigation actions: Use of qualified contractors, Risk Assessments, Method Statements, thorough project planning (including contingency planning).

Project Title –Part 2 Responsibility of the Project Manager

Responsibility of Project Manager declaration:

Name of Project: Sports Pitch Improvements – Clayton Green (Clayton) and London Road Recreation Grounds (Hassocks)

I certify to say I understand my responsibility as the Project/Budget Manager for the project, and that I have read and that I understand I must comply with both the Council's Financial Procedure rules and contract procedure rules throughout the entity of this capital project. I understand my responsibility to deliver the project as approved by Council as set out in Part 1 of this Project Justification Form.

I also understand that I should use the MSDC project and risk management methodology and covalent to scope, plan, risk assess and monitor progress in delivering this project. I understand my responsibility to report regularly on progress with the project to my head of service and to indicate as soon as possible if the project is likely to be over/underspent; or likely to fail to achieve key milestones; or, is no longer likely to achieve the benefits that were originally envisaged for it.

Signed by Project Manager:

Name of Project Manager: Stuart Brown

Dated: 7th September 2020