

**Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee**

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>4 April 2017</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Cricket Club Clubhouse Redevelopment</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Graham Hunt, Town Clerk Janine Howells, Asset Manager</b>

**Purpose of this Report**

1. To provide a verbal / written update on the progress of the redevelopment of the Cricket Club clubhouse.

**Update**

2. A progress meeting was held with the Cricket Club and Holland and Green Ltd. on 13 March 2017 where the redevelopment of the clubhouse was discussed in detail. An update was provided by the Cricket Club on a number of potential community groups that were interested in using the facility and this may assist with grant funding applications. Due to this interest the Cricket Club were proposing to undertake changes to some aspects of the design. These changes would also ensure the building was fully DDA compliant. Holland and Green Ltd. are in discussion with SODC Planning Officers regarding these possible changes. The next steps in the process were discussed along with the need for independent project management and strict following of procurement procedures.
3. It was proposed by the Cricket Club to use Ridge and Partners LLP for independent project management who are a local multi-discipline consultancy company delivering construction projects with experience of similar projects with local authorities. A meeting has been arranged with Ridge and Partners on 3 April 2017 to further discuss the project and our expectations of the services required. If meeting outcome is satisfactory, Financial Regulation 11.1(i) will need to be waived to enable their appointment and help ensure that full tendering can be executed in time for proposed build start at the end of the 2017 cricket season. This waiving may also apply to other similar professional appointments, and in all cases, such appointments will be assessed by the Town Clerk, the Asset Manager and the External Organisation Councillor.
4. The Cricket Club provided a verbal update on their funding position at the progress meeting. Funding of approx. £750,000 has been secured and included the recently awarded funding from ECB of a grant award of £50,000 and a loan of £50,000. An update of the s106 contributions allocated to the scheme was provided by the Town Clerk. The Cricket Club continue to seek funding opportunities and will be submitting a grant application to Sport England in the near future. The buy a brick scheme continues to be promoted in the Information Centre.
5. The application for LEADER funding will be submitted to Oxfordshire LAG by 28 March for grant funding of £35,000. A renewed letter of support has been supplied to the Cricket Club along with a letter from the Council's solicitors confirming that they have been instructed to prepare a new 99 year lease.

6. It is envisaged that the main construction aspect of the project will commence in September 2017 and given some remaining funding timings it is likely to progress in two phases.
7. The Council's solicitors are working with the Town Clerk on the new lease, under the Heads of Terms as previously shared (and subsequent discussions with the Cricket Club). It is hoped that a first draft will be available for initial review by the Town Clerk, the Asset Manager and the External Organisation Councillor no later than 7 April. The Council's solicitors will also be advising on legal aspects of the construction phase.
8. The Council's solicitor is now acting on behalf of the Council regarding the required grant agreement and restriction with SODC following the successful award for capital funding. Obligations regarding the grant agreement will be transferred to the Cricket Club in the new lease however there will still be a primary obligation on the Council to comply with the terms of the grant.
9. Officers continue to manage the project in line with the financial contribution as agreed by Council on 27 October 2015. The Council has to date committed funds of £42,469.94 towards the project, including some unrecoverable VAT. Cost control is being maintained against the costing spreadsheet provided by the Cricket Club.

### **Action Required**

10. To note the report and in particular the potential need to waive Financial Regulations for the further appointment of relevant professional support to the project.