

## Culture, Leisure & Recreation Committee

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>11 February 2020</b>
<b>Title:</b>	Football Partnership 3G Pitch
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Jayne Cole, Town Clerk</b>

### Purpose of the Report

- To inform members on the progress of the Football Partnership 3G Pitch and to detail the financial arrangements for funding this project.

### Action Required

- To agree to the release of the confirmation of funding letter to the Football Foundation to allow the application to proceed to determination.

### Background

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 Thame Town Council resolved to support the implementation of a new Artificial Pitch at Meadow View Park.

Included in the resolution were the following commitments:

- To fund up to £10,000 towards the project from the Town Councils Capital Reserves
- A commitment to work with SODC to ensure approximately £300,000 is allocated from already committed s106 funds related to sports provision in Thame
- A commitment to provide officer support and a Working Group to assist the project, via a 'formal 'Working Together' agreement based on the Town Councils significant experience in sports related installations.

In a letter to any prospective funders for this project the Town Council stated that 'in the event that Thame Football Partnership is unable to raise funding to the total needed, Thame Town Council will do all it can to help ensure that any shortfall is met'.

On January 6<sup>th</sup> 2020 Thame Town Council received an email from Simon Wood the bid consultant for the Football Partnership and a subsequent request for a copy of the lease and title plan of the site. The Community Services Officer and Town Clerk held a telephone conference with Mr. Wood to ascertain how far the project had progressed and following which on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 met with the Football Partnership, Football Foundation, FA and Mr. Wood.

At the meeting it was confirmed:

- The funding application is in Thame Town Council and Football Partnership names
- Planning Consent has been approved subject to conditions
- The project costs in the application are estimates
- VAT is not included in the overall cost and would have to be forward funded and then recovered by the Town Council

- S106 monies would have to be forward funded and recovered by the Town Council
- The project turnaround is expected to be 16 weeks and will proceed around June 9<sup>th</sup> 2020
- That any grant will be paid over as a percentage of the project cost and applied to each invoice submitted (for example 50% grant equals 50% of each invoice being paid over)
- There would not be an immediate turnaround on invoices by the Football Foundation
- There would be a charge on the leases of Oxfordshire County Council, Thame Town Council and Football Partnership\*
- The legal costs will be the responsibility of Thame Town Council
- The tender process has already taken place

\*The charge will apply if the Football Partnership were to dissolve. It would have the effect of limiting who may take over and run the assets or sites disposal by both requiring consent from the Football Foundation to proceed.

### Project application to Football Foundation

#### Costs stated by Football Partnership

New Floodlit 3G Pitch including all additional items:	£ 74,000.000
Professional fees	23,499.92
Statutory charges	3,141.64
VAT	0.00
Legal costs	5,000.00
Contingency fund	37,000.00 (within the total funding)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 817,891.56</b>

#### Income stated by Football Partnership

Thame Town Council	£10,000.00
SODC s106	300,000.00
Thame Football Partnership	*39,860.00

#### Project Summary

Estimated Project Costs	£817,891.56
Total Partnership Funding	349,860.00
Estimated Grant	468,031.56

#### Thame Town Councils Financial Obligations

Grant	£10,000.00
VAT	163,578.31
S106	300,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£473,578.31</b>

\*The Football Partnership have already spent £10,000 of the £39,860.00 on planning and consultants

## Resource Appraisal

This project may pull significantly of Thame Town Council Funds and this will require careful management to minimise any potential negative affect on day to day business.

The Football Partnership will pass its £30,000 contribution to the Town Council.

There is £1,778,587 in Rathbones capital reserves that could be relied upon if required and currently around £536,058.29 in earmarked reserves.

The Town Clerk has a meeting with South Oxfordshire s106 Officer on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February to investigate the possibility of the s106 monies being applied for and passed over on the basis of the winning tender rather than based on the projects invoices.

The Town Councils Accountant will be reclaiming all VAT as soon as possible to ensure that there is an expedient turn around in recovering funds.

The Community Services Manager will ensure that all invoices submitted for payment are copied to Football Foundation as quickly as possible for recovery.

The Town Clerk is seeking assurance from the Football Foundation that its percentage of the invoices will be met without delay once submitted.

To minimise the impact on Officer time and office disruption a project brief has been drawn up with tasks set out as below:

- Town Clerk to manage the Thame Town Council side of the project
- Town Clerk to work with SODC on s106 funding
- Community Services Manager and Asset Manager to liaise with Football Partnership and manage invoicing
- Town Clerk, Office Administration Manager and Accountant to manage finances
- Accountant to recover VAT as soon as is practically possible
- Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Officer to make sure the project construction stages are signed off and that there no issues we need to be aware of

Overall the Football Foundation will be managing the construction process and work with the Football Partnership and appointed to contractor and handle any subsequent snagging issues.

## Risk Assessment

- Football Foundation does not offer a grant or significantly reduces the offer – project may not go forward
- Football Foundation insist that it procures the pitch etc through its own processes- we will not become the client until after this process has been completed

- Estimated project costs exceed those stated – Football Foundation may increase the grant as long as the project has not started
- VAT recovery – TTC is the landowner (by virtue of a long lease) and is the client, will place the orders, receive the invoice and make the payments
- Delay in recovery of VAT, S106 or the percentage portion of the grant – capital reserves may have to be relied on
- Delay or an issue with the pitch construction causing rising costs, which the Football Foundation will not meet beyond its share of the 5% contingency – Town Council consider drawing on capital reserves to offer a loan to Football Partnership
- Oxfordshire County Council refuse approval for the charge on the leases or construction of the pitch- this has already been agreed verbally in principle

### **Legal Powers:**

General Power of Competence (Localism Act s1(1))

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19

### **Recommendation**

***It is recommended that following the Town Clerks meeting with SODC s106 Officer on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 that a final funding offer letter be presented to the Football Foundation in order for the application to proceed to determination.***