

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED UNDER THE URGENCY PROCEDURE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 18.
THE CONSENT TO URGENCY NOTICE IS ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT

Item No

Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and IT Not before 16 December 2011

Urgent The Nuneaton Academy – All Weather Pitch

Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holder approves the increase in value of the proposed All-Weather-Pitch as set out in paragraph 3.2.

1.0 Key issues

- 1.1 The Nuneaton Academy is successor to two schools, Manor Park Community School and Specialist Arts College and Alderman Smith School and Sports College. The Nuneaton Academy is located on the site of the former Alderman Smith School and is being redeveloped as part of a separate proposal.
- 1.2 As a Sports College, the Alderman Smith School received a grant of £300,000 to improve facilities for sport. In partnership with Nuneaton and Bedworth Leisure Trust, it applied for and was awarded funding from the Football Foundation to provide an all-weather-pitch (AWP) to serve both the school and the wider community.
- 1.3 The Nuneaton Academy as successor to Alderman Smith also wishes to develop the AWP and has engaged Warwickshire County Council to procure the scheme on its behalf.
- 1.4 A scheme has been prepared, planning permission gained and a tender exercise carried out. The scheme is ready to proceed.
- 1.5 The award of funding to Alderman Smith School was paid through the Standards Fund and was time-limited, the expiry date being 31st August 2011. As part of the annual review process, Local Authorities are required to notify the Department of any funds that remained unspent at the expiry date and to seek approval to carry that funding forward into the next financial year.
- 1.6 The order for the scheme was not placed by the expiry date and the funding was therefore suspended subject to the outcome of the annual review process.
- 1.7 Partnerships for schools (PfS) through whom all funding for Schools is administered, notified WCC that the funding can be carried forward into the next financial year. Notification was received on Friday 9th December.

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- 1.8 The scheme is being monitored through WCC Capital Programme and is currently included at a value of £595,700.
- 1.9 The partner organisations have modified the scope of the scheme and have provided additional funding to match.
- 1.10 The revised scheme is valued at £647,320 towards which WCC is making a £15,195 contribution from the existing Schools Capital Programme. All other funding is provided by Government grant and from the partner organisations; Football Foundation, Nuneaton and Bedworth Leisure Trust, The Nuneaton Academy.
- 1.11 The increase in the value of the scheme means that, under Financial Standing Orders, Member approval is needed to proceed. This is however, a fully funded increase, with the majority being met by external bodies alongside a small contribution from the Schools Capital Programme

2.0 Proposals

2.1 Urgency

- 2.2 The scheme is at a critical stage, failure to place an order now will lead to partner organisations withdrawing or having to withdraw their funding allocations due to their own financial constraints and processes. This would lead to cancellation of the project which is a key plank of both the development of the academy and the Sports and Leisure Strategy of NBBC and the Football Foundation.
- 2.3 Cancellation of the project would reduce access to sport and leisure for pupils at the academy and reduce amenities for the wider community.
- 2.4 There is an urgent need to place the order now to both secure the funding and meet the expenditure needs of WCC and partner organisations would suggest that we cannot wait until January Cabinet.
- 2.5 It is in the interests of Warwickshire County Council to support the newly established Academy, The Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and the communities that they serve by ensuring that the new AWP facility is provided.
- 2.6 The Nuneaton Academy and its partners in this scheme are looking to WCC to deliver the scheme. They understand that the scheme is at risk if the order cannot be placed this month and are looking to WCC to expedite this scheme.
- 2.7 There is a risk to the reputation of WCC if this scheme were to fall due to timing issues; there is a risk to the availability of funding to the partner organisations if the decision is taken later and there is a risk that the opportunity to provide state-of-the-art sports facilities for the students of the Nuneaton Academy and the community will be missed.

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3 Finance

3.1 The table, below, explains the revised funding of the scheme;

Funding			Expenditure	
Funding Source	Original	Current	Based on Revised Tender	
Grant	£300,000	£300,000	Contract works	£592,908
The Nuneaton Academy	£31,500	£59,935	Football Foundation Legal Fees	£2,000
Nuneaton and Bedworth Leisure Trust	£19,450	£27,440	Professional costs and disbursements	£52,412
Football Foundation	£244,750	£244,750		
WCC		£15,195		
TOTAL	£595,700	£647,320	TOTAL	£647,320

3.2 There is an increase of £51,620 to the previously reported sum. It is recommended that the Capital Programme value be increased to £647,320 to match the available funding and enable the order for these works to be placed.

Background Papers (Please list below, with electronic links where applicable)

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	Name	Contact details
Report Author	John Harmon	01926 74 3051
Head of Service	Steve M Smith	
Strategic Director Resources Group	David Carter	
Portfolio Holder,	Cllr D Wright	

CONSENT TO URGENT DECISION	PART 1 (to be completed by the person seeking consent)	
Proposed Decision Maker <i>(please name person or body proposing to take decision, if an officer also state title)</i>		Date for Decision
Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Finance, Governance and IT		16 December 2011
Summary of matter <p>The Nuneaton Academy wishes to develop an all-weather pitch and has engaged the County Council to procure the scheme on its behalf. The scheme has been prepared, planning permission gained and a tender exercise carried out.</p> <p>Funding was paid through the Standards Fund, time limited to 31 August. As part of the annual review process, local authorities are required to notify the Department of Education of any funds unspent and to seek approval to carry funding forward into the next financial year. The order for the scheme was not placed by the expiry date and funding was suspended subject to the outcome of the annual review process.</p> <p>Partnerships for Schools notified the Council on 9 December that the funding can be carried forward. This is an increase in the value of the scheme (by £51,625) but is a fully funded increase, with the increase being met by external bodies.</p> <p>The Council's contribution of £15,200 remains unchanged.</p>		
Proposed Decision <p>That the Capital Programme value for the proposed all-weather pitch at Nuneaton Academy be increased from £595,700 to £647,325, to match the available funding and enable the order for these works to be placed.</p>		
Reasons for urgency <p>It was not possible to take action before now, or to give public notice through the publication of the Forward Plan, as the advice from the Partnerships for Schools was only received on 9 December 2011.</p> <p>The decision is needed to place the order now to both secure the funding and meet the expenditure needs of WCC and partner organisations would suggest that this cannot wait for a scheduled meeting.</p> <p>The scheme is at a critical stage, failure to place an order now will lead to partner organisations withdrawing or having to withdraw funding allocations and would lead to cancellation of the project which is a key plank of both the development of the academy and the Sports and Leisure Strategy of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and the Football Foundation.</p>		
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? <i>[please identify relevant plan/budget provision]</i>		
No		

PART 2 (to be completed by the person giving consent)

Name	Councillor: John Appleton
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Office Held	*Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board
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	*Vice-Chair of Council
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I agree that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances and that the decision is urgent

Councillor John Appleton signed on 15 December 2011 (signed copy on file)

Date consent is given

15 December 2011
