

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**FINANCE and PROPERTY ADVISORY BOARD**

**21 July 2010**

**Joint Report of the Chief Leisure Officer and the  
Cabinet Members for Finance and Leisure, Youth and Arts**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision**

**1 THE HAYESBROOK SCHOOL, TONBRIDGE – ALL-WEATHER PITCH**

**Summary**

**This report seeks the transfer of The Hayesbrook School – All-weather pitch scheme from List B to List A of the Council’s Capital Plan, with the Council’s financial contribution of £20,000 being met from a proposed virement within the existing Capital Plan.**

**1.1 Background**

1.1.1 At the January 2010 meeting of this Board, Members considered a Capital Plan Evaluation for the provision of a full size floodlit all-weather pitch available for school and community use at The Hayesbrook School in Tonbridge. Members will note from the evaluation attached at **[Annex 1]**, that the overall cost of the scheme is £550,000, and the school has devised a Business Plan linked to local sports clubs, the police and the West Kent College Academy.

1.1.2 Research and consultation undertaken as part of the Open Space Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy identified a clear demand for all-weather pitch facilities in the Borough. Whilst a new all-weather facility has recently been constructed at Tonbridge School with community access, there remains further demand for such facilities in the Borough.

1.1.3 At the February 2010 meeting of Cabinet, Members approved the transfer of the scheme from List C to List B with support subject to planning permission being granted, external funding being secured and a Community Use Agreement being agreed.

**1.2 Current Position**

1.2.1 The Hayesbrook School has recently advised the Council that both planning permission and external funding has now been secured for the project, and with the Council’s Contribution of £20,000 the new facility could be completed and ready for use by the end of 2010.

- 1.2.2 The Council's Contribution would be subject to a Community Use Agreement, and it is proposed that the recent agreement for the new all-weather facility at Tonbridge School be used as a model. The Chairman of Tonbridge Sports Association will be consulted as part of the preparation of the new agreement.

### **1.3 Legal Implications**

- 1.3.1 As detailed above the Council's financial contribution will be subject to a Community Use Agreement.

### **1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 1.4.1 The level of investment proposed by the Council represents excellent value for money in securing community use of a new all-weather facility. The Council will not be subject to any ongoing revenue costs, and the school will establish a 'sinking fund' to replace the facility in future years. The Council's contribution of £20,000 matches the level of funding being offered by the County Council.
- 1.4.2 In liaison with the Director of Finance a virement from within the existing Capital Plan has been identified to fund the Council's contribution in full. In the current financial year of the Capital Plan a balance of £25,000 remains under the project title Haysden Country Park Improvements, for which no scheme has been identified. The Haysden Country Park Improvement budget was initially established following the decision not to pursue the off-road section of the cycle route, and it was agreed at this time that following essential works to the existing cycle route and the car parks any balance would be returned to the Capital Fund. We can advise Members that these essential works have been completed.

### **1.5 Risk Assessment**

- 1.5.1 Without the Council's contribution to the new all-weather pitch at The Hayesbrook School, there is a risk that the project will not be able to proceed and that local sports clubs will not be able to access high quality practice facilities. The funding for the project is based on contributions from a number of partners, and this has enabled the most significant grant from Sport England to be secured.

### **1.6 Policy Considerations**

- 1.6.1 Community, Crime and Disorder Reduction, Healthy Lifestyle, Young People.

### **1.7 Recommendation**

- 1.7.1 It is **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that the Council's contribution of £20,000 towards the new floodlit all-weather pitch at The Hayesbrook School **BE APPROVED**, subject to a Community Use Agreement and the funding for the project being met from a virement from within the existing Capital Plan as outlined in the report.

Background papers:

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Nil

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