



Ryedale District Council

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 25 February 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Interim Chief Financial Officer
John Patten

SUBJECT: Grant to Malton School for Leisure Facilities

WARDS AFFECTED: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To meet the requirements of the resolution from the Policy and Resources Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. to include in the Capital Programme a grant of up to £1.5m to Malton School for the provision of Leisure Facilities phased over years 2009/10 and 2010/11
- b. to amend the Prudential Code to take account of this provision
- c. to accept the general principles of the proposed grant payment detailed in the report
- d. to report progress to Policy and Resources Committee

3.0 REASONS SUPPORTING DECISION

At the Policy and Resources Committee on 7 February 2008 it was resolved that:

Proposal on Item 5 (Budget Strategy) of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 7 February 2008

That a paragraph (h) be added in the following terms:

- (h) That when the budget report is submitted to Full Council on 25 February 2008 for approval, that Council be requested to consider an Officer report on the inclusion in the Capital Programme of a provision for payment by the Council of a grant of £1.5 million for a new scheme to develop a Dry Sports Centre at Malton School subject to conditions including the community use of the facility.

4.0 INTRODUCTION

Members have debated for some time the provision of a Dry Sports facility at Malton School funded by this Council with contributions and grants from other parties. The recommendation from Policy and Resources Committee represents a new concept and different scheme with the potential to deliver a similar community facility.

5.0 REPORT

All Councillors were sent a letter by the headmaster of Malton School outlining a different approach to the provision of a joint school/community Leisure Facility.

Discussions and correspondence have occurred with Officers and Governors of Malton School and the following is a summary of the proposal.

- Malton School would be responsible for the project obtaining assistance from NYCC where appropriate and seeking funding from other organisations or existing assets
- Malton School would be responsible for the operation and running costs of the facility either through direct operation or a private company
- Malton School would request a contribution towards running costs in respect of public (not club, school or group) usage
- Malton School seeks a grant commitment, of up to £1.5m from this Council as the major public funder of the initial scheme
- Malton School would separately seek funding for the provision of an All Weather pitch as previously advised.

It is suggested to Members that although there are a number of detailed matters concerning the payment and safeguard of a grant to be resolved some general principles be established as follows:

- The facility should be available for public, group and club use during term time and during school holidays
- The hours of use available for these groups should be similar to the original timetable agreed with the School
- The facilities should include as a minimum a four-court sports hall, climbing wall, reception area, all weather pitch and public changing rooms although inclusion of other facilities such as gym and dance room would be highly desirable.

This proposal shifts the risks of the scheme from the Council onto another body; it enables a fixed and certain sum to be allocated within the Capital Programme and delivers a community facility with reduced running costs to the taxpayer. It achieves an objective of the Council and the local Community that has been debated for many years.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Financial Strategy agreed by Council includes sufficient flexibility to add schemes into the Capital Programme. The original report was unaltered even though the Leisure Scheme as originally proposed and estimated at a net £2.879m was deleted.

Under the new proposal from the School there would be a much reduced contribution to annual running costs for public use payable by the Council in the form of a grant or subsidy. Provision for running costs has already been made within the Financial Strategy.

It will be necessary to amend the Capital Programme and Prudential Code to recognise this capital expenditure. A revised set of Prudential Indicators will be circulated to Members.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

In due course a grant condition or heads of terms document will need to be agreed with the School.

Background Papers:

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact John Patten, Interim Chief Financial Officer if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The Officer can be contacted at Ryedale House, Tel. 01653 600666 ext 214 or e-mail; john.patten@ryedale.gov.uk.