



RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

SUBJECT: Funding for 3G pitch – Pontypridd RFC Application to Sport Wales

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To advise of the decision to provide part funding to support a funding application by Pontypridd Rugby Football Club, for the conversion of the grass pitch at Sardis Road, Pontypridd to a 3G synthetic turf service.

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended Officer decision of the Group Director Community & Children's Services as described below.

DELEGATED DECISION (Date):

That the Council allocates £100k of the priority investment fund for outdoor sports facilities, to support a funding bid by Pontypridd RFC to the All Wales Artificial Turf Pitch Collaboration Board for the conversion of Sardis Road to a 3G surface.


Chief Officer Signature

G. ISINGRINI

Print Name

Date 18-04-16

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution

A. Cronin

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

18/04/16

DATE

OFFICER CONSULTEE SIGNATURE

DATE

Directorate:	Community & Children's – Leisure, Parks & Countryside
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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016-17

18TH APRIL 2016

**REPORT TO ACCOMPANY THE DECISION OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND
CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**FUNDING FOR 3G PITCH – PONTYPRIDD RFC
APPLICATION TO SPORT WALES**

Author: David Batten, Head of Leisure, Parks & Countryside

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide information on the decision to provide part funding to support a funding application by Pontypridd Rugby Football Club, for the conversion of the grass pitch at Sardis Road, Pontypridd to a 3G synthetic turf service.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council allocates £100k of the priority investment fund for outdoor sports facilities, to support a funding bid by Pontypridd RFC to the All Wales Artificial Turf Pitch Collaboration Board for the conversion of Sardis Road to a 3G surface.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 A successful bid to upgrade Sardis Road will support the growth of Rugby at all levels in the South of the County Borough. Raising the profile of Pontypridd RFC will contribute to the ongoing regeneration of Pontypridd.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council has been working closely with partners in Sport Wales, the National Governing Bodies of Football, Rugby and Hockey and 21st Century Schools Programme, to plan improvements to outdoor sports facilities within the County Borough. The Sport Wales/NGB have formed a Collaboration Board and have been allocated funding to support the rolling out of 3G's in strategic locations across Wales.

- 4.2 This collaborative work has highlighted the need to extend the number of 3G synthetic turf pitches across the County. The excessive rainfall of the last 6 months has brought the issue into sharp relief, as almost 40% of sports fixtures have had to be cancelled due to waterlogged grass pitches.

- 4.3 Pontypridd RFC are the only team in RCT playing at the highest club level in Wales, the Principality Premiership. Their ground, Sardis Road, Pontypridd is held on a long term lease from the Council. The ground is maintained by the Council's Park's Department on a contract basis. The ground is poorly constructed, and is constantly waterlogged in wet weather, causing the Club constant operational issues.
- 4.4 To overcome the issue, the club has been talking with potential partners, including the Council, to see if there is an appetite to support a bid by the club to replace the grass pitch at Sardis Road, with a new 3G surface. They have secured the promise of funding from Coleg y Cwmoedd and have had constructive meetings with the Collaboration Board, who have indicated that a funding bid would be well received.
- 4.5 The Council has recently announced a priority investment programme into Outdoor Sports Facilities of £0.5million. Funds have already been allocated to the refurbishment of all weather pitches in Mountain Ash and Pentre. By pledging the balance of the funding (£100k), to the Pontypridd RFC project, the Council will ensure the viability of the project, and strengthen the case for support from the Collaboration Board.
- 4.6 There will be a number of beneficial outcomes if the bid is successful that will make significant contributions to the Council's Community Plan.
- Improved facilities to support growth in active participation in sport. There will be increased opportunities for junior teams and schools to utilise up to date, modern facilities.
 - A successful rugby team in Pontypridd brings business to the town, and supports the economic regeneration.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Formal consultation is not required on this matter.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Financial implications identified within the report will be managed through existing budgets.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Not applicable

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 Working in partnership with Pontypridd RFC and Coleg y Cwmoedd to bring a flagship facility to Pontypridd, and will bring significant benefits to the development of rugby at all levels and contribute to the regeneration of Pontypridd.