
TITLE: Service Level Agreement Funding (Leisure Centres and Sport Facilities) 2018-19: Update Report

Committee: Community Services Committee

Date: 12th September 2018

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1. ISSUE

- 1.1. To agree a revision to a funding allocation for the 2018-19 financial year for leisure centres and sport facilities.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. The Committee is requested to agree the revision recommended below.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Grants are offered to leisure facility providers to support material improvements to their services, whether through capital improvements, programme developments or organisational developments. In all cases the outcomes sought are to strengthen the long-term sustainability of the facility, to extend the activity opportunities for the local community, or both.
- 3.2. The grants are offered so far as possible on a rolling programme, which supports the principle of funding being project-led. Providers are therefore not required to submit applications by any particular deadline, and proposals may be submitted throughout the year.
- 3.3. The annual budget for this programme is £30,881.

4. ARGUMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1. The Committee in June 2018 approved a grant to Bottisham Sports Centre (Bottisham Village College) for the purchase of an automated pool vacuum, at an anticipated cost of £1,000. The grant requested was £1,000 – the full cost of the equipment – and this was approved.
- 4.2. A subsequent review by the new sports centre manager indicates that a more powerful machine will be needed to be effective, and that the cost will be £3,000 rather than £1,000. Given the size of the pool and hours of use, this seems credible and it is better to reach this conclusion now than to buy a machine which sits idle. Officers remain satisfied that the purpose is sound and the cost proportionate to the anticipated benefit.
- 4.3. Bottisham is a dual use (educational / community) site. Recent grant recommendations have assumed that usage of the site is evenly split between the two, and that the cost of any facility-enhancements should be

analysed accordingly. In this instance however, given that the Committee has already agreed £1,000, the recommendation is rather to split the increase (£2,000) on a 50:50 basis and therefore increase the grant to £2,000, on condition that the college (or the centre, from its operating revenue) finances the balance. The grant recommendation remains modest in overall terms.

- 4.4. Taken with the previous recommendation for Littleport (June 2018), the grants recommended for approval this year so far total £8,640. In addition, the grant (£12,000) approved last year to Burwell Sports Centre for the renewal of its roof has recently been claimed, the work having been completed in June. The total of actual and committed expenditure for this financial year is therefore £20,640.
- 4.5. As previously noted, the other centres are addressing a range of issues and opportunities, some more immediate than others. The most imminent – for which no funding request has so far arisen – is the renewal of the hockey pitch by Ely Outdoor Sports Association. It is currently thought that funding for this project is now in place, subject to confirmation of one element. This project is somewhat time-sensitive due to seasonal factors and time-limits on some external grants, so officers will advise further – so far as appropriate or necessary – at the meeting.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. The proposed funding allocations fall within the existing budget.
- 5.2. No new equalities implications follow from these proposals.

Background Documents	Location	Contact Officer
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