

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 14 February 2011

REPORT ON: Proposals for Outdoor Pitch Reconfiguration at DISC

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 64-2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the proposal to replace the ageing outdoor pitches at DISC sport and leisure centre and seek approval to progress.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the content of the report.
- 2.2 Approves the upgrade of the facility which is managed by Dundee Leisure.
- 2.3 Remit the City Engineer to bring forward a tender report for the works to a future Committee.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of the project is estimated at £583,000. Application has been made for a Sports Lottery Grant of £225,000 and the balance of £358,000 will be included in the forthcoming updated Council Capital Plan.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The outdoor all weather surfaces at DISC sports complex have contributed to the development of hockey and football in the City over many years and contributed to healthier wellbeing of our citizens. However, in the later years the surfaces have deteriorated to a state where they are in need of replacement. The existing pitches include a 'wet pitch' which makes sense and a sand based rubber pitch. It is proposed that in order to sustain quality facilities which are versatile, that the 'wet pitch' is replaced like for like, however that the sand based rubber pitch is replaced with a third generation synthetic pitch which will facilitate, in particular, football and rugby. This will ensure there is a balance of key sports that can be played at all levels on the sites.

The new pitch will be managed through Dundee Leisure Trust. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in usage, particularly of the third generation pitch where football and rugby training will be available as a full size or cross pitch configuration.

- 4.2 Indicative costs for the works including professional fees and contingencies are approx £583,000 and this should provide a quality surface for around 10-12 years.

An application for funding has been submitted to **sportscotland** and an allowance of £358,000 has been made in the Council's capital budget.

- 4.3 It is recommended that approval be granted.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. No major issues have been identified.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.
- 6.2 Consultations have been carried out with a number of key stakeholders including Scottish Hockey, Scottish Rugby Union, Scottish Football Association and Dundee Leisure. The Tayside and Fife Regional Sporting Partnership along with **sportscotland** have also been consulted on the initiative.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE & COMMUNITIES
31 January 2011