

Central Dudley Area Committee – 5th September 2006

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Dudley Sports Village Project

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of the Dudley Sports Village Project and Feasibility study which will consider the development of facilities that could provide accommodation for Dudley Town Football Club as well as a mixture of community sports facilities to augment the football provision.

Background

2. A Project Team has been set up by the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Cabinet Member for Regeneration under the sponsorship of the Director of the Urban Environment to look at the provision of a new facility that can accommodate Dudley Town Football Club together with a mixture of community sports facilities. The concept includes the possibility of incorporating education and health facilities within the physical boundaries of the sports village.
3. Dudley Town Football Club has, over recent years, been forced to share facilities with other clubs both within and outside the Borough. This was due to the closure in 1985 of their ground and the County Cricket Ground at the junction of Tipton Road/Birmingham Road in Dudley following subsidence and the collapse of underground mine workings. The club have approached the Council with a view to looking for a facility in the central Dudley area. The club's long term aspirations involve the development of facilities which would enable the club to progress through the football pyramid to play at Conference level in the future.
4. A project plan has now been developed which enables a feasibility study to be carried out by specialist sports facility consultants to look into the following issues:
 - A suitable location to support the development of a football stadium and community sports facility.
 - An assessment of the demand and need for a sports facility to meet the community aspirations in terms of formal sports and leisure facilities.
 - The report to indicate possible funding mechanisms including the need for a sustainable revenue method of supporting the ongoing use of such a facility.

5. The consultant's report will have been commissioned on the 1st September with a view to a full report back to be completed by the end of October. A verbal update on this position will be given at the meeting. The findings of the report will then be brought back to Area Committee and individual Ward Members will be consulted on the findings of the consultant's study. The intention would then be to report through the Cabinet to Council on the overall findings of the consultant's study, together with the views and aspirations of Members.

Finance

6. The costs of the feasibility study have been found from within existing budgets. The cost of any proposals arising from the feasibility study will be detailed to Members at the appropriate time.

Law

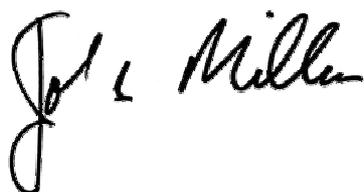
7. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972, enables the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its statutory functions.
8. Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976, empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities in its area.
9. There is a duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to account for the implications of the impact on community safety of actions and decisions relating to service areas.

Equality Impact

10. The development of this project is likely to have a beneficial impact on all Members of the Local Community including the ability of children and young people to use the new facilities.
11. If the project moves to a definite proposal, all Members of the community including children and young people will be consulted on the proposal.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that:-
 - The Area Committee note the progress made with the project
 - The Area Committee receive further reports in due course.



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Director of the Urban Environment

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List of Background Papers:

The Football Association – Sports Villages (2006)

Dudley Sports Village Project – Selection and Appointment of Consultants:
Procurement Plan; Quality/Price Competitive Tender (21 July 2006)

Tender Documents (31 July 2006)

Draft Contract for Consultancy – Dudley Sports Village Project (31 July 2006)