

## **Wincanton Sports Ground – Request for a one-off contribution towards a Sports Development Officer post (Executive Decision)**

*Ward Members:* Cllr Nick Colbert & Cllr Colin Winder  
*Strategic Director:* Rina Singh, Place & Performance  
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### **Purpose of the Report**

For members to consider a request for a one-off revenue contribution towards the cost of employing a Sports Development intern at Wincanton Sports Ground.

### **Public Interest**

Awarding grants is a key way that SSDC supports and helps to deliver community projects sponsored by parishes and voluntary community organisations in the towns and villages across Area East.

### **Background**

Wincanton Sports Ground is owned by Wincanton Recreational Trust and is managed by a separate Management Company, Wincanton Sports Ground Management Co Ltd. The Sports Ground is the home for a number of local sports groups including Wincanton Town Football Club, Wincanton Tennis Club and Wincanton and District Bowls Club but is also well used by individuals.

SSDC provided an annual revenue grant to maintain the Sports Ground between 2004 and 2008 but this was taken on by Wincanton Town Council in 2008 to reflect the fact that it was a local facility and to enable the continued SSDC support for Wincanton Sports Centre which was (and is) considered a strategic facility.

Members will recall that requests from community organisations for non-capital works through the Community Grants Programme are now restricted to small grants with the upper limit recently reviewed and increased to a maximum of £1000. The Community Grants programme has been used to support projects with revenue grants of up to £1000 but has not been used to fund larger revenue grants for some time.

Each year a sum of £10,000 is made available to Area East Committee as a Discretionary Budget to support one-off work or special projects.

The application has been assessed against the standard grants conditions used by SSDC and the policies under which all applications are assessed. Details are attached to this agenda as part of the Items for Information

### **Recommendations**

That Members agree:-

- 1.) a **one-off** contribution of £1,840 (11% of the total project costs) from the Members Discretionary Budget to Wincanton Recreational Trust towards the cost of employing a Sports Development Officer to deliver a programme of sports activity for one year subject to the following conditions:
- a. That a minimum contribution of £1,840 is secured from Wincanton Town Council.
  - b. That the post contributes to Community Health and Leisure (CHL) service delivery by:
    - Supporting the CHL service in the development of new and existing community sports clubs at Wincanton Sports Ground (and surrounding area as appropriate)
    - Supports the CHL service to service to decrease the number of adults and children who are currently inactive within the catchment of Wincanton Sports Ground
    - Supports the CHL service to reduce the number of overweight adults and children within the catchment of Wincanton Sports Ground
    - Work in partnership with the CHL service to increase participation in sport and active recreation in the Wincanton area
  - c. That the intern meets with the Senior Sports and Healthy Lifestyles Officer once a quarter to discuss and agree a programme of work that will help to achieve these objectives as well as supporting the sustainability of the sports ground.
  - d. That a representative from the Community Health and Leisure service is invited to be a member of the interview panel for the proposed sports development post.

## **The Proposal**

The Recreational Trust established and paid for a Sports Development Officer post in October 2013 as a one year internship. This proved to be very successful in increasing the use of the sports ground and encouraging new sporting activity at the site. The post holder, working with partners including SSDC Community Health & Leisure, established a Rounders League with 80 participants, started a weekly Sport 50 session, initiated weekly Disability Football programme, and worked with local runners to lay out a '3,2,1' route on site. Strong links have been established with Arsenal Football club and developed links with disability sports agencies.

The approach of having an internship has been very successful and the original post holder has left to take up permanent employment elsewhere. The developmental approach has meant that many of the groups established, continue to meet and WRT is requesting some support to continue and develop the role further.

The aim of the post will be to support the development of existing clubs and to develop opportunities for more people to take part in a wider range of sports and activity. Increasing participation and increased use of the facilities is a key element of the sustainability of the facility.

If members support the principle of this funding request, the Community Health and Leisure Manager is prepared to make available up to £1,840 from the CHL service budget for one year in order to support service delivery.

## **Funding beyond Year 1**

The Trust aims to make this an ongoing, permanent post and various streams of funding (income generation and options in terms of under used land) are currently being explored.

There is an element of risk in terms of the longer term plans to fund the post but this is clearly understood by the applicant. SSDC funding would only be for 1 year.

It is the officer's view that the proposal represents value for money on the basis of one years' worth of development work and there is a clear commitment to make this a permanent post.

### Parish Precept information

Parish	Wincanton
Parish population	5272 (based on 2011 Census)
No. of Households	2,863
Precept 15/16	£180,900
Band D Charge 15/16	£91.02

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

	Score	Maximum score
A Eligibility	Y	
B Equalities Impact	6	7
C Evidence of Need	4	5
D Capacity of Organisation	13	15
E Financial need	4	7
F Innovation	2	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>37</b>

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Wincanton Town Council	11%	£1,840	Requested
SSDC (Area East)	11%	£1,840	Applied for
SSDC (Community Health & Leisure)	11%	£1,840	Applied for
Wincanton Recreational Trust	58%	£10,000	Secured
Fundraising	10%	£1,780	To be secured
<b>Total Scheme Cost</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£17,300</b>	

As with all grant requests we would normally expect to see a contribution from the Town Council. Wincanton Town Council provides a regular grant to help maintain the Sports Ground and has allocated £8,000 for this year. This has been reduced from £12,000 allocated last year. A request has also been made for a one-off grant towards this work.

Somerset Activity and Sport Partnership will continue to provide training and support to the post holder and will also deal with the employment aspects on behalf of the Trust.

### **Financial Implications**

There is currently £10,200 unallocated within the Members Discretionary budget. If Members agree the above recommendations, a sum of £8,360 would be available for the rest of the financial year.

### **Corporate Priority Implications**

The project helps to 'maintain and enhance the South Somerset network of leisure and cultural facilities, optimising opportunities for external funding to promote healthy living.' (Focus Four: Health & Communities)

### **Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications**

Providing local access to a range of activities and services reducing the need to travel which therefore reduces carbon emissions.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

The project has been subject to an assessment in terms of accessibility.

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