



Prosperous Communities

**Tuesday, 13 September
2022**

Subject: Caistor Multi-sport 3G Pitch

Report by:

Assistant Director Homes and Communities

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To approve a Match Funding Grant award over standard maximum allocation.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. Committee approve a Match Funding Grant award of £15,000 to Caistor Grammar School as recommended by the Community Grants Panel.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: All Match Funding Grant awards are completed with a grant funding agreement. The grant agreements used by the Council have been reviewed and approved for use by Legal Services.

Financial: FIN/75/23/MT/SL

£500k was approved over 5 years for the community grant scheme in 2017/2018. £100k pa from 2018/2019 to 2022/2023.

£88.8k pa was for community grants, £10k pa for the defibrillator scheme and £1.2k to support the implementation of the Community Lottery.

2022/2023 is the final year of this agreement, and the balance remaining within revenue budgets for community grants is £222.8k (£88.8k 2022/2023 budget plus £134.4k c/fwd from 2021/2022).

Actual grants paid out to date (16/08/22) plus commitments total £29.7k – leaving a balance of £193.1k.

Staffing: There are no staffing implications associated with this report.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights: There are no specific implications associated with this report. The sport facility will be made available to all to use and the applicant has a clear approach and policies in place around equality and diversity.

Data Protection Implications: There are no specific implications associated with this report. The grant funding agreement includes conditions linked to the collection, use and retention of data.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: There are no specific implications related to this report. Appropriate considerations have been taken by the applicant and the contractors. The project includes renewed drainage to maximise the life-span of the new surfacing.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: There are no implications.

Health Implications: The provision of quality accessible multi-sport 3G pitches in our communities plays a significant role in supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents. The facility will enable football and other sports to take place enabling people of all ages and abilities to benefit.

Sports such as football and hockey count towards your recommended amount of aerobic activity and brings benefits including reducing your risk of certain chronic illnesses such as heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes.

The combination of running, walking and sprinting can bring benefits including increased stamina, improve cardiovascular health, reduced body fat, improved muscle strength and tone, increased bone strength and improved coordination.

The facility will provide people with regular access to football and other sports which also helps improve symptoms of some mental health issues like depression and stress, can lead to increased confidence and self-esteem, and can help to reduce anxiety.

This grant award will contribute directly to the costs of providing the new multi-sport 3G pitch and ensure it is accessible to both the school and wider community.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Not applicable.

Risk Assessment:

Not applicable for this report.

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

X

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

X

1 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of the Council's Community Grants Programme, the Match Funding Grant is our medium sized grant scheme supporting a wide range of projects.
- 1.2 Applications are reviewed by the Community Grants Panel which is a Member working group overseen by the Prosperous Communities Committee. The Community Grants Panel review applications in line with the funding criteria and make awarding decisions.
- 1.3 The Match Funding Grant criteria has a published maximum grant award of £8,000 to a single project. In certain circumstances the Community Grants Panel will accept an application requesting more than this amount where the strategic importance of the project can be demonstrated.
- 1.4 For applications requesting more than £8,000 the Community Grants Panel will review and approve the application as normal but will then recommend to Prosperous Communities Committee for approval to make the award.
- 1.5 This report provides details about the Match Funding Grant application to support the resurfacing of the multi-sport 3G pitch in Caistor by Caistor Grammar School.
- 1.6 The Community Grants Panel recommends the approval of a £15,000 grant award.

2. Project Details

- 2.1 The application for this project was submitted by Caistor Grammar School. The application has gone through our standard scoring process and presented to a Community Grants Panel where it was approved. Details of the project are presented below:
- 2.2 Caistor Grammar School's multi-sport pitch was built in 2005 and has served the school and local community for the past 15 years. However, in recent years the surface has become more and more unplayable when wet weather occurred. Since December 2019 it was classed as unsafe for use and therefore in urgent need of replacement.
- 2.3 The multi-sport pitch at Caistor Grammar School is not only used by all year groups, but also hired out for community use in the evenings and at weekends. Junior football clubs receive preferential rates enabling them to deliver their weekly training sessions. The pitch is also hired out by Leisure Leagues for men's 5 aside weekly fixtures.
- 2.4 There are 9 local junior teams with approximately 130 children that will be able to access and use the pitch. Local clubs also expect their

numbers to increase by a further 50 to 60 children in the next couple of years.

- 2.5 The Wolds School Sport Partnership (SSP) based at Caistor Grammar School, hold many primary sports events every year on the pitch, including football, hockey and multi skills events. These events have hundreds of young children attending from all the local primary schools.
- 2.6 The total cost of the project is £143,364 with the following key items of work:
 - New AstroTurf surface and regrading of base
 - Groundwork for new 3m entrance gate
 - Changes to surrounding fence
 - Maintenance tractor
 - Additional drainage channel
- 2.7 Officers worked with Caistor Grammar School to explore other funding opportunities however the project did not meet Sport England funding criteria.
- 2.8 Caistor Grammar School have contributed £128,364 from their own funding to deliver this project which is a significant investment from their own reserves.
- 2.9 A grant award of £15,000 from the Council achieves the total project costs, supports the investment of funds into a project of community benefit and enables the school to provide appropriate charge rates for wider community access. The funding from the Council plays a key part in the pricing structure for community use enabling the school to offer preferential rates for local sports clubs and groups.
- 2.10 Caistor Grammar School will establish a sinking fund to support on-going maintenance and future replacement work.
- 2.11 As a result of the pandemic and other national and global factors, the costs of delivering this type of project have been rising at an exponential rate. This has included both material and labour costs. The continued increases in costs for services/materials posed a significant risk to the project being able to deliver with the funding available.
- 2.12 Due to risk of the project costs exceeding available funds, Caistor Grammar School, in consultation with officers, initiated and delivered project works so the agreed project costs could be secured with contractors and suppliers. This pro-active action has ensured the agreed costs were secured and Caistor Grammar School has invested additional funds from reserves whilst awaiting external funding being awarded.
- 2.13 The grant award will support the delivery of a pricing and funding model for the future operation and maintenance of the pitch. It will enable

Caistor Grammar School to provide preferential rates for community groups to hire the pitch and ensure continued community access at evenings and weekends.

- 2.14 All grant awards made by the Council are issued with a grant funding agreement that includes conditions specific to each project. For this project our grant funding agreement will include conditions around a community pricing structure and guaranteed community access.

3. Strategic Importance

- 3.1 The multi-sport 3G pitch at Caistor Grammar School is this only one in Caistor and the immediate surrounding area. The next nearest multi-sport 3G pitch is located at Market Rasen Leisure Centre which is 8.7 miles away.
- 3.2 As the only multi-sport 3G pitch in Caistor it meets the needs of a wide range of local sports clubs, groups and wider community use. The provision of a multi-sport 3G pitch in Caistor directly contributes towards priorities in the Council’s Corporate Plan and the Local Football Facility Plan for West Lindsey.
- 3.3 One of our Corporate Plan themes is Our People with a focus on Health & Wellbeing. By supporting the provision of an accessible multi-sport 3G pitch in Caistor that is open for wider community use, we will be directly delivering against the following within our Corporate Plan:



- 3.4 In 2019 the Football Association, working with Lincolnshire FA and partners, established the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for West Lindsey. A plan has been created for all Local Authority areas and brings together data, research, analysis and engagement into a comprehensive football facility plan with priority projects and recommendations for investment.
- 3.5 Officers from the Council worked with Lincolnshire FA in the preparation of the LFFP for West Lindsey. The LFFP can be viewed online at: <https://www.lincolnshirefa.com/leagues-and-clubs/facilities/local-football-facility-plans>

3.6 Within the LFFP two priority projects were identified. In addition, there was recognition of the priority impact of a new 3G pitch being built in Market Rasen as part of the new leisure centre delivered by the Council.

The two priority projects are:

- 3G Pitch at Roses Sports Ground, Gainsborough
 - Project completed in 2021 by Gainsborough Trinity Foundation
 - Funding secured from Sport England
 - WLDC match funding of £150,000 awarded
- 3G Pitch at Caistor Grammar School, Caistor

3.7 The Community Grants Panel took the LFFP into consideration when reviewing the application and consider the strategic priority need for the project is present to support a larger grant award of £15,000.

3.8 Awarding of funding to the multi-sport 3G pitch in Caistor will result in the completed delivery of all LFFP priority projects and will support the delivery of the Corporate Plan by reducing health inequalities and promote wellbeing across the district through the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

3.9 The further development of football opportunities utilising the new multi-sport 3G pitch will also directly contribute towards other national football strategies. In particular 'Inspiring Positive Change', the FA strategy for women's and girls' football 2020-2024. A key priority within this strategy is to provide early and inclusive pathways for women and girls to play, coach, spectate, officiate and manage football activity.

Inspiring Positive Change – The FA Strategy for Women's and Girls' Football: 2020-2024 can be viewed online at:

https://thefabrochures.co.uk/19268_WOMENS_GIRLS_FOOTBALL_STRATEGY_2020-24/index.html

4. Recommendation

4.1 Committee approve a Match Funding Grant award of £15,000 to Caistor Grammar School as recommended by the Community Grants Panel.