

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 6 DECEMBER 2010

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF SYNTHETIC GRASS GAMES AREAS FOR SCHOOLS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT AND DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 706-2010

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval for the provision of synthetic grass multiuse games areas for Blackness Primary School, St Mary's Primary School, Dens Road Primary School and Castlepark Offsite Centre.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- i) notes the content of this report;
- ii) approves the engagement of Leisure Tec Surfaces Ltd (Dundee) for the supply and installation of an LTS 'PlayGrass 24' synthetic grass multiuse games area at Blackness Primary School, St Mary's Primary School, Dens Road Primary School and Castlepark Offsite Centre; and
- iii) approves also the engagement of Scottish Communications (Perth) for the supply and installation of a CCTV single camera system at St Mary's Primary School for the reason stated in paragraph 4.4 below.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The total purchase and installation cost of £45,668 for the synthetic grass (£43,372) and the CCTV (£2,296) can be met from the Education Capital budget 2010-11. The revenue implications arising from this expenditure in respect of financing costs is £5,771 per annum, and £140 per annum in respect of CCTV annual maintenance costs.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 The Education Committee in June 2009 approved the pilot for the provision of an artificial grass multiuse games area at Eastern Primary School (report no. 345-2009, 25 June 2009 refers). This pilot has been enthusiastically supported by the school, and the installation has been well used for both play and curricular PE activities.
- 4.2 It is increasingly recognised that the quality and regularity of children and young people's school experience of physical education plays a significant role in developing a solid foundation for their lifelong engagement in physical activity.
- 4.3 Several of Dundee's primary schools are in inner city areas or other locations where the availability of outdoor grass space is severely limited or non-existent. Castlepark

Offsite Centre also comes into that category. The provision of these all-weather multiuse games areas will greatly enhance the quality of physical education lessons and provide increased opportunity for participation.

- 4.4 The location for the synthetic grass area at St Mary's Primary School has in the past been subject to vandalism and misuse by youths outwith the main school day. The provision of a modern CCTV system will help to deter such activity.
- 4.5 Leisure Tec Surfaces Ltd (Dundee) have submitted offers for the supply and installation of a LTS 'PlayGrass' surface system at Blackness Primary School (23^m x 12^m), St Mary's Primary School (22^m x 12^m), Dens Road Primary School ((30^m x 12^m), and Castlepark Offsite Unit (23^m x 9^m). The variation in size takes account of the space available at each location.
- 4.6 Scottish Communications (Perth) are the main specialist supplier of CCTV and Access Control Systems in Dundee schools.

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. There are no major issues identified. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website: www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Equality Impact Assessment .

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