

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Policy and Resources Committee - 23 June 2008

REPORT ON: Replacement Football Pitches for Balfield Playing Fields

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities
Director of Education

REPORT NO: 301-2008

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To gain Committee approval for the utilisation of St Saviour's RC Secondary School playing fields, once it no longer functions as a school and replace the pitches that will be lost at Balfield Playing Fields, when the new Kingspark School is built.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee approve the utilisation of St Saviour's RC Secondary School's playing fields for the use as community football pitches.
- 2.2 That the Director of Leisure and Communities is remitted to further consult with **sportscotland** on the details of the proposals and liaise with the football league users of Balfield Playing Fields.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The football pitches at St Saviour's RC Secondary School already exist but minor works will be required to bring them to the standard acceptable for community use. This amounts to approximately £5,000 and will be met from the Council's Renewal and Repair Fund.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 Reference is made to Agenda Item No.III of the Education Committee of the 10 March 2008 regarding the replacement of Kingspark School where the Committee approved the proposed site for the replacement of the School to be Balfield Playing Fields.
- 4.2 Reference is also made to the Agenda Item No. II of the Education Committee of the 19 March 2007 where the report referred to the Balfield Playing Fields site currently containing playing fields but replacement facilities could be established elsewhere in the city in line with the requirements of the Council's Policy in the provision of sports pitches.
- 4.3 This report clarifies what the replacement facilities will be and how they will be established within the city.
- 4.4 The proposal is that once St Saviour's RC Secondary School is no longer utilised as a school campus, the existing pitches in the grounds of the school would be utilised for public access football pitches to replace Balfield Playing Fields. This is programmed to be in December 2008.

- 4.5 Balfield Playing Fields presently has three 11-a-side football pitches and two 7-a-side football pitches. It does not have any changing accommodation. The St Saviour's RC Secondary School playing fields will be able to accommodate both the three new 11-a-side football pitches and the two 7- a- side football pitches. It will also be able to provide on site changing facilities once the site is established as a staff accommodation base for the Council in approximately December 2009.
- 4.6 These proposals conform with the requirements of Dundee's Pitch Strategy, reference Agenda Item No. II of the Leisure and Arts Committee of 22 August 2005, Dundee's Pitch Strategy 2005-2011, - in that it replaces any loss of pitches due to development and provides changing facilities to the maximum amount of pitches as possible in the city. Minor groundworks to the existing pitches of St Saviour's RC Secondary School playing fields will be required to bring them up to a standard that can cope with the rigours of community use. These pitches will be included as part of the Leisure & Communities Department's booking system.
- 4.7 It is presently estimated that the replacement Kingspark School will commence on site in the 4th quarter of 2008. This will result in a minor disruption in provision during next season until the St Saviours campus is available in December 2008. This will be programmed into the football pitch bookings for the 2008/2009 season.
- 4.8 Contractors on the St Saviours site refurbishing the school, to create the staff base, will be required to remain off the football pitch area to allow for public access and prevent any damage to the pitches.
- 4.9 Initial consultations with **sportscotland** have obtained their agreement in principle to these proposals. The Committee is asked to remit the Director of Leisure and Communities to further consult with **sportscotland** on the details of the proposals and liaise with the football leagues, who presently use Balfield Playing Fields, on the proposed change of venue, the new pitches and eventual changing facilities.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Agenda Item III of Education Committee of 10 March 2008
Agenda Item II of Education Committee of 19 March 2007
Agenda Item II of Leisure and Arts Committee of 22 August 2005

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22 MAY 2008

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