ABSTRACT: This report deals with a request for financial support from Forfar Common Good Fund for Forfar Sports Association.

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 The Committee is asked to approve, in principle, a grant of £100,000 from Forfar Common Good to the Forfar Sports Association in support of their plan to create an all weather pitch at Forfar Academy, subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 2.6.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Forfar Sports Association is an unaffiliated organisation made up of individual sporting groups in and around the Forfar area. The individual groups are involved in a wide range of different sports, including:

- Football;
- Rugby;
- Hockey;
- Athletics.

2.2 The sole objective of the Forfar Sports Association is to fund, raise and erect, with Forfar Academy Sports grounds, an all weather pitch with floodlighting and fencing as appropriate.

2.3 The group’s current cost estimate for the facility is:

- Provision of all weather pitch, including flood lighting £400,000
- Provision of fencing £30,000
- Contingencies (including possible inflation) £70,000

£500,000

2.4 The group are in discussion with both Leisure Services of Neighbourhood Services Department and the Education Department regarding:

- The management and operation of the facility once in place;
- The ongoing revenue costs for the operation of the facility, and;
- Ongoing maintenance cost for the facility.

2.5 The group intend to seek external funding of £400,000 and are seeking agreement, in principle, for a grant of £100,000 from Forfar Common Good Fund. The Council's agreement to this request would demonstrate to other partners that a significant element of the total cost has already been obtained.

2.6 Officers would recommend that if the Committee is mindful to support this application, that it do so subject to the following conditions:

- Support is given up to a maximum figure of £100,000;
- A full capital cost and income package is agreed with the Directors of Education and Neighbourhood Services;
- Agreement is reached with the Directors of Education and Neighbourhood Services regarding future operational and management costs and future maintenance arrangements.
2.7 The Committee is asked to note that Forfar Athletic and Forfar Farmington Football Clubs have been allocated a “Proceeds of Crime” award of £300,000 by the Scottish Football Association towards the provision of an all weather football surface.

2.8 The partnership charged with taking this initiative forward (which includes the Council) have indicated that they too may seek Common Good funding for their proposal.

2.9 This development is seen as complimentary to and not in conflict with the Forfar Sports Association proposal.

3. MEMBERS’ VIEWS

3.1 All four local Elected Members have been consulted about the request and all four have indicated their support.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 A summary of the financial implications is outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Good Fund</th>
<th>Current Estimated Revenue Balance (£)</th>
<th>Costs Associated with this report (£)</th>
<th>Revised Estimated Revenue Balance (£)</th>
<th>Minimum Revenue Account Balance (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forfar</td>
<td>* 649,334</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>549,334</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- This figure is based on the estimated revenue balance per the 2011/12 Final Budget Volume after adjusting for the 2010/11 actual position and any known commitments/revisions to the 2011/12 budget.

Approval of the funding of this project would represent a significant commitment for the Forfar Common Good Fund, but as demonstrated above, can be met whilst still retaining funds above the minimum account balance.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no human rights implications for the Council arising from this report.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An equalities impact assessment is not required.

7. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

7.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the single outcome agreement for Angus:

- Young people and adults in Angus maximise their potential through learning opportunities;
- Children and young people in Angus will have access to positive learning environments and opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and self-esteem to the fullest potential;
- Children and young people in Angus will be active with opportunities and encouragement to participate in plan and recreation, including sport;
- Citizens are involved in community life;
- Children and young people in Angus will be involved in decisions that affect them, have their voices heard and be encouraged to play an active and responsible role in their communities;
- A good quality of life is enjoyed by all in Angus.
8. CONSULTATION

8.1 The Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The Committee are asked to approve the request for funding, but on the basis as set out in this report.

RON ASHTON
DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

LCP/NS/RA/BDS