

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 15TH MAY 2002

EXTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOOTBALL PITCH IMPROVEMENTS

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of external funding opportunities for football pitch improvements.

2. CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 There is very little external funding available for projects which involve improvements to football pitches. This is mainly due to the limited potential of grass pitches which cannot sustain high levels of use and have limited capacity.
- 2.2 It would be possible for a voluntary organisation, i.e. a sports club, to apply for Sports Lottery funding to support pitch improvements, the creation of new pitches or the conversion of a blaise pitch to grass. 60% of the total cost of this type of project is potentially available from the Sports Lottery with a maximum award of £200,000. The organisation would need to either own or lease the land required for a period of up to 20 years to meet Lottery criteria. Any application would need to show how the project would support the development of sport in an area and details of the management and maintenance arrangements for any new facility would also need to be submitted. On-going maintenance costs would be a significant consideration in any sports pitch project. There are no funds available to support on-going revenue costs.
- 2.3 Whilst the Sports Lottery would be the largest potential funding source other smaller funds may be available dependant on the nature and location of the project.
- 2.4 The new 'New Opportunities for PE and Sport' fund has potential to be used for improvements to school sports pitches or other pitches regularly used by schools. However, this type of project will need to be assessed against the many competing priorities to be addressed by this fund. Regular, reasonably priced access to school sports pitches would assist in addressing perceived shortfalls in Council pitch provision and ease the pressure on existing facilities.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Nil.

4. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The potential funding sources for football pitch development and improvement are limited.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JAG/JS

30th April 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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AGENDA