

<b>Subject:</b>	Rossendale Leisure Facilities Capital Investment - 3G football turf pitch, play zone and grass pitches – The Adrenaline Centre	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
<b>Report of:</b>	Leisure Facilities Programme Manager	<b>Lead Member:</b>	Communities Housing and Health
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exception</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Urgency</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required: No	<b>Attached:</b>	No
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment:</b>	Required: Yes	<b>Attached:</b>	No
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## 1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1.1 That Council agrees to the investment at the Adrenaline Centre, Haslingden for new 3G artificial grass, refurbishment of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) to a play zone and refurbishment of grass pitches, with investment from the Football Foundation (circa £1.5 million), following the Football Foundation Framework at Appendix one to this report.
- 1.2 That Council approves acceptance of the Football Foundation grant and delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer and S151 Officer to enter into the grant funding agreement.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A strategic priority for the Council is the health and well-being of its residents by providing the best possible facilities within the Valley.
- In 2019 and 2021, two football / outdoor pitch (Playing Pitch Strategy / Local Facilities Football Plan) reports were produced identifying the need for investment into artificial grass pitches
- Rossendale has 15 football clubs and there has been limited support in terms of participation development, capital investment and general support through funding bodies to the football clubs to grow and develop. Providing high quality surfaces for training and playing will grow the game particularly with priority groups; women and girls, disability and recreational men’s football
- Appendix one provides a detailed overview of the Football Foundation Framework

## 3. BACKGROUND

4. Rossendale has a close knit community of football clubs that range from mini soccer through to 11 aside men’s and women’s teams. With a Lioness attending school in Rossendale, it has highlighted the need for investment into poor facilities to grow the game, allowing children and young people to excel, and create alternative playing projects including walking football is a major priority.

5. The Adrenaline Centre was identified as a preferred site for this investment following the ending of a project at Haslingden High School due to the lack of clarity and un-certainty regarding the timescales for the school re-build and funding agreement through the Department of Education.
6. The Centre was seen by Rossendale Borough Council, Rossendale Leisure Trust, Lancashire Football Association and the Football Foundation as a site of “interest” due to its location, availability of space, management infrastructure, and the aim to create a community hub on one site, in line with the Facilities Strategy. Further investment would create a renewed facility for the community with refurbishment of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) to a new play zone and investment into four of the grass pitches, which would be re-marked, catering for the demand and playing structure of the clubs using the pitches. The Adrenaline site was identified as Rossendale Leisure Trust has the required infrastructure to maximise bookings and use through their community connections, social media reach and experience of managing the Valley pitches.
7. Rossendale Borough Council has identified football as a priority sport not only to improve pitches and pitch quality, but to increase participation and work with the Football Association (FA) to deliver the National Game Strategy. For noting and of importance to Rossendale is the following aim by the FA “The FA’s long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface”
8. In 2019, the Council completed an assessment of supply and demand of outdoor pitches; **Playing Pitch Strategy (Knight Kavanagh and Page)**. The report identified the following 3G football turf pitches:
  - There is 1 full size floodlit 3G pitch in Rossendale, located at the Valley Leadership Academy.
  - There are also six small sided pitches located across three sites.
    - 2 small sided pitches located at Alder Grange School and Bacup & Rawtenstall Grammar School are unavailable for community use.
    - The remaining 4 small sided pitches are located at Marl Pits Leisure Centre.
9. **Playing Pitch Strategy 2020 Football (grass pitches)** The assessment report identified the following in relation to the requirement for more pitches based on current demand, future demand and the supply either by improving grass pitches and installing artificial pitches.
  - The current supply of football pitch provision is insufficient with shortfalls evident on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch formats.
  - When considering future demand, these shortfalls are likely to worsen and further shortfalls emerge on adult pitches.

**Grass football pitch supply:**

- The audit identified a total of 66 grass football pitches in Rossendale across 34 sites (14 of which are managed by RBC). Of the pitches, 57 are available, at some level, for community use across 25 sites. All unavailable pitches are located at education sites.
- **63% of football pitches which are available for community use in Rossendale are poor quality.** This severely impacts on the playability of the pitches throughout the football season. Clubs in the area report drainage issues and surface quality as being prominent issues.

## 10. The Football (artificial pitches) - Assessment Report identified the following:

- There is one full size floodlit 3G pitch in Rossendale, located at the Valley Leadership Academy (poor quality, which will cease to exist on the FA Pitch register in 2025).
- There are also six small sided pitches located across three sites. Two small sided pitches located at Alder Grange School and Bacup & Rawtenstall Grammar School are unavailable for community use. The remaining four small sided pitches are located at Marl Pits Leisure Centre. What about Adrenaline?
- With 107 teams currently affiliated to Rossendale there is a need for three full size 3G pitches to service current levels of demand. Future demand does not increase this shortfall.

## 11. DETAILS

12. The Council's Valley Plan identifies Healthy and Proud Communities as a Valley priority. This is supported by the Local Plan and imminent "Physical Activity Strategy". This has seven priorities including "better access to and take up of health and wellbeing activities including improved leisure facilities"

13. With the recommendations detailed within the football supply and demand plans, the Adrenaline Centre has been identified based on locality of football teams, management of the facilities, and the value to the community as the first project in Rossendale

- The Adrenaline centre – re surface of the 3G surface to a multi-sport surface (play zone)
- The Adrenaline centre – new full size floodlit 3G pitch
- The Adrenaline centre – refurbishment of grass pitches

14. Rossendale Borough Council received section 106 funding in 2019 via a housing development at a location named; Dark Lane (LPA Ref: 2016/0563). A total of £191,770 to be used to create a "playing pitch" on a "non-playing field" at Marl Pits and improve existing facilities.

s106 Ref.	Held (£)	Outstanding (£)	Notes
2016/0563	137127	0	Dark Ln contribution for replacement pitch
2016/0563	54643	0	Dark Ln contribution for playing pitch

15. Additional partnership funding has been identified for the development of pitches via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), a total of £230,570 which is required to be used by October 2025.

16. The priority for the Football Foundation within this funding cycle (2024/2025) is to invest in the Adrenaline centre, not only artificial grass but also enhanced grass pitch funding to improve the grass pitches from poor to good. The project of enhancement to facilities for football, multisport and leisure at the Adrenaline is seen as a priority for capital investment by the Football Foundation. **The investment from the Football Foundation would be circa £1.5 million into the site.**

## 17. RISK

The risk factors below detail an overview of the project not taking place:

- Funding has been identified via the UKSPF with a funding deadline of October 2025
- Should the Council not use partnership funding (UKSPF and Section 106) on this project the funding to be lost as there is no other match available.
- The Adrenaline project is not just a 3G. It signifies investment into grass and the development of a new playzone, creating better and more facilities for the community.
- If this project is not supported and we do nothing – we lose the funding, football growth will decline and most notably the development of players will be affected.
- The re-allocation of s106 funding. The developer has expressed support for the project and consents to varied s106 terms. The Council is working closely with Sport England to ensure that priorities are aligned.
- The funding application would require Council resources to manage from inception to completion, which would result in an additional project to a Council employee. The timescales are clear for application of grant funding between 2024 and 2025. Through the use of a sports consultant these can be adhered to within defined project timescales and deadlines. A project team meets regularly to ensure the project remains on track and within budget.
- The reputation of the Council could be damaged if these projects are not delivered for football and sport, they were clearly identified within the Playing Pitch Strategy in 2019 and Local Facilities Football Plan in 2021 as to the need from the football community.
- The financial risk if this project is not completed will result in no investment into Rossendale.
- There is a cap on the initial funding provided by the Football Foundation for pre-award consultancy work of £35k. Any fees incurred over and above this may be recouped from the Council in the event that the project does not go ahead. This is mitigated by the delivery team only incurring necessary costs at the relevant time. Any fees will be capitalised once the project is approved and recovered in full. The Council has provided for a £15k contingency in the event that the project does not go ahead.

## 18. FINANCE

As per the paragraph above, at the Pre Award stage there is a cap on funding provided by the Football Foundation of £35k for consultancy work in developing the scheme. There is a potential cost to the Council of up to £15k to cover any overspend at this stage.

Following the Pre Award stage works, a business case needs to be developed to seek approval to proceed. At this stage there is £191,770 available in S106 monies, £230,570 of UKSPF has been allocated to this scheme and the balance of circa £1.5m to be funded by the Football foundation.

## 19. LEGAL

Under the Constitution, the level of funding to be accepted requires approval of Council. The grant funding agreement will be entered into in the event that the application is successful. All legal agreements, including any required Deeds of Variation, will be entered into in order to protect the Council from challenge. The Council as landowner will lead on the application with support from the Leisure Trust as leaseholder.

## 20. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

Any policy implications are included in the body of the report. There are no equality implications.

## 21. REASON FOR DECISION

To provide members with an overview of the strategic plan for investment into pitches in Rossendale from the Football Foundation and to provide authority to accept the grant funding from the Football Foundation.



# APPENDIX ONE

		START	FINISH	DURATION
<b>NEW FRAMEWORK AGP PROGRAMME</b>				
STAGE 1: PREPARATION & BRIEF	Project Start: Agreements issued to Applicant	15-Mar-24	15-Mar-24	0 WEEKS
	Applicant signs agreements	16-Mar-24	23-Mar-24	1 WEEKS
	DC and FMC instructed	24-Mar-24	07-Apr-24	2 WEEKS
	Provides Desktop Study	08-Apr-24	22-Apr-24	2 WEEKS
	Information Reviewed and DC instructed to proceed	23-Apr-24	23-Apr-24	0 WEEKS
	Visits site and carries out topo	24-Apr-24	08-May-24	2 WEEKS
STAGE 2: FEASIBILITY	Issues Initial Design	09-May-24	30-May-24	3 WEEKS
	Information Reviewed and DC instructed to proceed	31-May-24	31-May-24	0 WEEKS
	Feasibility Study	01-Jun-24	10-Aug-24	10 WEEKS
STAGE 3: DETAILED DESIGN PLANNING PERMISSION	Information reviewed and DC instructed	11-Aug-24	11-Aug-24	0 WEEKS
	Detailed Design	12-Aug-24	02-Sep-24	3 WEEKS
	Planning pack approved	03-Sep-24	10-Sep-24	1 WEEKS
	Obtains Planning Permission	11-Sep-24	01-Jan-25	16 WEEKS
	Discharge of Design Planning Conditions	02-Jan-25	03-Jan-25	1 WEEKS
STAGE 4: TENDER	Issue Third Party Warranty & Prepare Tender Docs	10-Jan-25	24-Jan-25	2 WEEKS
	Suppliers Submit GMP	25-Jan-25	22-Feb-25	4 WEEKS
	Tender Report issued	23-Feb-25	03-Mar-25	2 WEEKS
APPROVALS	Applicant to Submit FF Application	01-Dec-24	08-Dec-24	1 WEEKS
	FF Panel Date W12	06-Jan-25	06-Jan-25	0 WEEKS
	FF Board Approval W12	20-Jan-25	20-Jan-25	0 WEEKS
	Grant Offer Acceptance	07-Jan-25	21-Jan-25	2 WEEKS
	Discharge of Supplier Planning Conditions	01-Dec-24	26-Jan-25	8 WEEKS
STAGE 5 & 6: CONSTRUCTION	Applicant to Issue Full Lol to Supplier	22-Jan-25	05-Feb-25	2 WEEKS
	Mobilisation	06-Feb-25	06-Mar-25	4 WEEKS
	Pitch Construction	20-Mar-25	03-Apr-25	2 WEEKS
	<b>Handover / Practical Completion</b>	17-Apr-25	17-Apr-25	2 WEEKS