

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 04 November 2019

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leisure and Community
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Community Funding Application – Portchester Bowling Club</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Leisure and Community
<b>Corporate Priorities:</b>	Leisure Opportunities for Health and Fun

**Purpose:**

To provide details of the matched funding request received by the Council during the second quarter of the 2019/20 financial year.

**Executive summary:**

A matched funding bid has been received from Portchester Bowling Club towards the cost of extending their Clubhouse in Westlands Grove, Portchester.

It is anticipated that the proposed changes will increase capacity and improve disability access for Club Members and visitors.

The total cost of the project is £135,000, of which Portchester Bowling Club has allocated £20,000 from their reserves and an additional £50,000 from the financial contributions to the project by Club Members. The Club is in the process of applying to Bowls England for an interest-free loan and have also applied to Hampshire County Council's Community Building Fund for a contribution. Hampshire County Council has indicated that they will be prepared to award an allocation of £20,000 towards the project.

As of July 2019, the Club's accounts listed £44,930 in financial assets.

Portchester Bowling Club has requested £20,000 from Fareham Borough Council towards the project to extend their Clubhouse.

This grant award is critical to the delivery of the project and is also needed to secure the other source of grant funding.

**Recommendation/Recommended Option:**

It is recommended that the Executive:

- (a) considers offering a matched funding grant of up to £20,000 to Portchester Bowling Club, to extend their Clubhouse at Westlands Grove, Portchester;
- (b) agrees the award of the funding subject to Portchester Bowling Club receiving the appropriate planning permission;
- (c) agrees the award specifically for the plans and costs provided as part of this funding application; and
- (d) agrees the award of the funding subject to Portchester Bowling Club providing written acknowledgement of both a successful application to the Hampshire County Council Community Building Fund for £20,000 to match Fareham Borough Council's contribution and Bowls England's approval of an interest-free loan to the Club.

**Reason:**

To act as an enabler, assisting the local community to introduce improved facilities within the community.

**Cost of proposals:**

The grant requested is £20,000 and the Community Funding Budget currently has funds of £139,251

**Appendices:** None

**Background papers:** Community Fund application from Portchester Bowling Club

**Reference papers:**

Report to the Executive on 8 March 2010 – Review of Discretionary Grants.

Report to the Executive on 17 May 2010 – Grants Review Update

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## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Executive Briefing Paper

<b>Date:</b>	04 November 2019
<b>Subject:</b>	Matched Funding: Portchester Bowling Club
<b>Briefing by:</b>	Director of Leisure and Community
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leisure and Community

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the details of the matched funding requests received by the Council during the second quarter of the 2019/20 financial year.
2. On 8 March 2010, the Executive considered a report on the various discretionary grants provided by the Council. The report included details regarding each category of grant and the level of funding available. Members agreed to combine a number of grants into a single pot for the 2010/11 financial year onwards.
3. It was agreed that any matched funding bids would be considered by the Executive on a quarterly basis. These Matched Funding reports would also identify matched funding requests "in the pipeline", to enable a more strategic approach to prioritising these requests.

#### CRITERIA

4. The criteria for matched funding awards are deliberately inexplicit. The Council will consider any project which benefits the local community and / or improves the local environment. Awards will usually only be made for capital projects.
5. Any matched funding application must demonstrate that the applicant will contribute an equal sum to the project as is being requested from the Council. This fosters a sense of commitment and ownership to the project from the local community, and as a result increases the likelihood that the benefits will continue to be valued and the project maintained in the future.
6. All successful applicants are required to sign a Community Use Agreement with the Council, to ensure that the project provides benefit to the local community. This enables an extension of this benefit to reach much further than the organisation making the application.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. The current balance of the community funding budget is £139,251.

## **MATCHED FUNDING BIDS RECEIVED**

8. Portchester Bowling Club is a thriving sports club, with 155 current members. In addition to providing opportunities to improve bowling skills and enable competition in leagues, the Club holds regular social events for its members and their guests, many of whom are widowers. The organisation is also developing a Junior section through links with local primary schools.
9. In 2014 the Club improved their offer to members by installing WC facilities. Since this time there has been a large increase in membership and the organisation is struggling to provide appropriate facilities. The Club has had to restrict attendance numbers for several events, to meet health and safety requirements, and individuals with mobility aids and wheelchairs have difficulty navigating the space within the Club Room.
10. A matched funding bid has been received from Portchester Bowling Club towards the cost of extending their facilities. They propose to double the space that is available in the Club Room and increase their WC facilities further.
11. The total cost of the project is £135,000. The Club has approached Hampshire County Council for a contribution from the Community Buildings Fund. The County Council has indicated an award of £20,000, further to this application. The Club currently has £70,000 allocated within their budget from Club reserves and its Members' donations towards the project. The Club is also in the process of approaching Bowls England for an interest-free loan towards the project.
12. The accounts for the Club for the period ending July 2019 lists £44,930 in financial assets.
13. The Club owns its existing facilities and has made an application to the Planning Department for the extension.

## **COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION**

14. All three Ward Councillors, Councillor Price, Councillor Cunningham and Councillor Kelly, have confirmed their support of this application.

## **MATCHED FUNDING BIDS "IN THE PIPELINE"**

15. AFC Portchester has demonstrated some interest in making an application for up to £50,000 for flood lighting at their site at Wicor Recreation Ground. However, these plans are currently in the early stages and formal planning consent is required before further consideration can be given to this application.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

16. Hampshire County Council's award of £20,000 from the Community Buildings Fund for Portchester Bowling Club's project to extend their Clubhouse is dependent on Fareham Borough Council's equal support of the project.

## **CONCLUSION**

17. This report sets out details for the matched funding bid received from Portchester Bowling Club. The bid is for £20,000 towards the cost of extending their Clubhouse in Westlands Grove, Portchester.

### **Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Claire Benfield (Ext 4495).