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**BIG LOTTERY FUND - New Opportunities for PE and Sport Programme**

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**Councillor Chris McEwan, Children's Services Portfolio**

**Responsible Director(s) - Geoff Pennington, Director of Education**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To seek members approval for the formal release of £1027,356 capital grant to progress the capital build of the projects within the New Opportunities Fund PE & Sport Programme (NOF).

**Information and Analysis**

2. In November 2001 the Government announced a total of £581.25 million to be spent nationally to support projects to bring a 'step-change' in provision of sporting facilities for young people and the community, generally. The funding is to support the creation of new and modernised existing, indoor and outdoor sports facilities for schools to promote sport in the community. Outdoor adventure facilities for young people will also get a facelift through the programme.
3. On the 14th September 2004 it was announced that Darlington Borough Council's stage two applications for the New Opportunities Fund- PE & Sport programme, had been successful. As a result Darlington Borough Council has been awarded a total of £1,075,000 to build and improve sports facilities on a number of school sites. The schools selected for support were based upon Educational, Leisure and the New Opportunities Fund criteria. The criteria used were the ability to deliver the national curriculum, the conditions and availability of existing premises and the impact the new provision would have on P.E and sport throughout the Borough. As part of the scheme some match – funding is required which has been provided by Educational Seed Challenge. **Appendix 1** details the 10 detailed schemes that will benefit from this funding, together with a breakdown of the individual costings.
4. Each of the projects have been through an extensive application process, which involved two stages. Stage one applications were submitted in April 2002, which provided an overall plan outlining proposals for the funds. A development grant of £47,644 was released on the 2nd December 2003, (Minute Ref – Cab/021203 6 (f) to appoint an architect, who has worked with the Schools and the Sports Project Manager to translate initial proposals into architectural drawings. Stage two involved a more detailed design for each project along with a business plan. All stage two applications were then submitted to New Opportunities Fund on the 31st March 2004.

5. In line with NOF guidance, it is our intention to now progress the schemes to working drawings and documents. Upon release of the funding the appointed architects (Ferguson Mcilveen) will move onto the procurement process, which will be undertaken in accordance with the Councils standing orders. Following the procurement process a contractor will be selected who will be commissioned to undertake the works. It has been proposed that these works will take place sometime during spring/early summer 2005.

### **Financial Implications**

6. In line with NOF's approval process 80% of each project costs will be released on the appointment of a contractor, with the final 20% on completion.

### **Legal Implications**

7. The Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures has considered this report. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

### **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

8. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

### **Council Policy Framework**

9. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

### **Decision Deadline**

10. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

### **Key Decisions**

11. This is a key decision as it affects more than two Council Wards

### **Recommendation**

12. It is recommended that: -
  - (a) Members approval for the formal release of a £1027,356 Capital Grant to progress the next stage of the New Opportunites for PE & Sport Programme.

(b) Members note the attached project list and proposals in priority order.

### **Reasons**

13. The recommendations are supported to enable work to begin on implementing the projects as soon as possible.

**Geoff Pennington**  
**Director of Education**

### **Background Papers**

Project details are shown in Appendix 1

The Cabinet Report referred to in this report dated 2nd December 2003.