
LONGFIELD SCHOOL SYNTHETIC SPORTS PITCH

Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Hughes, Children & Young People Portfolio

Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of Children's Services

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek permission from Council to waive Contract Procedure Rules under rule 15 in order to allow officers to use a list of recommended contractors to procure the construction of a Synthetic Turf Pitch at Longfield School & Sports College.

Summary

2. In 2009 Longfield School & Sports College were successful in their bid to the Department for Schools and Families (now Department for Education) for £530,000 grant to support the construction of a floodlit, synthetic football pitch on the school site.
3. When the money was granted to the school they delayed construction of the new pitch as they wanted to maximise value for money by adding it to funds available through Building Schools for the Future (BSF). However the BSF funds are no longer available therefore we need to progress the development of the original plans immediately.
4. In order that the capital grant is secured it is necessary to have a contract in place by 31st August 2010. Under Contract Procedure Rules all contracts over £75,000 have to be advertised; however there is insufficient time available to carry out this process and meet the deadline set by the Department for Education. It is recommended that the requirements of 33 through 36 be waived in accordance with rule 15, to allow officers to use a shortlist of contractors (see **Appendix 1**) that are experienced in undertaking this specialist type of work.

Recommendation

5. Subject to Cabinet releasing the capital funding, it is recommended that Council agrees to waive Contract Procedure Rules, as set out in this report, to give authority to the Director of Children's Services, or his nominees, delegated powers to shortlist, procure and award a contract for the construction of a Synthetic Turf Pitch at Longfield School..

Reasons

6. The recommendation is supported to enable the appointment of a contractor to ensure the Council meets the DfE deadlines.

**Murray Rose,
Director of Children's Services**

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the production of this report.

George McQueen 2847

S17 Crime and Disorder	This decision will not have an impact on Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	There are no implications for Health and Well Being
Sustainability	This decision will not have an impact on sustainability
Diversity	This decision will not have an impact on Diversity.
Wards Affected	All wards will be affected equally
Groups Affected	All groups will be affected equally
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not require a change to the budget or policy framework
Key Decision	This is not an executive decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an executive decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This decision has no implications on the Sustainable Community Strategy
Efficiency	This decision will enable the authority appoint a contractor within the timescales and retain the capital fund.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. Longfield School is a Sports College: this designation requires the School to develop and maintain good links with local sports clubs as well as to promote access to its facilities by the local community for active recreation. Longfield already has good links with its partner schools, with local sports clubs and community users of its facilities.
8. The primary purpose of the facility, therefore, is not only to assist in the delivery of curricular PE and school sport, but to better accommodate community access, particularly during the evenings, weekends and holidays when the synthetic pitch will be made available for managed community use.
9. The School uses a range of out-dated and ill-suited spaces to deliver what is otherwise a comprehensive and innovative PE curriculum. However, its success as a Sports College has yet to impact on whole school attainment, which, in part, has been hampered by the limitations of its current facilities.
10. In 2009 Longfield School & Sports College were successful in their bid to the Department for Schools and Families (now Department for education) for £530,000 grant to support the construction of a floodlit, synthetic football pitch on the school site.
11. When the money was granted to the school they delayed construction of the new pitch as they wanted to maximise value for money by adding it to funds available through Building Schools for the Future.
12. As members will know the BSF funding has now been withdrawn by the government and the school is anxious to now proceed with the construction of the floodlit, synthetic turf pitch as originally bid. The DfE have said that the council must have a contract in place by 31st August 2010 or the funding will be withdrawn.
13. The Council's contract procedure rules require that the council undertakes a procurement exercise in relation to all contracts over £75,000 in value and that these opportunities are advertised appropriately. Rule 15 of the Contract Procedure Rules states that Council may waive the rules for any contract above £75,000 but below the EU Thresholds, this tender is for a works contract the threshold for which is £3,927,260 therefore is not subject to the requirements of the EU Directives.
14. If we follow the requirements of the rules we will not meet the deadlines as set out by the DfE and the authority will forfeit the funding.
15. Steve Wells Associates has been appointed to carry out the design and planning work for the construction of the synthetic pitch. They have been involved in a number of similar projects and have provided the names of six contractors (see **Appendix 1**) all of whom are members of The Sports and Play Construction Association (SAPCA) and have undertaken Football Foundation work in the past. They are all experienced in this type of work and are currently working on equivalent projects.
16. It is proposed that Council waive the requirement to advertise as set out in the Contract Procedure Rules, paragraphs 33 to 36 so that officers can carry out a tender exercise with

the contractors named in Appendix 1

Outcome of Consultation

17. There has been no consultation carried out in preparation of this report.

Appendix 1

Groundwork Services (Durham) Ltd Thistle Road Littleburn Industrial Estate Langley Moor Durham DH7 8HJ	Charles Lawrence Surfaces Brunel House Jessop Way Newark Nottinghamshire NG24 2ER
Greenfields UK Bolton Business Centre 44 Lower Bridgeman Street Bolton BL2 1DG	The ERDC Group Ltd 20 Harvest Road Newbridge Midlothian EH28 8LW
Support In Sport (UK) Ltd Tavistock Works Glasson Industrial Estate Maryport Cumbria CA15 8NT	Hunts Contractors Ltd., Nursery House, Willingham Road, Marton, Nr. Gainsborough, DN21 5BQ.