

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LEADER****DATE: 20 JUNE 2016****LEAD OFFICER: KEVIN KILBURN, DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER****SUBJECT: GRANT TO SPELTHORNE GYMNASTICS****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Spelthorne Gymnastics is a sports club based at the Brooklands Collage site in Ashford and have been successful over many years producing World, European and British Champions in Acrobatic Gymnastics at Senior and Junior level as well as numerous International and National Champions in other disciplines.

Due to development at the current site, the club are required to relocate to a new site at Bishop David Wand School in Sunbury. The cost of the new facility is estimated to be £2.7m and the club has raised or have promises for all but £300,000 from a wide range of private, voluntary sector and public sector organisations. Through the London Diocesan Board for Schools the club have approached the County Council for a grant of £100,000.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Leader of the Council approves a grant to the London Diocesan Board for Schools of £100,000, subject to final legal terms, for the development of a purpose built gymnastics centre at Bishop Wand School to serve the needs of the community, the school and Spelthorne Gymnastics.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Spelthorne Gymnastics have been a successful club in developing young people and contributed widely to the local community. The development of the new facility will bring inward investment to Surrey of £2.7m and further economic benefits as well as bringing enhanced reputation to the County through hosting Regional, National, and small International Events while also improving the sports facilities available to the pupils of Bishop Wand School in Sunbury.

DETAILS:

1. Spelthorne Gymnastics built their existing facility themselves over 30 years ago on the Brooklands College site in Ashford. Due to housing development at the site the club need to find a new home and the developer has granted a 12 month reprieve. A new site was identified at Bishop Wand School in Sunbury and all planning consents, builders contracts are in place, subject to full funding being confirmed. The project is sponsored by the London Diocesan Board for Schools and is aimed at serving the needs of the community, the school and Spelthorne Gymnastics. Work has to start soon to honour the Club's commitment to provide the building company with vacant possession by the year end.

2. The club caters for beginners and takes children through every stage — club, County, International to European and World Gold Medallists. Over 1,700 children use the club each week and this is expected to increase substantially with the proposed new specialist facilities. These facilities will benefit children from across Surrey as well be available to the 1,000 Bishop Wand school pupils during the day. All the facilities are specialised and permanently fixed and some are not available anywhere else within a 40-mile radius.
3. Nationally, 20% of children entering Primary Schools and 33% of leavers are judged to be significantly overweight. 60% are 'physically illiterate' when judged by simple skill tests, Spelthorne Gymnastics are able to take children from the age of 2 for their first experience of organised activity. It is at this age that children need to be more active and learn skills to overcome the weight issues society faces. The skills they learn will live with them throughout their life. A Government Green Paper has recognised the positive outcomes of sport and research has shown how it improves academic performance, discipline, communications, self-esteem and confidence.
4. Bishop Wand School is a specialist Sports College and supports the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum for physical education and performing arts across key stages 3 to 5. Curricular and extracurricular are often constrained by the demand on sports and performing arts facilities at the school and therefore access to additional specialist facilities will provide scope to expand provision and deliver learning and teaching in accommodation designed for the purpose. In addition to the use of the facility by Bishop Wand School, Spelthorne Gymnastics has a link with Manor Mead School in Shepperton which is a special school for children with learning difficulties.
5. The cost of the new facility is forecast to be £2.7m. The Club has already raised all but £400,000 and have promised underwriting of £100,000 from individuals. After inclusion of the Council's contribution, the club need to secure the remaining £200,000. Other funders include;
 - £900,000 from London Diocesan Board for Schools;
 - £500,000 from Sport England (they have verified the scheme);
 - £450,000 from The London Marathon Trust
 - £150,000 from British Gymnastics;
 - £50,000 from Inland Homes; and
 - £250,000 from the Club itself.
6. Without the commitment of full funding the club may have to close and the skills of over 35 coaches would be lost along with the enhanced reputation it brings to Surrey.
7. The Club has a separate fundraising section that enables single parent families or parents in financial difficulty to be able to continue their children's activity by assisting with travel costs, kit etc. One of the new features will be a Gym Club for the disabled.

CONSULTATION:

- 8. Richard Walsh, Cabinet Member for Localities and Community Wellbeing

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

- 9. Officers will draw up a grant agreement that will cover risk management, specifically regarding the insurances required.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 10. This grant has funding earmarked within the £500,000 carry forward of budget within the Community Improvement Fund.

SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTARY

- 11. The grant funding agreement will ensure that the Council and its resources are protected against the financial failure of the project.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER

- 12. By virtue of the general power of competence in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council has the ability to do anything for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area.
- 13. The provision of this funding will be contingent upon the recipient organisation entering into a grant agreement with the Council. This agreement will contain a variety of terms and conditions to protect the use of the grant monies; including provisions enabling the repayment or claw-back of the grant monies should agreed milestones or objectives not be met.
- 14. As the proposed grant will be made to a private organisation (albeit a charity), consideration will need to be given to any state aid implications in the preparation of the grant agreement. If necessary, a notification will also need to be made to the European Commission following the grant being paid.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

- 15. There are no significant equalities and diversity issues arising from this grant, and will encourage people with disabilities to partake in sport.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- 16.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report.
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report and may have a positive impact on children’s health.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Climate change	No significant implications arising from this report.
Carbon emissions	No significant implications arising from this report.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

17. Following approval and legal and financial due diligence, the grant will be paid to the London Diocesan Board for Schools.

Contact Officer:

Kevin Kilburn, Deputy Chief Finance Officer
020 8541 9207

Consulted:

Cabinet Member for Localities and Communities Wellbeing

Annexes:

None

Sources/background papers:

None