

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITIES

DATE: 31 OCTOBER 2023



REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: DENISE TURNER-STEWART – CABINET MEMBER FOR CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITIES

LEAD OFFICER: MARIE SNELLING – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITIES

SUBJECT: YOUR FUND SURREY APPLICATION – Reigate Rugby Club

ORGANISATION STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Purpose of the Report:

This report sets out the Your Fund Surrey application from **Reigate Rugby Club** for the consideration of the Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities.

The vision of YFS is to bring community-led and place-making projects to life, with a focus on wider community benefit that leaves a real legacy.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member:

1. Approves the full amount requested of £221,705 composed of:
 - £203,365 capital funding towards to construction costs of the changing rooms, photovoltaic panels and pitch drainage.
 - £7,255 contingency on the changing rooms and photovoltaic elements of project.
 - £11,085 (5%) to be held by SCC until final evidence of income, expenditure has been received.

Reason for Recommendations:

This application has been the subject of a rigorous assessment process by officers, as set out in the body of this report. Officers consider the project to meet the aims and published criteria of the fund and to satisfy the requirements to award funding.

The project aims to regenerate a multi-sport and sustainable community asset close to the centre of Reigate through a new drainage system, accessible and segregated changing facilities and photovoltaic panels. The enhancements will ensure that the Club can be used year-round and is an equitable experience for users of the club.

Executive Summary:

1. Reigate Rugby Club (RRC) is a registered Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC), a government scheme launched in 2002 to allow sports clubs to register with HMRC and benefit from reliefs similar to charities. There are six qualifying criteria to become a CASC, which include being open to the whole community and providing facilities for one or more different sports. Written into their governance documents are several strategic objectives, including:
 - I. To conduct activities at the club to provide the best possible facilities for the local community
 - II. To strengthen the bond between the club and local community
2. Due to increased demand, the project seeks to regenerate five acres of existing multi-sport playing fields with a drainage system to ensure the fields can be used all year round. Currently the fields are, on average, unusable for three months of the year. The fields are split into two pitches (roughly 100x70 metres) with and an additional smaller grass area.
3. With a wider audience already using the facilities, and plans to grow further, the project also aims to build accessible and segregated changing facilities. Growth plans are closely linked to an increased demand for women's and children's sport and include the use by local schools with limited outdoor space. Finally, the club have ambitions to become the first carbon neutral rugby club in England and are proposing to install fifty-nine photovoltaic panels on the existing clubhouse to reduce costs and improve sustainability.

Project Summary

4. RRC is located at the Eric Hodgkins Memorial Ground in the Division of Reigate, close to the town centre. The memorial ground is also home to Reigate Women's Lacrosse Club and Reigate Priory Football Club, in addition to being used by several local secondary schools and businesses.

Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)	30267, Reigate
National Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)	10
Surrey Index of Multiple Deprivation	8
Neighbouring LSOAs	21839, Reigate (ND: 7, SD: 3)

5. Reigate and Banstead Borough Council have identified RRC as one of only two, multi-sport facilities in the whole borough. In addition, the Reigate and Banstead Playing Pitch Strategy highlights the need for improved drainage at the Eric Hodgkins Memorial Ground to service the demand in the Reigate area. RRC have seen their numbers grow in recent years, including the number of women playing rugby and in addition they have welcomed new sports onto their site. Consequently, the pitches are being used more but their condition is restricting the amount of usage, particularly through the winter months. Installing drainage would ensure the pitches can be used through poorer weather. The drainage will work in tandem with floodlights that have recently been installed by the club, providing another mechanism to ensure maximum usage.

6. The changing rooms onsite currently have only one shower area, which is not suitable for the increased mixed gender usage. The project seeks to install a segregated shower area with direct access to an adjoining changing area to enable more multi-sport and multi-gender activities occurring at the same time. The facility is currently well served by ample parking.
7. RRC expect their energy usage to increase alongside usage of the facility. However, they are conscious of the environment and are seeking to keep their carbon footprint as low as possible. The installation of photovoltaic (PV) panels is a key part of their environmental strategy. They plan to install fifty-nine PV panels on the south facing roof to be self-sufficient in power. Detailed planning has been completed with the chosen contractor to ensure the PV panels are within Permitted Development Guidelines, therefore planning permission is not required. It is estimated the panels will produce at least 28,000KwH per year. This is a conservative estimate but would provide payback on the PV investment within five years.
8. RRC own outright the land and building on the site. They have been awarded a significant grant from Reigate and Banstead CIL and will also be contributing to the project from their own fundraising and reserves.
9. RRC have been active in engaging with the local community to gain support and ideas for the project. They have also been introduced, via the local Community Link Officer, to Community Development Officers in other areas of the Borough. Through these connections the club seeks to engage further with these communities and offer their facilities.

Details

Description of project benefits

10. The key benefits from this project are:
 - Improved year-round access to outdoor sport and recreation
 - Better provision for women's and girl's sport through segregated changing facilities
 - Enhanced environmental credentials of a well-used community building

Project Timeframes

11. The shower and PV panel projects will be delivered in tandem with each other taking twelve to fifteen weeks. The pitch drainage works will take sixteen weeks. All projects are planned to start in early 2024 to be completed for September 2024.

Management of the project

12. The project will be delivered by a working group of five volunteers from RRC, including a builder to oversee the relationship with contractors installing photovoltaics and the changing room development, a civil engineer to supervise the pitch drainage and post development maintenance and a senior finance business manager to oversee the project finances.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

13. YFS funding is requested for the key elements of the project. The project has applied for £221,705 which equates to 61% of the overall project costs.
14. Table 1. Financial Summary details the £142,099 of other funding which has been secured against the total project cost of £363,804.
15. Table 2. Project Cost Breakdown and Grant Utilisation, itemises the allocation of YFS grant against specific works.

Table 1. Financial summary

Amount applied for:	£221,705
Total project cost:	£363,804
Percentage of cost against total:	61%
Have other funding sources been secured?	Yes
Other funding:	<u>Achieved</u> Reigate and Banstead CIL - £117,099 Club contributions - £25,000 TOTAL = £142,099
Volunteer contributions	Yes
Is there a commercial element to the project?	No
Amount suggested for funding:	£221,705

Table 2. Project Cost breakdown and Grant utilisation

Activity	Total Cost (Including VAT)
Preliminary works	£10,572
Drainage of pitch 1	£67,316
Drainage of pitch 2	£79,784*
Contingency on drainage works	£15,767
Water supply and seeding	£11,080*
Standpipe installation	£34,624*
PV panel installation	£67,214*
Scaffolding for PV	£5,746*
PV panel contingency	£4,033*
Segregated showers	£64,446*
Contingency on Segregated Showers	£3,222*
Total	£363,804

*Denotes YFS funded elements

16. As with all applications, there is a risk that construction and purchase costs will increase between application and approval. This is mitigated by the contingency (which will only be released if there is demonstrated need). The applicant has secured quotes that support their costing, and will ultimately be funded based on evidenced, actual spend, up to the amount awarded.

Assessment of the application against the criteria for the fund:

Advisory Panel Comments

17. The Advisory Panel functions in an advisory capacity and its role is intended to assist the formal decision-making processes which sit outside the Panel.
18. The Advisory Panel met on 20th September 2023. A report detailing project CF362 was shared with panel members in advance and questions were invited ahead the meeting. There were no issues raised by panel and the panel was unanimous that this project should be recommended for full funding.

Consultation

Summary of Support

19. Have your say, which has had Reigate Rugby Club featured on the Commonplace website, received 172 comments. There were no negative comments.
20. Letters of support have been received from:
- Reigate Priory FC
 - Reigate Lacrosse Club
 - Clinical Team Manager and Paramedic for the London Ambulance Service
 - Reigate Women's Lacrosse Club
21. The Divisional Councillor Victor Lewanski has indicated his full support for the project.

Risk Management and Implications:

22. The applicant has provided an overview of risks against the project, as summarised below. Officers consider there to be adequate control measures in place.

Table 3. Summary Table of Risks and Key Mitigations

Risk description	RAG	Mitigation action/strategy
Project costs increase	Yellow	Strong levels of contingency in place
Lack of community use post project	Green	Club are committed to offering their facilities and are Community Amateur Sports Club registered. There is a need for upgraded pitches within the Reigate and Banstead Playing Pitch Strategy

Section 151 Officer commentary:

23. Significant progress has been made in recent years to improve the Council's financial resilience and the financial management capabilities across the organisation. Whilst this has built a stronger financial base from which to deliver our services, the increased cost of living, global financial uncertainty, high inflation and government policy changes mean we continue to face challenges to our financial position. This requires an increased focus on financial management to protect service delivery, a continuation of the need to be forward looking in the medium term, as well as the delivery of the efficiencies to achieve a balanced budget position each year.

24. In addition to these immediate challenges, the medium-term financial outlook beyond 2023/24 remains uncertain. With no clarity on central government funding in the medium term, our working assumption is that financial resources will continue to be constrained, as they have been for the majority of the past decade. This places an onus on the Council to continue to consider issues of financial sustainability as a priority, in order to ensure the stable provision of services in the medium term.

25. As such, the Section 151 Officer supports this application. The application has been financially assessed and all documentation was satisfactory, with all queries now resolved. Risks to be project are minimal and there is wider financial support, mainly in the form of CIL.

26. The borrowing costs associated with the fund have been fully built into the Council’s Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The annual cost of borrowing for this specific project of £221,705 would be £12,921.

Legal implications – Monitoring Officer:

27. The report sets out the information and steps for the consideration of the application further to the Council’s governance arrangements for Your Fund Surrey.

28. Further to those arrangements, if approved, the Council and the organisation will enter into a comprehensive funding agreement which will include the performance measures that will be put in place to ensure the funding is used as intended as well as clearly describing any support or additional conditions agreed as part of the funding award.

Equalities and Diversity:

29. Your Fund is designed to provide investment in schemes that encourage community participation, reduce isolation, and develop the potential for social wellbeing and economic prosperity. As such it is anticipated that it will have a positive impact on the local community and particularly those with protected characteristics that may be more likely to experience social and economic exclusion.

30. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been produced for YFS and was circulated as an Annex to the YFS Cabinet Report 26th January 2021.

Other Implications:

31. The potential implications for the following council priorities and policy areas have been considered. Where the impact is potentially significant a summary of the issues is set out in detail below.

Table 4: Implications for council priorities and policy areas

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No direct implications

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children & adults	Improves capacity to safeguard vulnerable people at a well-used community venue
Environmental sustainability	Enhanced environmental credentials of the building and improved sustainability of grass pitches
Public Health	The project has a positive impact on wider health outcomes, with young people, women and girls and those with disabilities being encouraged to increase their physical activity.

What Happens Next:

- Following Cabinet Member approval of the funding a notice of the records of decisions taken under delegated power, will be published within 3 days of the decision being made.
- Officers will prepare the relevant schedules and funding agreements to enable payment of funds and monitoring and evaluation of the project.
- The YFS Team officers will then issue a provisional offer of funding to the applicant, including a copy of the draft Funding Agreement.

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Consulted:

Division County Councillor

Corporate Finance – Surrey County Council

Sources/background papers:

YFS Criteria

YFS Governance Document

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