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Date: *30 June 2009*

NOTIFICATION OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION

On 29 June 2009, Cllr C Wise, the Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder, made the following decision. Any member of the Council, who is not a Portfolio Holder, who considers that this decision should be reviewed should give notice to the Monitoring Officer (Grainne O'Rourke) (in writing or by e-mail) to be received **ON OR BY 7 JULY 2009**.

Details of the documents the Portfolio Holder considered are attached.

DECISION:

To allocate £30,000 from Youth Projects Fund to Ellingham and Ringwood Rugby Club.

REASON(S):

As per report.

ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

As per report.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED:

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Youth Matters (Cllr Mrs D M Brooks), has declared a prejudicial interest, as she is related to one of the Club members.

For Further Information Please Contact:

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FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION: JULY 2009

YOUTH PROJECTS FUND: ALLOCATION TO ELLINGHAM AND RINGWOOD RUGBY CLUB

ITEM FOR DECISION

Ellingham and Ringwood Rugby Club have requested an allocation from the Youth Projects Fund. This is to secure the provision of the facilities recently opened in Ringwood. The approach is made because the final building cost includes a sum for VAT which it has not been possible to recover. At the time there were divided views, advisors to the Club thought recovery was possible, whereas the Town Council felt otherwise. Unfortunately it has not proven possible to recover all that was hoped for.

The Club has been successful in securing external funding and this will be the first capital programme resources allocated to the scheme. The overall cost of the scheme is £765,000 so it is a major new asset for the area. This scheme provides, for the first time, an effective base for the club in the town. There was a previous Leisure Culture and Youth Matters Portfolio Decision to allocate funding from developer's contributions (May 2006).

POLICY FRAMEWORK

The District Local Plan has established policies indicating the use of this site for open space. Ringwood is recognised for having a shortfall of open space so this scheme makes a particularly important contribution by extending the use of existing facilities. There are also benefits in respect of Council Aims relating to Improving People's Health; Empowering Young Lives and Improving Partnership Work.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

SCHEME ELEMENT	COST (£)
Final building costs	765,000

FUNDING SOURCES	SUM (£)
Sport England	305,000
Developer's contributions	185,000
RFU grant	125,000
RFU loan	70,000
Club funds	10,000
Ringwood Brewery	10,000
TOTAL	705,000
SHORTFALL	60,000

The Club has already secured an additional contribution of £30,000 from the RFU and is now seeking the balancing sum from the Authority.

The proposal is to allocate £30,000 from the Youth Projects Fund to contribute to the completion of the scheme.

CONSULTATION INPUT

Consultation has been undertaken with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Opposition Spokesman of the Leisure, Culture and Youth Matters Panel; local Members and the Town Council. Comments are as set out in the attached sheet.

The Portfolio Holder has considered the comments made and has sought to reflect these in the Decision notice. It is a capital scheme and an allocation of a capital sum. None the less this does provide an opportunity to apply a condition to the scheme for the club to act in partnership with the Ringwood Youth Group.

PROPOSED DECISION

That an allocation of £30,000 be made from Youth Projects Fund to assist in the completion of the building with a condition that the Club engage in partnership working with the Ringwood Youth Group and other local agencies. District Council officers will also meet with the Town Council and others, concerning the future of co-ordinated youth work.

REASONS

To secure the building project and ensure best use of the building to the benefit of local people.

ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not to fund: rejected on the basis that clear need has been demonstrated and best use of the substantial investment in the scheme to date.

To fund at a higher level: rejected on the basis that sufficient additional funding has already been secured to meet the funding gap.

To fund without a condition: rejected on the basis that it is important to tie in this development with the youth initiatives in the town.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Youth Matters declared an interest in the proposal and so deferred to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency for the Decision to be made. Any other declarations of interest are included in the consultation return.

SIGNED: CLLR C WISE

Cllr Colin Wise,
Portfolio Holder Finance and Efficiency

Date Notification of this Decision given: 30 June 2009
Last date for Call-In: 7 July 2009

CONSULTATION RETURNS

Leisure Culture and Youth Matters Panel

Councillor	Comments
Cllr John Hutchins Chairman Leisure, Culture and Youth Matters Panel.	Support the allocation
Cllr Jeremy Heron, Vice Chairman Leisure Culture and Youth Matters Panel	Support the allocation.

Local members

Councillor	Comments
Cllr Chris Treleaven	Support the allocation
Cllr Michael Thierry	Concerned about proliferation of youth initiatives in the Town. Support the position of the Town Council. A commendable scheme but a way should be found to include the club in wider stakeholder discussion.

Town Council

Town Clerk	Comments
Terry Simpson	Concerned about another scheme that is not part of co-ordinated youth work for young people Town Council were always of the view that VAT would apply. The Town Council seeks support for the co-ordinated development of youth activities in the town.