

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE
Date: 22nd February 2022

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Phyl Davies
Portfolio Holder for Education and Property

REPORT TITLE: Welshpool Town – Transforming Education Programme

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose

1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval to provide a grant of £5,500 per annum to Welshpool Football Club as Powys County Council's contribution towards a 25 year lease for land in Welshpool which will enable the Club to develop new football pitches. This is a compensatory payment for the loss of a recreational area at Welshpool High School, Salop Road, which the Council has used to build the new Welshpool Church in Wales School building.

2 Background

2.1 The Council has undertaken a significant Transforming Education Programme in Welshpool Town, which has led to the reorganisation of schools within the town and the construction of two new primary schools:

- Welshpool Church in Wales (C.i.W.) Primary School; and
- Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng.

2.2 Welshpool C.i.W. Primary School's new building opened to pupils in January 2021. The school has been built on land that was previously part of Welshpool High School and used for sports activities by the school. It was also used by the local community and Welshpool Football Club for recreational activity as well. The site accommodated three football pitches which were used during the week for junior training and at weekends for junior matches.

2.3 Cabinet approved the Strategic Outline Case to build the new school in 2017. Officers engaged with Welshpool Football Club and other sports associations and carried out a site assessment of Council owned land/properties in Welshpool to understand whether land was available to recompense the Football Club and sports associations for the loss of the provision at Welshpool High School. Unfortunately, no land was identified.

2.4 The Council has also considered whether the sports pitches at all three schools in Welshpool could be made available to Welshpool Football Club

and the wider community, however there are currently issues with the ground condition of the grassed sports pitches at both Welshpool C.i.W Primary School and Welshpool High School which will need to be addressed before they can be made available to the wider community. However, the governing body of Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng has agreed that the grassed sports pitch at the new school will be made available to the wider community, subject to a formal agreement between both parties.

2.5 Welshpool Football Club has subsequently agreed a lease with a local landowner which will enable the Club to develop a number of football pitches which would allow the community to access much-needed recreational facilities.

3. Advice

3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve a contribution of £5,500 per annum to Welshpool Football Club for a 25 year lease for land that will be developed to include football pitches that will be used by children and young people, along with the wider community, in Welshpool. The reasons for this are:

- to compensate for the loss of a recreational area which has been used for the construction of Welshpool C.i.W Primary School will enable
- the additional football pitches will contribute to the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Welshpool
- there are issues that need to be addressed with the sports pitches at both Welshpool C.i.W Primary School and Welshpool High School that constrain access to the wider community
- this will conclude the transformation of education in Welshpool Town.

4. Resource Implications

4.1 The Council will provide a grant of £5,500 to Welshpool Football Club starting from the start of financial year April 2022, for a period of 25 years – this will be funded from existing Schools Service budgets.

The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the content of the report and that the costs can be accommodated within existing Schools Service budgets.

5. Legal implications

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: “ I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report” .

7. **Comment from local member(s)**

8. **Impact Assessment**

n/a

9. **Recommendation**

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve a grant of £5,500 per annum to Welshpool Football Club for a 25 year lease period, to be funded from existing Schools Service budget. This arrangement will begin from the start of financial year 2022/23.

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