



Grant Working Party 7 December 2010

Application for Core Funding 2011/2012: Victory Sports Ground (Bury St Edmunds) Limited

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Victory Sports Ground (Bury St Edmunds) Limited is a high quality, multi-activity sports ground comprising two grass cricket wickets (one of County standard), artificial croquet surface, two hard and two grass tennis courts and football pitches. It is the home facility of the Bury St Edmunds Cricket Club, the Victory Ground Tennis Club, the Bury St Edmunds Croquet Club and hosts annually a nationally renowned junior tennis tournament.

2. Financial Situation

- 2.1 In 2001, the management of the Victory Ground was transferred to a new company, the Victory Sports Ground (Bury St Edmunds) Ltd. At the time of transfer, the revenue cost to the Council was £96,000. The current grant awarded is £45,000. The Victory Sports Ground Limited collects the rents from the clubs using the facilities and currently pays the Council £11,450 per annum.
- 2.2 On 21 October 2009 (Report A255 refers) the Cabinet approved a joint project with The Victory Sports Ground (Bury St Edmunds) Limited, South Lee School and Bury St Edmunds Cricket Club. In summary, the new facilities project proposes that the existing pavilion and changing rooms will be replaced by a new sports hall and pavilion. The School would use the facility during the school day and a community use agreement will be established to enable community during the evenings, weekends and school holidays. It is proposed by the partners that the management of the Sports Hall element will be with the South Lee School and the pavilion will be managed by the Victory Sports Ground (Bury St Edmunds) Limited.
- 2.3 The total cost of the scheme is estimated to be in the order of £1.8 million. South Lee School is funding the new sports hall. The Bury St Edmunds Cricket Club has approached the English Cricket Board (ECB) for a contribution to fund the cost of the pavilion and external funding of approximately £200,000 could be contributed by the ECB towards the cost of the pavilion estimated to be £300,000. The Council has resolved to contribute £25,000 capital towards the pavilion element of the scheme.

- 2.4 The revenue costs of operating the new sports hall will be met by South Lee School. Officers have had regular discussions with representatives of the Victory Sports Ground (Bury St Edmunds) Limited regarding the revenue grant. It is proposed that the Council, in partnership with the Victory Sports Ground (Bury St Edmunds) Limited, seek as part of the wider project to reduce the Council's grant. Whilst the project, which has greater revenue generation possibilities for the Victory Ground site than is possible at present, is being developed, it is proposed that the grant should not be increased but is maintained at its current level for 2011/2012.
- 2.5 A Grant Scoring Matrix in respect of this application is attached as Appendix A to this report.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that subject to the budget setting process, a grant of £45,000 be awarded to Victory Sports Ground (Bury St Edmunds) Limited for the 2011/2012 financial year.

For further information, please contact:-
Howard Cook, Leisure Development Officer,
Telephone: (01284) 757097, or email: howard.cook@stedsbc.gov.uk

W:\Democratic WP Services\Committee\Reports\Grant Working Party\2010\10.12.07\B366 Application for Core Funding 2011-2012 - Victory Sports Ground Bury St Edmunds.doc

Core Grants Scoring Matrix**APPENDIX A****Name** **Victory Sports Ground Limited****Date** **7 December 2010**

Criteria	This application	Score
Grant Scheme	Core Funding 2011 - 2012	N/A
Summary of Organisation Services	Multi-activity community sports ground	N/A
Amount requested	£45,000	N/A
Projected Annual Costs	At the time of transfer, the revenue cost to the Council was £96,000. The current grant awarded is £45,000. The Victory Sports Ground Ltd collects the rents from the clubs using the facilities and currently pays the Council £11,450 per annum.	N/A
External Funding Sources	1 pt. = Up to 50% external funding 3 pts. = 50 to 75% external funding 5 pts = Over 75% external funding The Victory Sports Ground is currently preparing an over 75% external funding bid in partnership with South Lee School for major new facilities	1
Council's core Objectives	Section numbers that apply from Corporate Plan. 1 pt = Up to 5 and 3 pts = 6 to 11.	1
Risk to the Council	Low (1 pt.), Medium (3 pts.) or High (5pts.) Example of low priority is something that does not cause a loss of service by the Council.	5
Risk to the Bidder	Low (1 pt.), Medium (2 pts.) or High (3 pts.) An example of a high priority is the loss of a service which is important/vital to the community.	3
Community Impact	Low (1 pt.), Medium (3 pts.) or High (5 pts.) High priority will generate increased usage, increased social inclusion and benefit others.	3
Number of Beneficiaries	The number of people benefiting from the service whilst taking into account the importance of the organisation to the community.	3
Additional Information		N/A

Total Score 16 (Maximum score 24)