

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Decision Report**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	26 September 2012
<b>Decision Title:</b>	The Connaught School, Aldershot
<b>Decision Reference:</b>	3949
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

**Contact names:** Steve Clow and Bob Wallbridge

**Tel:** 01962 847858  
01962 847894

**Email:** steve.clow@hants.gov.uk  
bob.wallbridge@hants.gov.uk

**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1. This report seeks approval to the project proposals for the construction of a new floodlit synthetic turf pitch at the Connaught School, Aldershot at an estimated total cost of £550,000.
- 1.2. This project is required to provide enhanced sports facilities at the school that will benefit both pupils and the local community.

**2. Scope of Work**

- 2.1. It is proposed to construct a new floodlit synthetic turf pitch on the existing playing field at the school.
- 2.2. Funding for the project will be provided by Rushmoor Borough Council and this report outlines the available budget from within which the project must be designed and delivered. The construction contract will not be let until funding from Rushmoor Borough Council is confirmed. The Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services has progressed the design work to meet the intended programme for construction.
- 2.3. Any significant issues raised as part of the planning application process will be addressed in the design and implementation of this project.

**3. Contextual Information**

- 3.1. The Connaught School is located off Tongham Road in a residential area of Aldershot. The school's net capacity is 850 and there are currently 700 pupils on roll. The proposals in this report will not increase pupil capacity.
- 3.2. Subject to a planning permission being granted it is proposed that the works be procured through a traditional tender process. It is anticipated that works will commence on site during November 2012 and complete during March 2013.

**Agenda Item:**

- 3.3. It is proposed the school site remain in use during the construction period, and local management arrangements will be put in place to manage the health and safety impact to all users.
- 3.4. It is proposed that the contractor access the site via the main school entrance off Tongham Road. The contractor's compound will be located on the existing play court adjacent to the proposed working area. This will be segregated from pupils and staff, and will be secured with temporary site fencing at all times. No deliveries or movements of vehicles will take place at the start or end of the school day, in order to avoid traffic conflict when pupils are arriving at or departing from the school.

**4. Finance**

## 4.1. Capital Expenditure:

The Capital Expenditure has already been approved; the following tables outline the breakdown of its distribution across the project:

Capital Expenditure	Current Estimate	Capital Programme
	£'000	£'000
Buildings	472	
Fees	78	
Total	550	

## 4.2. Sources of Funding:

Financial Provision for Total Scheme	Buildings	Fees	Total Cost
	£'000	£'000	£'000
1. From Own Resources			
a) Capital Programme (as above)			
b) School's Devolved Formula Capital			
2. From Other Resources			
a) Rushmoor Borough Council (to include HCC payment)	472	78	550
<b>Total</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>550</b>

a) *Building Costs:*

The project consists of an external synthetic turf pitch and landscaping works, so the net and gross costs are not relevant.

**4.3. School Balances:**

The school has the following level of balances (these are not part of the funding above and are not allocated to this project):

<i>Published revenue balance as at 31 March 2012-</i>	<i>£272,782</i>
<i>Devolved capital as at 31 March 2012-</i>	<i>£6,072</i>

**4.4. Revenue Issues:**

a) Overview of Revenue Implications:

	<b>(a) Employees £'000</b>	<b>(b) Other £'000</b>	<b>(a+b) *Net Current Expenditure £'000</b>	<b>(c) Capital Charges £'000</b>	<b>(a + b + c) Total Net Expenditure £'000</b>
Revenue Implications Additional + / Reductions				79	79

b) *Energy Costs:*

The floodlighting will be the most energy efficient modern fittings available and costs accounted for by the school in managing community lettings.

**5. Risk & Impact Issues**

5.1. Please see Appendix B for a summary of the risk and impact issues considered in relation to the design of this project.

**6. Details of site and existing Infrastructure**

- 6.1. The school is located within a large area of housing on the outskirts of Aldershot town centre and the playing field is surrounded by houses.
- 6.2. The proposed new synthetic turf pitch will be situated in close proximity to the existing school accommodation and will be linked to the existing infrastructure that will support it, including power and water supply, car parking, access paths and changing facilities.
- 6.3. The existing access and parking arrangements will remain in place.

**7. Scope of the Project**

- 7.1. It is proposed to construct a new floodlit synthetic turf pitch at the school, which has been designed to provide enhanced sports facilities for pupils and the local community on a year-round basis.
- 7.2. The new sports facility will be suitable for general-purpose, multi-use sports training and practice, as well as for evening and weekend community football use.

## **Agenda Item:**

- 7.3. The proposed new synthetic turf pitch will be surfaced in a synthetic grass suitable for football use and other supervised sports activities. It will also be floodlit and fenced with rebound and ball-stop fencing.
- 7.4. The proposed new synthetic turf pitch and floodlighting will be located adjacent to the existing sports hall on an area of the school playing field that maintains the most flexible use of the remaining grass playing field and minimises the potential impact on local residents.
- 7.5. The proposed new floodlighting has been designed to minimise glare and light spillage to meet the necessary standards and planning requirements.

## **8. External Works**

- 8.1. The landscape proposals will include the following:
  - the existing topsoil from the area of the pitches will be removed from site.
  - several new trees will be planted around the pitches to reduce visual impact to local residents by filtering and screening views of the pitches and to increase biodiversity.
  - a new footpath link will be provided from the existing school accommodation.

## **9. Planning**

- 9.1. A planning application was submitted in June 2012.

## **10. Management Arrangements**

- 10.1. The existing management arrangements for the school site will remain in place during school hours when the pitches are used for curriculum teaching and practice.
- 10.2. The use of the new sports facilities out of school hours will be managed by the school through existing community management arrangements with Rushmoor Borough Council and as set out in their Management Plan, in accordance with the conditions of the Planning Approval document.

## **11. Professional Resources**

Landscape	) Culture, Communities & Business Services
Mechanical and Electrical)	Culture, Communities & Business Services
Drainage	) Engineering Consultancy, ETE
Quantity Surveying	) Culture, Communities & Business Services
CDM Coordinator	) Culture, Communities & Business Services.

## **12. Consultations**

- 12.1. The following have been consulted during the development of this project and their feedback can be seen in overview in Appendix C:

Local Member  
The Connaught School Head Teacher and Governors  
County Council Planning Department  
Rushmoor Borough Council Planning Department  
Rushmoor Community Safety Partnership

Access Officer  
Sport England  
Environment Agency  
Hampshire County Council Archaeology  
Hampshire County Council Ecology

**13. Recommendation**

- 13.1. That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services gives approval to the proposal for the construction of a new floodlit synthetic turf pitch at The Connaught School in Aldershot, at an estimated total cost of £550,000 (including fees).

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

**IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

**1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 1.1. An equalities impact assessment was considered in the development of this project appraisal and no adverse impact has been identified.
- 1.2. The design proposals had been developed to consider the access arrangements for disabled users of the sports facilities.

**2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

- 2.1. The County Council has a legal obligation under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider the impact of all the decisions it makes on the prevention of crime. The proposals in this report have no impact on the prevention of crime.

**3. Climate Change:**

- 3.1. The floodlighting has been designed to be as energy efficient as possible and to include automatic shutdown at the end of sessions with the lower-level safety lighting designed to shut down 15 minutes later to ensure safe routes for all users of the pitches.

**FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTEES:****OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:**

<b>Executive Member &amp; Portfolio</b>	<b>Reason for Consultation</b>	<b>Date Consulted</b>	<b>Response:</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**OTHER FORMAL CONSULTEES:**

<b>Member/ Councillor</b>	<b>Reason for Consultation</b>	<b>Date Consulted</b>	<b>Response:</b>
Councillor Eric Neal	Local Member for Aldershot East	03.09.12	<p>Cllr Neal made the following comments:</p> <p>“I fully support this project and have been actively involved in bringing this forward.</p> <p>Some 7 years when I was first elected I found this school was under performing.</p> <p>Many people including myself have worked in turning this school around but there is still much to do, as our goal is for this school to be one of the best in Hampshire.</p> <p>Therefore this project is crucial to the school it will play a major part in the schools ethos not only in driving forward excellence in sport but academic studies as well.</p> <p>Recently this school won the Hampshire Schools Challenge another sign the school is moving forward.</p> <p>This project is effort and money well spent.”</p>