

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 05 March 2024

TITLE	Football Foundation Funding for Playzone – Ball Courts		
Ward(s)	Citywide		
Author: Guy Fishbourne	Job title: Sport & Physical Activity Manager		
Cabinet lead: Mayor Marvin Rees	Executive Director lead: Hugh Evans, Executive Director Adults and Communities.		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To outline a new Football Foundation funded initiative which provides opportunities for local councils to deliver new Playzones (ball courts). The funding is awarded on a 75:25 basis, with the authority providing 25% match funding.2. To note the proposed use of Sports Section 106 monies as match funding.			
Evidence Base: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Playzone Project is funded from a government grant designed to tackle inequalities in sport and recreation provision and is intended to provide new facilities by working with local communities to meet the needs of specific localities.2. The aim of the funding programme is to create modern, safe, and engaging facilities that deliver multisport opportunities in areas of greatest need, to enable people to participate in recreational sport in their own communities.3. As part of the new Playzone initiative, the Football Foundation (FF) commissioned research on small-sided facilities. Their insight shows that a recreational sport offer is popular with the target audiences in Bristol's Sport & Physical Activity Strategy: children and young people, older people, women and girls, disabled people.4. Although this is a FF initiative, new Playzones will be designed to include one other sport as well as football to be decided through engagement with local people and groups.5. The FF's national research into small, sided facilities shows that controlled access can help grow participation among certain demographic groups. This is achieved by protecting specific time slots on the courts, which might otherwise be dominated by more traditional users. It is part of the criteria for FF funding that Playzones using gate access technology will be bookable spaces, providing opportunities for both organised activities and open access. The option to charge for some bookings provides an income-generating opportunity which will mean they are sustainable, ensuring that all management and operational costs, including lifecycle and maintenance are covered.			

6. By working with local communities and trusted partner organisations to support a forthcoming funding application on behalf of Bristol, officers will work to identify appropriate sites and develop a project proposal. Subject to being able to identify suitable sites, affordability could allow for between one and four new Playzones to be delivered.
7. Officers will also work with colleagues in Parks to ensure that any proposals align with projects that they may be considering as part of their own programme of works.

Funding Requirements

8. Subject to the outcome of local engagement and feasibility work, the provision of one to four new Playzones could cost anywhere between £300,000–£1,300,000. Any future Football Foundation grant will require 25% match funding from the Council.
9. Match funding for the project will be provided from Sports Section 106 (maintenance). The sum required for the match funding will be capitalised and the Section 106 Officer has advised that this is an appropriate use for this funding.

Financial Implications/Risks

10. Project management costs will be contained within existing service budgets and provided through Public Health officer time.
11. The Football Foundation will procure the contractors through their own framework and therefore there is no requirement on BCC's Procurement service.
12. Subject to identifying suitable sites, it is proposed that Playzones will be most likely located on premises already leased by the Council to independent third parties. Ongoing maintenance and lifecycle costs will be the responsibility of the leaseholder and covered by the income generated via the charged sessions. Any funds granted for a facility to be located on a site which is leased to an existing tenant of the council will be awarded jointly to Bristol City Council and the leaseholder.
13. Project delivery costs, including any internal legal and finance fees will be met through FF funding and/or Sports Section 106.
14. Where any additional work which is not covered by project delivery costs is required, for example additional surveys required for planning permission, these can be funded through Sport Section 106 so long as the project progresses to completion. If this does not happen Sports Section 106 funding cannot be used for this purpose and these additional costs will be covered through existing service budgets. BCC Officers consider the financial risk and the likelihood of this happening to be low.
15. Feasibility studies on all sites are paid for directly by the Football Foundation. If, following feasibility work, a site is progressed through the design process and then is not completed for reasons that could have been foreseen, then the Football Foundation may seek to recover costs that have been incurred on this site. This can be mitigated through a rigorous process following feasibility work.

Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the use of Sports Section 106 funding as match funding as outlined in this report.
2. Authorises the Executive Director, Adults and Communities, in consultation with the cabinet member for Finance, Governance and Performance, to develop a project proposal, submit a funding application to the Football Foundation, and if successful, to take all steps required to accept and spend the funding awarded and use Sports Section 106 match funding as outlined in this report.

<p>Corporate Strategy alignment: The Corporate Strategy Theme: Health, Care and Wellbeing outlines that BCC will ‘tackle health inequalities to help people stay healthier and happier throughout their lives’. The Playzones will provide the basis to ensure that areas of the city which suffer inequalities and the target groups detailed in the Sport & Physical Activity Strategy have appropriate access to local, high-quality spaces to play sport.</p>
<p>City Benefits: The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) currently recommends that “For good physical and mental health, adults should aim to be physically active every day. Any activity is better than none, and more is better still”. The Playzone proposal will provide safe and usable space for people to access local spaces for informal sport and physical activity.</p>
<p>Consultation Details: Local engagement will be undertaken for each location where a Playzone is proposed. This will ask for input into the design and which sports will be mainly provided.</p>
<p>Background Documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> BCC Corporate Strategy 2022-27 (bristol.gov.uk) A Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Bristol 2020-2025

Revenue Cost	£0.00	Source of Revenue Funding	N/A
Capital Cost	£ tbc (25% contribution depending on size of bid, between £75,000 and £325,000)	Source of Capital Funding	Sports Section 106
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>		Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	

<p>Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:</p> <p>1. Finance Advice: This report seeks delegated authority for the Executive Director, Adults and Communities, to develop and submit a proposal to the Football Foundation and subject to a successful funding application, approval to accept and spend the funding. The proposals will need to be worked up and costs are currently estimated as being between £300,000 and £1,300,000 depending on how many Playzone proposals are brought forward. Any bid will need to satisfy any grant condition including the 25% match funding requirement, which is expected to be met from the use of Sports Section 106 (maintenance) funding.</p> <p>As set out in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project management costs will be met from within existing Public Health resources. Playzones will be most likely located on existing council leased premises. Ongoing maintenance and lifecycle costs will be the responsibility of the leaseholder and covered by the income generated via the charged sessions. Feasibility study costs on all sites will be paid for directly by the Football Foundation <p>Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt, Finance Business Partner (Adults and Communities), 4 January 2024</p> <p>2. Legal Advice: The submission of bids for grant funding raises no particular legal issues. If successful, the procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.</p> <p>Existing tenants of the Council will need their leases amending to allow the proposed alterations and change of use of the premises.</p> <p>Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor, 12 February 2024</p>
--

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.		
IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson, Lead Enterprise Architect 18 December 2023		
4. HR Advice: The report is seeking approval for the Executive Director; Adults and Communities to develop a project proposal and approval for a funding application to the Football Foundation, including delegated authority to accept and spend the funding which is likely to exceed £500,000 if awarded. There are no significant HR implications arising from this report for Bristol City Council employees.		
HR Partner: Lorna Laing, HR Business Partner, 15 December 2023		
EDM Sign-off	Hugh Evans, Executive Director Adults and Communities	10 January 2024
Cabinet Member sign-off	Mayor Marvin Rees	11 January 2024
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	5 February 2024

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO