

EX77. Synthetic Sports Pitches

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided an update on the arrangements to create two synthetic sports pitches at Newtown Park, Bo'ness and Westfield Park, Denny.

The Executive had agreed on 29 November 2016 (ref EX90) that the Council would become joint applicants with the 2 clubs for **sportscotland** funding of £250,000 for each pitch. Funding bids were submitted to **sportscotland** in August 2017 and, subsequently, approved with both applications being awarded £250,000 in January 2018.

On conclusion of the necessary agreements, work on the Westfield Park site commenced in June with the new synthetic pitch being completed in September, and within the funding available.

The pitch at Newtown Park will be delayed until 2019, as the necessary site investigations revealed a mine shaft in the vicinity, which will require remedial work to be undertaken, prior to the commencement of the pitch. The cost of the pitch and additional remedial works is still within the available funding.

Camelon Juniors had also expressed an interest in developing a 3G surface, however, the Council has, at this time, no approved funding for any further development of 3G pitches. Assistance and support in relation to obtaining external funding would be provided to the club.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the position on the synthetic pitches at Newtown Park and Westfield Park and that any significant changes or issues will be reported through the Capital Programme; and**
- (2) agreed, that further to the interest of Camelon Juniors in developing a synthetic pitch, appropriate advice and support will be provided in relation to the sourcing of external funding.**