



## Operational Officer Decision Record

Where the decision has a financial value of between £100k - £350k and does not have a **significant** impact on two or more wards

### 1. Subject and details of the matter (to include reasons for the decision and detail of any previous cabinet decision)

Cabinet adopted North East Lincolnshire's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) in 2018.

To date playing pitch investment has progressed well with projects completed at;

- St Christophers – grass pitch upgrade works and changing room improvement works.
- Clee Fields – two 3G artificial grass pitch and changing room development complete.
- The above pitch developments are complemented by an additional 3G pitch developed at Humberston Academy.

Officers have previously reviewed the option to also invest in Barretts Recreation Ground to develop a 3G pitch or on the adjacent Oasis Academy Wintringham Site. The Academy has recently resurfaced their sand dressed hockey pitch to a 3G pitch at Wintringham, therefore it is timely to reassess playing pitch investment plans within the borough and on this basis a new and updated PPS is being developed over the next year.

The progress demonstrates that the Authority is in a positive position with regards to 3G football pitch provision and delivery of football within the existing PPS. However,

the Authority is at risk around sand dressed hockey pitch provision within the borough within the existing PPS. Linked to this, Ormiston Maritime Academy approached the Council with a proposal to resurface its sand dressed hockey pitch that is at its end of life. After discussions around the importance of future hockey provision in line with PPS; the proposal is for the Council and Ormiston Maritime Academy to split the cost at 40% with the other 20% being sought from Sport England Grant Funding.

The total cost of hockey pitch refurbishment is forecast at circa. £330,000. Therefore, the contribution from the Council would be at £132,000 subject to Sport England contribution of £66,000. The Academy would also fund £132,000.

It is important to note that the grant funding application to Sport England may not be successful. If unsuccessful this could leave a shortfall which would be split equally between the Council and the Academy, therefore the maximum contribution of £165,000 from the Council.

The anticipated Council investment can be covered from the existing approved Playing Pitch capital budget.

## **2. Decision being taken**

That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy, approve the council contribution of **up to £165,000** to the refurbishment of Ormiston Maritime Academy hockey pitch in partnership with the Academy. This funding will be reallocated from existing playing pitch reprovision budget to enable investment to protect future hockey pitch provision in the borough.

## **3. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits**

The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) suggests the need for two Artificial Grass Pitches in the borough as a minimum to meet future shortfall in Hockey. However, it is likely that the Council is likely to only be able to ensure that one hockey pitch is protected by 2030. The existing two Artificial Grass Pitches for Hockey (Grimsby Institute and Ormiston Maritime Academy) are coming to a point of requiring resurfacing work.

The PPS states that the Authority shall work in conjunction with Grimsby Hockey Club and England Hockey on any future Hockey related developments. These organisations have been involved in discussions with Ormiston Maritime Academy about the resurfacing project and have been supportive about the project proposal. There would be a requirement for Ormiston to update their Community Use Agreement and commit to future hockey club usage and wider community use. There is also the benefit that as Academy site, there is no future revenue cost to Authority and will benefit young people during school hours and community during evenings and weekends.

#### **4. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision**

The alternative option is to do nothing with this opportunity, the risks being:

1. Ormiston Maritime Academy may not reinvest in Hockey and convert their pitch to a 3G pitch for football as this is more attractive commercially. There is a trend across the country that sand dressed hockey pitches are being converted to 3G pitches and Officer professional advice is that this is a logical investment to protect hockey locally and deliver PPS hockey provision of one pitch in the borough long term.
2. If we do not progress a partnership investment with the Academy and if they chose to resurface to 3G football pitch and it is likely Grimsby Institute may follow a similar model. The Council would not deliver the PPS and have to consider building a Hockey pitch new, this is likely to be unviable, therefore risks losing hockey provision from the borough and reputational issues with national governing bodies and funding partners like Sport England.

#### **5. Background documents considered** (web link to be included or copies of documents for publishing)

Cabinet Report dated 12/02/25, Annex C – Capital Investment Programme (page 130).

**6. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons**

No

**7. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)**

N/A

**8. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)**

The decision is an operational decision and within the constitutional remit of the named Director and Portfolio Holder. The decision is consistent with the playing pitch strategy, endorsed by Cabinet.

**9. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)**

The decision is for a funding reallocation only, not additional funds. The original funding approval was included within the Playing Pitch capital project, which forms part of the current approved capital programme.

**10. Human Resource Comments (Head of People and Culture or nominee)**

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

**11. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)**

If unexpected costs are encountered this may impact the proposed capital spend or delay the programme of works.

Ormiston Maritime Academy is overseeing the procurement process and construction contract, taking on all associated risks. They have adhered to a competitive tender process, and we have confirmed that this approach represents best practice. They will also be the applicant to Sports England thereby assuming responsibility for the conditions associated with the grant funding.

**12. If the decision links to a previous one taken by Cabinet, has the Cabinet Tracker been updated?**

**13. Decision Maker(s):**

Name: Carolina Borgstrom

Title: Director of Economy,  
Environment and Infrastructure

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 07/04/2025

**14. Consultation carried out with  
Portfolio Holder(s):**

Name: Councillor H Dawkins

Title: Portfolio Holder for Culture,  
Heritage and the Visitor Economy

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025