
Response to Faraday Road Football Ground queries

Committee considering report:	Scrutiny Commission
Date of Committee:	26 th November 2024
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Nigel Foot
Date Service Director agreed report:	13 th November 2024
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	
Report Author:	Jon Winstanley
Forward Plan Ref:	N/A

1 Purpose of the Report

To respond to a request for the expenditure in relation to returning football to Faraday Road to be scrutinised.

2 Recommendation(s)

That the response to the individual comments in Appendix A be noted.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations from this report.
Human Resource:	None as a result of this report.
Legal:	None as a result of this report.
Risk Management:	None as a result of this report.

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Property:	There are no property implications resulting from the recommendations of this report.			
Policy:	None as a result of this report.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x		
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		
Environmental Impact:		x		
Health Impact:		x		
ICT Impact:		x		
Digital Services Impact:		x		
Council Strategy Priorities:		x		
Core Business:		x		

Data Impact:		x		
Consultation and Engagement:	Paul Hendry, Countryside Manager.			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 A request has been received for Scrutiny Commission to review the expenditure during the 2023/24 financial year to return football to the Faraday Road Football pitch.
- 4.2 A series of questions have been received from a local resident calling into question the procurement and value for money in delivering the return of football to the Faraday Road pitch.
- 4.3 These questions along with an officer’s response can be seen in appendix A.
- 4.4 Officers are of the view that all due processes were followed, and decision makers and stakeholders appropriately involved in the project which has successfully seen football returned to Faraday Road.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

- 5.1 A key commitment of the Liberal Democrat Administration following their successful election in April 2023, was to return football to the Faraday Road football pitch. Council’s Executive instructed Officers to facilitate this as expediently as possible.

Background

- 5.2 The Faraday Road football ground was closed permanently in 2018 and had remained unused since, other than as a public open space. When the facility was closed all stands, fencing buildings and other associated facilities were removed.
- 5.3 Following the election in April 2023, Officers were tasked with returning football to Faraday Road to enable the most basic level of league football to take place on the site at the start of the new football season in September 2023.
- 5.4 Significant work was required to improve the pitch to make it safe to play on and to provide the facilities required by the football association. The total cost of the work was £230,000 and the activities included, and their associated cost can be seen below:

Summary of Works	Supplier	Cost
Supplied and installed: 4 Metre high (Euroguard® Flatform) perimeter fencing at the north end and south end of the ground totalling approx. 180 metres.	Volker Highways	£110,000

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Supplied & installed: Secure Palisade fencing (consisting of 2.4M BARBICAN FENCING & qty 2 x 2.4M BARBICAN GATEWAYS) totalling approx. 70 metres.		
To supply and construct an 8m high 'goal catch' fence constructed of a nylon weave netting on the north and south boundary spanning 46m at each end of the grass pitch area (92m total)	Volker Highways	£45,000
Pitch preparation consisting of Selective Herbicide, Cut and Scarification, Top Dressing, Pre-seed Fertilisation, Overseeding & Verti draining.	Continental Landscapes Ltd	£4,500
To supply 2 sets of 12ftx6ft free standing junior roll on and roll off goals	Continental Landscapes Ltd	£5,500
Trenching & pipework for the foul water connection.	Volker Highways	£10,000
Trenching & pipework for the clean water connection	Volker Highways	£26,000
Electric supply connection works	Volker Highways	£4,500
Foul and clean water connections	Thames Water	£4,500
Supply and delivery of used / refurbished Portacabin changing rooms	Britcab	£20,000
	Total	£230,000

5.5 Following the delivery of the above, a series of questions were received from a local resident questioning the viability of the procurement and the value for money delivered. These questions prompted the review by Scrutiny Commission

5.6 The questions submitted along with an Officer Response can be seen in Appendix A.

6 Conclusion

It is Officers' view that all due processes have been followed and relevant decision makers and stakeholders involved in the relevant stages of the delivery of this project.

7 Appendices

Appendix A – Officer response to the questions raised in relation to the procurement and value for money in delivering the return of football to Faraday Road.

Background Papers:

None

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position
- Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

Wards affected: Clay Hill

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