

Meeting: Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Operations Team)

Date: 17 December 2018

Wards Affected: St. Marychurch

Report Title: Memorandum of Understanding with Torquay United Association Football Club (TUAFC)

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? As soon as possible

Executive Lead Contact Details: Elected Mayor Gordon Oliver, Elected Mayor Executive Lead for Assets, Finance, Governance and Corporate Services, Economic Regeneration and Transformation, mayor@torbay.gov.uk

Supporting Officer Contact Details: Kevin Mowat, Assistant Director: Business Services, kevin.mowat@torbay.gov.uk, (01803) 208433

1. Proposal and Introduction

1.1 It is proposed that the Council enters into a Memorandum of Understanding with Torquay United Association Football Club (TUAFC) to support the principle of the Council working in collaboration with TUAFC on a project that could see the delivery of a new stadium/arena/leisure complex and the creation of a new youth centre of excellence and sports academy.

2. Reason for Proposal and associated financial commitments

2.1 Torquay United Association Football Club have indicated to the Council a desire to invest financially in developing a new stadium and providing improved sports provision for young people to enhance the work already undertaken by TUAFC.

2.2 The proposals contained in this report will not commit the Council financially in any way but are intended to provide assurance that the Council will endeavour to work with TUAFC in a professional and supportive way throughout the development of their projects.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the Assistant Director for Business Services and the Elected Mayor, be authorised to agree and sign the final Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Torbay Council and Torquay United Association Football Club (TUAFC) based on the draft MOU set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Memorandum of Understanding between Torbay Council and Torquay United Association Football Club

Background Documents

None

Section 1: Background Information

1.	<p>What is the proposal / issue?</p> <p>Torquay United Association Football Club currently operate out of a stadium at Plainmoor and it is their view that this site does not meet their needs in terms of long-term viability, youth development and sustainable progression of the club. They are seeking assurance that the Council will work with them on a professional basis to explore options for improved provision for the club.</p>
2.	<p>What is the current situation?</p> <p>Torquay United Association Football Club has indicated a desire to find an alternative site to build a new stadium/arena/leisure complex and a new youth centre of excellence and sports academy.</p>
3.	<p>What options have been considered?</p> <p>Not to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding. This was not recommended as this would result in Torquay United Association Football Club not having the confidence to invest in feasibility and design work for the projects or the club undertaking such work in respect of unsuitable sites.</p>
4.	<p>How does this proposal support the ambitions, principles and delivery of the Corporate Plan?</p> <p>Ambitions: Prosperous and Healthy Torbay</p> <p>Targeted actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protecting all children and giving them the best start in life• Working towards a more prosperous Torbay• Promoting healthy lifestyles across Torbay• Ensuring Torbay remains an attractive and safe place to live and visit
5.	<p>How does this proposal contribute towards the Council's responsibilities as corporate parents?</p> <p>The Council will work with Torquay United Association Football Club to seek assurance that any new proposals relating to improved youth provision are raised with our looked after children to ensure that those who want to be involved are actively encouraged to do so.</p>

6.

How does this proposal tackle deprivation?

The proposed projects have the potential to improve deprivation, enhance the economy and help support the delivery of the following policies:

Torbay Local Plan:

- **Policy SS4 The economy and employment**
Supports regeneration of Torbay and improvement in its economic performance, with the aim of achieving a step-change in economic prosperity. Supports new jobs.
- **Policy SS11 Sustainable Communities**
Assess schemes against its contribution to improving the sustainability of the existing (and new) communities, especially closing the gap between the least and most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Regeneration or improvement of the social, economic or environmental conditions will be supported.
- **Policy SDT3 Torquay Gateway**
High quality employment space, new homes, leisure and local retail facilities to serve the immediate area.
- **Policy SDP4 Clennon Valley Leisure Hub**
Develop its role as an outstanding leisure and recreation venue, providing activities and sports facilities for residents and visitors.
- **Policy TC5 Evening and night time economy**
Supports development of vibrant diverse evening and night time economy in town centres, seafront and harbour areas. The policy also says that it will support development where it adds to the vibrancy and is a complementary offer to that currently available, supports a range of evening and night time uses through provision of new activities and venues.
- **Policy TO1 Tourism, events and culture**
Tourism offer developed in a sustainable and competitive manner, new facilities will be provided as well as an improvement of existing. Supports the retention, improvement and creation of new high quality tourism and leisure attractions, and facilities in sustainable accessible locations (particular focus on core tourism investment areas but doesn't discount opportunities elsewhere)
- **Policy SC1 Healthy Bay**
All development should contribute to improving the health and well-being of the community.
- **Policy SC2 Sport, leisure and recreation**
Where need for new facilities is identified they should be provided in appropriate, accessible and well-located sites, preferably co-located

	<p>with existing and other planned sports facilities. Includes reference to The Willows but also Clennon Valley and Churston.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy SC3 Education, skills and local labour Supports new educational facilities (youth centre of excellence). <p>Local Plan Aspiration 1 - securing economic recovery and success. Local Plan Aspiration 4 - creating a more sustainable community and a better place.</p> <p>Torbay Sports Facilities Strategy (2014-2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide facilities for informal/recreational participation and competition and training which enable those participating in sport to improve and progress. • New facilities to meet projected demand from increases in population and participation, and changes in participation patterns. <p>1.1 The strategy seeks to support Torbay Council and its partners in attaining its 'Vision for Sport', which is that Torbay will be an area where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible, affordable and high quality opportunities are provided for all ages and abilities to develop a sporting habit for life; • sport is recognised and makes its contribution to addressing health inequalities; • sport contributes positively to the economy of the area, raising the profile of the area as a destination for sport; and; • sports facilities are well maintained and managed and are viable and sustainable.
7.	<p>How does this proposal tackle inequalities?</p> <p>See 6 above.</p>
8.	<p>How does the proposal impact on people with learning disabilities?</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
9.	<p>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with?</p> <p>At this stage the only parties affected are the Council and Torquay United Association Football Club (TUAFC). Relevant consultation will be carried out at an appropriate stage in respect of planning and design by TUAFC.</p>
10.	<p>How will you propose to consult?</p>

	<p>This will be done by Torquay United Association Football Club and through the normal planning process.</p>
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Section 2: Implications and Impact Assessment

11.	<p>What are the financial and legal implications?</p> <p>There are no financial implications associated with the proposed Memorandum of Understanding. This is just an agreement between Torbay Council and Torquay United Association Football Club to work together in a professional and supportive way.</p>
12.	<p>What are the risks?</p> <p>There is a risk that the Council will be seen to be supporting Torquay United Association Football Club with proposals for a stadium on a site which is not supported by the public. However, the Council has made no formal commitment for any specific sites within Torbay for a new stadium.</p> <p>Previously it has been suggested that the new stadium facilities could be built on Nightingale Park, however, at the Council meeting held on 5th December 2018 the Council resolved:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“That the Corporate Asset Management Plan be amended to include the former tip area adjacent to Browns Bridge (named as Nightingale Park) in the Corporate Asset Management Plan, detailing that it is to be protected for sports and leisure as identified in Torbay’s Playing Pitch Strategy and the adopted Torbay Local Plan.”</p> <p>It is therefore quite clear that any future decisions in respect of this particular site/land would need to be considered by full Council and in light of all relevant Council policies in place at the time.</p>
13.	<p>Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
14.	<p>What evidence / data / research have you gathered in relation to this proposal?</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
15.	<p>What are key findings from the consultation you have carried out?</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>

16.	Amendments to Proposal / Mitigating Actions Not applicable.
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Equality Impacts

17.	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups		
	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people	Part of the proposals relate to improved sports provision for young people which will have a positive impact for young people in Torbay. Other services will benefit older people.		
People with caring Responsibilities			There is no differential impact.
People with a disability			There is no differential impact.
Women or men			There is no differential impact.
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i>			There is no differential impact.
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			There is no differential impact.
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			There is no differential impact.
People who are transgendered			There is no differential impact.
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			There is no differential impact.

	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			There is no differential impact.
	Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			There is no differential impact.
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			There is no differential impact.
16	Cumulative Impacts – Council wide (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	None		
17	Cumulative Impacts – Other public services (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	None		