
Report To:	Regeneration Committee	Date:	7th May 2009
Report By:	Corporate Director – Regeneration and Resources	Report No:	RC/09/05/12/SJ /WW
Contact Officer:	Head of Economic and Social Regeneration	Contact No:	01475 712321
Subject:	U/16's Free Use of Sports Pitches		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the outcome of providing free use of pitches for under 16's within the Inverclyde Area for 2008/09.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council, as part of its budget announcements in February 2008, agreed to provide free use of pitches to under-16 sports teams for the next three financial years. £45,000 was therefore deducted from the Community Services Income Budget.
- 2.2 19 Clubs/Organisations took advantage of this provision, with many of these groups having several teams that qualified for the free use of pitches.
- 2.3 If the teams had been charged for their use, this would have resulted in income of £38,549. The budget was therefore under-utilised by £6,451 which was the result of various circumstances such as poor weather conditions, single status issues with park-keepers and closure of some grass pitches.
- 2.4 It is possible that the uptake of this scheme will be over subscribed in 2009/10 due to the use of the new 3G pitch at Lady Octavia.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Committee notes the positive uptake of the scheme during the 2008/09 financial year and remits the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Resources to submit a further update report at the end of the 2009/10 financial year.
- 3.2 That Committee notes the possible future shortfall in the budget and remits the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Resources to monitor this position closely during the 2009/10 financial year.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council, as part of its budget setting process in February 2008, agreed to provide free use of sports pitches to under 16 sports teams. The Community Services' income budget for pitches was therefore reduced by £45,000.
- 4.2 If teams had been charged for their use it would have resulted in income of £38,549 to the Council. The scheme was therefore under-utilised by £6,451. This was due to severe weather conditions which affected the use of the pitches and an issue arising through single status in relation to the park-keepers payments which caused a short term closure of pitches.
- 4.3 It is possible that the scheme may be over-subscribed in 2009/10. Use of Council pitches is still projected to cost £45,000. In addition, it is expected that there could be an increase in costs due to the decision to include the new 3G pitch at Lady Octavia in the scheme.
- 4.4 The budget will require to be closely monitored during 2009/10 to determine if there will be an overspend position.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Financial Implications – One off Costs – This section shows that the initial reduction in the budget commenced in the 2008/9 financial year and has been continued into the 2009/10 financial year.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
n/a	Football Income	2008-2010	£45,000 reduction per annum	n/a	n/a

Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

- 5.2 Personnel: None.
- 5.3 Legal: None
- 5.4 Equalities: None

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 None

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None