

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET
MONDAY 22 APRIL 2002 AT 2.00PM**

Agenda Item No.

5

**NEW OPPORTUNITIES FUND FOR PE (PHYSICAL EDUCATION) AND
SPORT**

Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families

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1. Purpose of report

To seek Cabinet approval to the portfolio of bids for submission to the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) as set out at Appendix 1.

2. Summary

Hertfordshire has been awarded a provisional allocation of £5,684,000 from the New Opportunities Fund for PE and Sport Programme, and an officer Panel has been set up, in agreement with the NOF, to prioritise bids for shares of this allocation. Their recommendations are set out at Appendix 1.

The portfolio of bids must be submitted to the NOF by 22 April 2002.

3. Conclusion

Cabinet is invited to consider approving the portfolio of bids.

4. Background

4.1 All Local Education Authorities were notified of a provisional allocation from the New Opportunities for PE and Sport Programme in November 2001.

4.2 The purpose of this lottery funded initiative is to support projects designed to bring about a step change in the provision of sporting facilities for young people and the community generally by:

- modernising existing, and building new, indoor and outdoor sports facilities for school and community use
- providing initial revenue funding to support community use of these facilities
- modernising existing or building new outdoor adventure facilities

4.3 The allocation for each authority is based on two factors

- i) the number of young people (between 5 and 16)
- ii) the level of deprivation

4.4 All LEAs have been invited to compile a “grant scheme portfolio” giving details of a number of projects that fit the NOF criteria and that clearly meet the priorities for the area.

4.5 Although the LEA acts as the lead organisation the overall application will only be successful if it can be demonstrated that other partners have been involved in the process. These will include other local authority departments, schools, strategic health bodies, sports governing bodies and Sport England.

5. New Opportunities Fund Outcomes

All projects within the total bid are required to meet some or all of the following six key outcomes for the programme:

- Improved physical education and sport in schools (supporting the entitlement of two hours of high quality PE and sport each week, within and beyond the curriculum).
- Higher standards across the whole school through PE, sport and other forms of structured activity (as set out in school development plans).
- Better opportunities to increase the levels of physical activity among the school age population and, more generally, local communities (supporting the health recommendation for levels of physical activity for young people and adults).

- Improved collaboration, co-operation and partnership between schools and between schools and their communities.
- Promotion of social inclusion through access to, and use of, sports and outdoor adventure facilities by all groups in society.
- Innovation and best practice in the design and management of facilities.

6. New Opportunities Fund Assessment Criteria

There are three criteria used by NOF when assessing the initial submission from each LEA: -

- The grant scheme demonstrates that it meets the NOF priorities for the programme.
- The applicant can demonstrate evidence of need.
- Structures for managing the partnership to the benefit of the grant scheme are well thought through allowing partners to participate on an equal basis.

7. Process adopted

7.1 A letter was sent to all schools in December 2001 inviting bids which would meet the NOF objectives, and which had to be returned by 13 February 2002.

7.2 An officer Panel was set up to assess and prioritise the 100 + bids received, comprising representatives of:

Children, Schools and Families (C.S.F) Planning
 Hertfordshire Property
 C.S.F Physical Education Adviser
 County Leisure Officer
 Sport England
 Hertfordshire Association of Leisure Officers (HALO)

7.3 The Panel considered all the bids and then discussed their make up of the Hertfordshire portfolio with NOF representatives. They suggested that the overall bid should have a range of projects including one or two sports halls, three or four artificial turf pitches and a reasonable number of smaller schemes.

7.4 The Panel carried out an initial analysis and then a more detailed scoring process was devised. A matrix system was used which considered the following factors:

- school need (based on Asset Management Plan and sufficiency evidence)
- other schools to benefit

- evidence of community need
- evidence that the proposed will need the community need
- social inclusion
- management potential

7.5 The bids were cross-referenced (when appropriate) with other strategic developments in the Authority such as out of hours learning and specialist school status.

8. Criteria for assessing bids

In assessing bids to create a long list of priorities, particularly for larger schemes, three main criteria were agreed by the Panel: -

- There must be a need for the facility to deliver the curriculum i.e. the school is deficient in PE facilities.
- The District/Borough Council leisure strategy should back up the bid.
- All successful schemes must be able to demonstrate a step change in the provision of sporting facilities for young people.

9. Further investigation

The larger scheme bids (sports halls and artificial turf pitches) have been visited and assessed in terms of feasibility, cost, planning issues (particularly relating to floodlighting and traffic movements), and the smaller schemes have been checked by quantity surveyors and the building surveyors who know the sites.

10. Final assessment by the Panel

- 10.1 The final meeting of the Panel of officers took place on Thursday, 11 April, and their list of recommended schemes together with the reserve list is attached at Appendix 1. (The portfolio includes a reserve list of bids in priority order, should one or more of those on the main list not get approval from NOF or for other reasons e.g. town planning objections.)
- 10.2 The panel has made every effort to be objective and to promote those schemes which best fit the NOF objectives and all the different “partnership” needs.
- 10.3 £229,300 has been requested as revenue funding to develop community use of the new facilities. (NOF suggested that up to 20% of the total grant could be used for this purpose).
- 10.4 Between 5 and 10% of the allocation is available for developing facilities at outdoor activity centres. Hertfordshire Outdoors are promoting a scheme to improve the facilities at Cuffley Camp and there is a much smaller bid from

the Young Mariners Base at Cheshunt. Both of these are in the Hertfordshire portfolio.

- 10.5 It is inevitable that many schools will be disappointed because bids totalling £38 m have been received for the £5.68 m available for Hertfordshire.
- 10.6 The Hertfordshire portfolio of bids must be with NOF by 22 April 2002 (the date of the Cabinet meeting) so the list of schemes will be sent with a covering note stating that this is “subject to member approval”.

(This has been explained to the administrators of the New Opportunities Fund for PE and Sport).