

East Sunderland Area Committee: 14 March 2022

Expression of Interest

Funding Source	Neighbourhood Fund
Name of Project	Community Sports Centre
Lead Organisation	Sunderland MIND, in partnership with Keep Active

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NF Application
£620,186	£585,441	£34,745
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
1 year	August 2022	December 2022

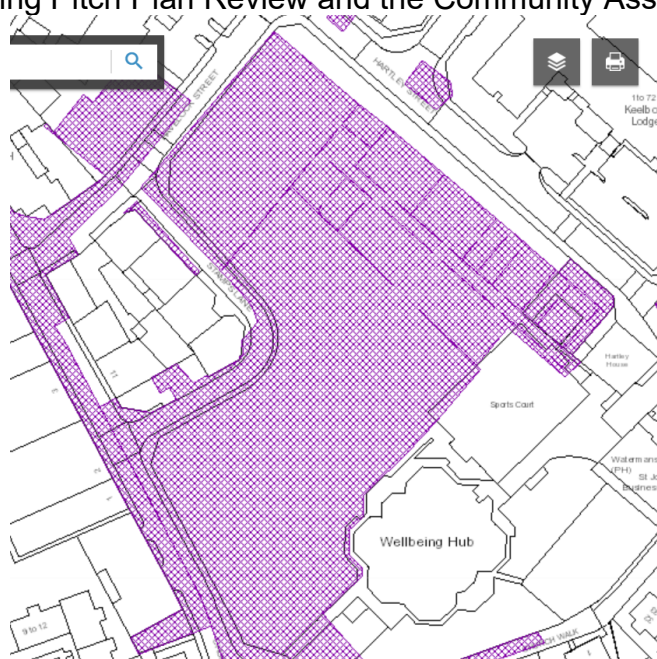
***No application has been submitted at this stage – this is an expression of interest.
No funding can be approved, it can be aligned.***

Proposal:

In November 2021, the City Council's Events and Active Sunderland Team held discussions with representatives from Keep Active and Sunderland MIND about the potential to develop the outdoor space to the rear on the old St Johns and St Patrick's Primary School, now known as Sunderland MIND Wellbeing Hub.

Keep Active want to upgrade and improve the outdoor area to encourage and provide opportunities for residents to be more physically active, although they have no rights over the land, Sunderland MIND are fully supportive of the principles of the project. There were two parts to the potential project.

1. Refurbish the existing multi-use games area (MUGA), providing a new carpet and flood lighting to the site; make good the disused tarmac area and provide changing facilities. This area of land is leased to Sunderland MIND by the Church Commissioners.
2. Reinstall the grass football pitch which is highlighted in purple on the graphic below. This is council land, and further consultation will need to take place regarding the findings of the City Council's Playing Pitch Plan Review and the Community Assets Policy.



Non council land (unshaded):

- Costs have been obtained to reinstate the MUGA and look at the potential usage of the unused concrete area to the rear of the Wellbeing Hub.

Council land (shaded):

- costs have been obtained to reinstate and develop the grass pitch which is currently not in use.

The City Council have spoken to representatives from Durham Football Association, The Football Foundation and Cruyff Foundation to understand what the funding landscape maybe. Whilst interested in the project, they have all requested a comprehensive consultation is conducted, which would need to provide evidence of community need, engagement of targeted populations, access and operational requirements, etc. The outcome of the consultation would dedicate if the proposal fulfils their criteria, if so, a site visit would be conducted. The City Council have shared examples of consultation exercises previously held with Keep Active for information.

Keep Active are receiving support from the Business Innovation Centre to complete a business plan.

At the expression of interest stage there is not enough detail to formally approve the project, however, Members may wish to consider aligning funding against the concept of developing a community sports centre, with a view of inviting Keep Active and Sunderland MIND to a future meeting to discuss the business plan, with supporting funding, sustainability and maintenance plans, and the results of the consultation in the new municipal year.

Estimated Budget

3G Pitch	Total	VAT
Preparatory Works, Drainage, Foundations, Retaining edge and Reinstatement	£195,200	£39,040
Turf	£85,630	£17,126
Fencing	£55,750	£11,150
1 year free maintenance fee	£375	£75
RCT maintenance machine	£5,500	£1,100
MUGA		
Preparatory Works,	£31,795	£6,359
Fencing	£18,925	£3,785
Double Court		
Preparatory Works	£43,750	£8,750
Fencing	£22,725	£4,545
CCTV	£26,172	£5,234
Changing room 40 x 10	£31,000	£6,200
Totals	£516,822	£103,364
Grand Total (Inc VAT)	£620,186	

Recommendation: Align

The expression of interest does complement the East Sunderland Area Investment Delivery of 'enhance local green spaces to encourage wider use including sports equipment, refurbishment of existing sites and delivery of activities which support health and wellbeing' Priority 16.

It is proposed that the alignment of the grant is subject to:

- the findings of the City Council's Playing Pitch Plan and Community Assets Transfer Policy,
- the submission of a robust business plan, with supporting funding, sustainability and maintenance plans,
- results of the consultation are favourable for such a project