

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

DECISION

meeting date: 9 MARCH, 2021
title: RV3G DAYTIME EDUCATION USE
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an outline of a proposed opportunity to hire the community room at the RV3G together with some day time pitch use for the purposes of delivering a BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council) sports course for local young people in Ribble Valley so they have a choice to study locally or go to a college in East Lancashire.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
 - Community Objectives – to sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley
 - Corporate Priorities - to ensure a well-managed council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs
 - Other Considerations – to ensure the day time use of the facility is utilised as much as possible

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 When the Council invested in the RV3G, it took the decision to not only provide an extensive number of artificial surfaces for a variety of sports, but also to build a community room suitable for education use.
- 2.2 The community room is now set up with wi-fi and a smart screen, plus the tables and chairs needed to run training courses. Obviously, since the last year has been severely disrupted as a consequence of the pandemic, it has not been possible to run any training course yet. The site has been used for cycle training on the pathways surrounding the site and classes from the councils Healthy Lifestyle team, when restrictions have allowed to do so safely.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 More than one provider has come forward expressing an interest in using the facility to establish a course from. Therefore, the Council will need to go through a formal procurement process to select a suitable operator.
- 3.2 Given timescales at the moment, it is likely that any operator would be looking at September 2022, to allow them time to secure a cohort of students and go through the necessary requirements for establishing a course.
- 3.3 Although the income from day time usage would be a welcome addition to the yearly income target, more importantly is the Council fulfilling the objective for the site when it originally invested in it. Giving young people from the area an opportunity to learn locally. Additionally, the site will still be available for school holiday training courses, as a BTEC would only be normal term times.

- 3.4 A BTEC course would normally occupy school times, so September through to June the following year – 32 weeks 9am – 4pm.
- 3.5 Day time use would not impact on the normal evening and weekend programme which prior to restrictions being imposed was very busy with bookings.
- 3.6 All providers are aware of the need to still accommodate school bookings and competitions.
- 3.7 The current fees and charges structure is not intended for yearly bookings. An additional day rate – combined Education and Playing hire rate would need to be included into existing fees and charges.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications
 - Resources – A procurement process will need to be undertaken in line with the Council's financial regulations.
 - Technical, Environmental and Legal – A legal agreement will have to be entered into with a successful operator.
 - Political – Members have already agreed when the facility was proposed that having a day time education offer was desirable and this proposal is in keeping with that aim.
 - Reputation – An educational offer at the site would enhance still further the high regard with which the facility is held, providing as it would a mixture of recreational and education as originally designed to do.
 - Equality & Diversity – None in the context of the facility as it is fully accessible.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Note the report and agree in principle the use of the facility during term time for education use
- 5.2 Ask the Director of Community Services to procure and then agree terms with a provider for a BTEC course.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

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