



Title of Report:	Sport & Wellbeing Facilities Minor Capital Works / Floodlighting enhancement to MUGA sites in Ballykelly and Bushmills
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 October 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, healthy & engaged communities
Outcome	Citizens will have access to Council recreational facilities and protected natural environments which help them to develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health.
Lead Officer	Head of Sport & Wellbeing

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£56,000 (estimate)
Included in Current Year Estimates	NO
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

To request Members' permission to install floodlights at two recently constructed MUGAs.

2.0 Background

The Rural Development Plan 2014-2020 / Village Renewal Programme has been developed for a number of villages through a series of reviews of existing/previous village plans, analysis of current levels of service and consultations with local groups.

The consultations identified a particular deficit in health and wellbeing service provision, including issues of concern raised around access to (health) services, mental and emotional wellbeing, lack of provision for young people, including a need for detached youth work and work with disengaged young people.

For some villages the renewal plans included the construction of a number of MUGA projects aimed at providing outdoor space that would be used to cater for the local community, including families and inter-generational relations, in the form of all-weather recreational spaces.

The scope of the external (RDP) funding for the projects did not allow for floodlighting of the MUGAs to be included in the overall cost of the construction programme. However, Council's Infrastructure team did ensure that the utilities element of the construction would safeguard "future-proofing" through inclusion of electrical conduit /cables should there a decision be taken to enhance the schemes in the future.

3.0 Current position

Council Officers have since identified two MUGA projects requiring enhancement which will allow local community efforts to engage with young people to be further supported by increasing access to recreational and sporting opportunities.

Due to the lack of floodlighting at Ballykelly and Bushmills MUGAs, usage opportunities are restricted to daylight hours only. The addition of floodlighting will greatly enhance the sports and youth participation opportunities in the areas.

It is also to be expected that as greater usage value is recognised locally, additional opportunities can be explored which can extend the social, environmental and health benefits for the villagers, across all generations.

4.0 Budget

The associated cost of the MUGA lighting schemes is circa £28,000 per site (based on previous tender prices for comparable projects).

The budget from which the cost will be allocated is the 'Estates Life Cycle Budget', which is the Estates' annual budget set aside for capital expenditure for upgrade works of Council facilities.

5.0 Next Steps

If approval is given for this Minor Capital Works report, Officers will seek to progress with planning permission for the lights, with a likely approval stipulation being that the lights will not operate beyond 11pm.

Officers will ensure through lighting design, that efficient low energy bulbs will be used to reduce operational costs. Some further work is required around the most effective options to manage switching the lights on and off, with timers and/or tokens being considered as potential outcomes.

Subject to Council's agreement, Sport and Wellbeing and Council's Estates department will tender the works (with results of tender process being brought back to Committee) and aim to

complete the works within a 3-month period of Council's decision and relevant planning approvals.

6.0 Recommendation

Members are requested to approve the progression of these two projects with anticipated expenditure of £56,000 as listed in this report.