

## EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

*At a Special meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Tuesday, 9 August 2011 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Scott, D. Parr and C. Patino

Also in attendance: None

### ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE

*Action*

The report was originally placed on the Agenda in Part II as it contained confidential information relating to a third party.

The Chief Executive advised that the Third party had indicated his consent to placing this information in the public domain, thereby enabling the report to be considered as a Part I item should the Sub Committee so wish.

The Sub Committee agreed to consider the following item of business in Part I of the meeting.

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD, LEISURE AND SPORT PORTFOLIO**

##### **ES23 RE-FURBISHMENT OF STADIUM PITCH**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, on proposals for the refurbishment and replacement of the Stobart Stadium Pitch to an all weather Third Generation (3G) artificial pitch.

The Sub Committee was advised that the current pitch was a traditional sand based grass pitch. Careful monitoring of usage had been critical to ensure that it did not get overused and damaged. This had led to the refusal of requests from various amateur and local organisations to use the pitch, which had resulted in a loss of potential

income for the Stadium.

Members noted that the Rugby Football League had agreed in principle to a request by the Widnes Vikings to convert the present pitch to a 3G pitch, and that this request had been seen by the League as innovative and forward thinking.

Members were advised that a 3G pitch looked like natural grass with similar playing characteristics, providing all weather facilities.

As the Vikings had been successful in their application for a Super League licence for a three year period commencing in February 2012, its introduction would help facilitate their need for additional training sessions at the Stadium in order for them to fully compete in the League from 2012.

The report outlined the proposed financial arrangements for funding the installation of the new pitch, together with the projected net savings and potential future income stream generated by the improved facilities.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposal that the stadium pitch be converted to a 3G pitch be agreed in principle; and
- (2) delegated authority be granted to the Strategic Director, Communities in conjunction with the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood, Leisure and Sport, the Chief Finance Officer and the Chief Legal Officer, to conclude all legal and financial arrangements to put into effect the recommendations contained within the report.

Strategic Director,  
Communities

**MINUTES ISSUED: 11 August 2011**

**CALL IN: 18 August 2011**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub Committee may be called in no later than 18 August 2011**

*Meeting ended at 9.38 a.m.*