



'Excellence together'

24 September 2021

Mrs Annie Child
Salisbury City Council
The Guildhall
Salisbury
SP1 1JH

Dear Annie,

Thank you for taking the time out to consider the grant proposal.

I refer to our previous communications regarding the request for funding from Salisbury City Council to help Magna Learning Partnership with the development of the 3G FTP at Sarum Academy.

Attached is a full copy of the business case for your attention and for ease of reference. This project when functional will not require revenue funding, it will be fully sustainable. It will be a fantastic community asset that will service hundreds of local people each week.

National Football Facilities Strategy

The National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) set out the Football Association (FA's) ambition to transform England's grassroots game over the next 10 years. As part of the program the Country has been divided into the 326 local authorities with a bespoke Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) developed for each area. These plans set out to create a national roadmap intended to provide better football facilities and in particular the structured development of purpose built 3G football turf pitches (FTP) playing surfaces.

The aim is to support and promote the growing interest in physical activity as well as helping more people participate in our National Game at grassroots level, by improving their physical and mental health. It aims to empower young people and strengthen local communities with a common cause.

The Football Foundation through its three funding partners - The Premier League, The FA and the Government have all committed funds to deliver these plans however, there is a need to work closely with local authorities and local partners to ensure they become a reality.

The funding partners have significantly increased investment to accelerate efforts to deliver more and better facilities for the grassroots game. The purpose of this plan is to identify priority projects for potential investment with the intention of:

- Working with clubs and partners to provide access to appropriate high-quality facilities
- Increasing the quantity of provision of, and levels of access to 3G FTP pitches for training and match play
- Improving and enhancing the facilities to help sustain/grow women's and girls' football
- Improving and enhancing the facilities to help sustain/grow disability football
- Providing opportunities to support informal provision and recreational play

The LFFP for Wiltshire have specifically identified Salisbury as their priority area for investment, and Sarum Academy is a key site for the first 3G FTP in the City. There is currently a strategic need for 2.7 pitches.

Sarum Academy was identified following extensive consultation with all local partners including Wiltshire Council and Salisbury City Council.

Needs Analysis

As Salisbury does not currently have a 3G FTP facility – it has a significant impact on the ability of local grass roots football groups to train in adverse weather conditions. The closest comparable site can be found at Bulford; however, this is owned by the MOD which provides limited use to the community not least through entry restrictions.

Access to suitable alternative facilities in the area is very limited and demand for them remains oversubscribed. In short, the present system simply is not capable of coping with the high level of requests it receives particularly during the winter months or inclement weather conditions, and we owe it to our local community to address this challenge.

The knock-on effect is that many of our young teams are left with no alternative but to travel long distances, often in adverse conditions outside the area to secure suitable venues, or even drop out of the game completely.

The objective now is to provide a sustainable solution within Salisbury capable of supporting the present shortfall, whilst also enabling grassroots football to flourish within the socially disadvantaged areas of the City.

Capital Funding

Although Capital funding is generously provided by the Football Foundation, we are required as a matter of course to support any Grant by match funding to receive it.

The following is a breakdown of the projected cost:

3G FTP (tender cost):	(£725,000)
Football Foundation Grant (Secured)	(£525,000)
Landfill Grant (Secured)	(£ 10,000)
MLP & Crowd funding grant	<u>(£ 30,000)</u>
Projected shortfall	(£160,000)

You will see that the Football Foundation has agreed to provide the bulk of the funding required in line with high latent demand in the area. A further £40,000 has already been pledged though external groups, leaving a project shortfall of £160,000.

Present Position

MLP have been working tirelessly alongside Wiltshire FA to deliver this first-class facility to Salisbury. However, under normal circumstances MLP would not be able to offer financial support because capital allocated to them is primarily intended for educational purposes only.

Nevertheless, a proposal was recently submitted and approved by the Board of Trustees of MLP requesting their assistance to provide temporary support from their capital reserves to cash flow the project shortfall. The funding is based on a loan over 8 years that must be repaid using surplus funds from the facility business plan.

Under Football Foundation rules surplus funds generated from any capital project of this nature must be reinvested back into maintaining the 3G FTP. We still need to identify a method of securing additional funds to help offset the burden to MLP and we are addressing these points currently with the Football Foundation. We will also continue to crowdfund over the coming months.

To assist with reducing the burden on MLP finances and supporting our continued efforts it is respectfully requested that consideration is given from Salisbury City Council to support a grant of £5,000. This is a fantastic opportunity to work alongside MLP, Wiltshire FA and the FF to deliver a sustainable solution to the local community.

Summary

Significant expenditure has already been committed on the project to arrive at this current position and construction commenced 13th September 21 with an expected completion of early January 22.

Planning permission was granted in 2019 to construct the complex at Sarum Academy, where we already have in place the infrastructure required to oversee, administer, and maintain the complex. The construction of this complex has been identified by the Local Football Facility Plan as a priority for Salisbury and is supported by the FA and the Government, and their impact on local communities cannot be underestimated.

We understand that all public funds must be prioritised, spent on projects that benefit a large proportion of the community and is subject to due diligence. We feel that this project clearly fits those criteria and will provide an enduring facility.

We were anticipating support from the Netherhampton Development planning group, however this development is currently in the outline planning phase and with pending changes to the S.106 funding program, it is too far down the road to support this project at this stage.

The 3G FTP at Sarum Academy will not only benefit over 3000 pupils in the local schools, but also a number of local community groups that encourage participation from disadvantaged socio-economic groups and local football clubs including, Salisbury Rovers FC, Salisbury FC Youth and Clarendon Juniors FC.

Demand for this facility will inevitably outstretch its maximum capacity because local interest has been phenomenal with enquiries. It is also clear the complex will have the ability to generate substantial returns over a short period of time fully justifying any initial investment and more. This would be the first 3G FTP to help support the grassroots game and recreational play across the City. It will also act as a major showpiece for Salisbury and put the City at the forefront of top class sporting facilities.

Your consideration towards this request for funding support is greatly appreciated by all those involved in the project.

Yours sincerely

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