

**To:** Councillor Mick Barry, Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Public Realm

**From:** Mike Carran, Assistant Director, Economic Growth, Culture and Leisure

**Cc:** Lee Heley, Corporate Director, Place and Economy and Kieran Charles, Sport and Leisure Operations Manager

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Councillor Barry,

### **Football Foundation Playzones Scheme**

Following submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Football Foundation Playzone scheme and receipt of a subsequent offer letter, this note sets out details of the scheme, to establish whether you are happy to agree for the Council to accept capacity funding of £25,000 and take the next steps.

The PlayZone Programme is a Football Foundation scheme aimed at tackling inequalities in physical activity and access to facilities by funding community-led spaces. Playzones are new outdoor mini pitches designed for football and other sports/activities with the view of prioritising target groups to be more active.

From the list of priority groups set out by the Football Foundation, the Council's expression of interest focussed on providing facilities for the following:

- *Lower socio-economic groups*
- *Disabled people and people with long term health conditions*

The Football Foundation have offered £25,000 of capacity funding, to the Council, which will take the project through a community engagement process and up to and including the submission of a full bid for up to 3 of these facilities to be installed at locations in the district. This would contribute to the Foundation's target of constructing 250 Playzones around the country by 2025. Although the EOI referred to 3 Playzones in Clacton, Harwich/Dovercourt and Walton, the actual number will be determined with the Football Foundation and partners prior to the community engagement process – so this could decrease or even increase, if appropriate and agreed by the Council.

As you are aware, the draft Sport and Activity Strategy recognises the need for more free to use facilities and activities in key areas around this district. If the funding is accepted, it would commit the Council to taking the project up to and including submission of a funding bid. It would not commit the Council any further. Locations for the proposed Playzones would be researched and agreed through the community engagement process. Subject to the Council agreeing to proceed, Active Essex have agreed to support the delivery of the community engagement.

Kind regards,

Mike Carran

Assistant Director, Economic Growth, Culture and Leisure

Phone: 01255 686689

Email: [mcarran@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:mcarran@tendringdc.gov.uk)

**To:** Mike Carran, Assistant Director, Economic Growth, Culture and Leisure

**From:** Councillor Mick Barry, Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Public Realm

**Cc:** Lee Heley, Corporate Director, Place and Economy and Kieran Charles, Sport and Leisure Operations Manager

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mike,

**Football Foundation Playzones Scheme**

Thank you for your memorandum dated 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 requesting my support to accept £25,000 of Football Foundation capacity funding for the Playzone Scheme.

I agree/ do not agree with the outlined process to accept the funding and progress the project up to and including submission of a planning application.

Kind regards,

Cllr Mick Barry  
Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Public Realm