



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC24/071

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Play Facilities, Ise Estate
Wards Affected:-	Ise

**1. Purpose of Report**

To seek approval to advance fund the provision of goal posts on the Ise estate .

**2. Recommendations**

**It is recommended** that the Town Council seek funding from NNC to fund two sets of goal posts on the Ise estate.

**3. Information**

- 3.1. The Council has been asked if it would submit an application to NNC's member empowerment fund to fund two sets of goals for installation on the Ise valley open space.
- 3.2. Because NNC's member empowerment fund does not allow it to grant aid itself for services and facilities, it is necessary for a third party – through the relevant members – to submit an application for funding.
- 3.3. In this case, NNC Cllrs Bunday and Prentice are jointly funding the acquisition of two goal posts for installation this summer, at a cost of £6500. NNC will make a grant of the money to Kettering Town Council who will then be the owners of the goalposts, even though they will be sited on NNC land. This is a similar arrangement to the one underpinning the new speed device on Thurston Drive.
- 3.4. The Council therefore will need to raise a purchase order and potentially make payment for the posts before it receives the grant from NNC. After that, it would be responsible for any maintenance costs.
- 3.5. To ensure this process does not unduly place costs on KTC, it has been agreed that

- NNC would install the goal posts
- NNC would issue a licence for the posts to be erected on NNC land
- NNC would carry out any minor repairs or maintenance required

3.6. NNC have used similar goal posts elsewhere which they say - over ten years – have not required any maintenance.

3.7. The location intended for the goal posts has recently flooded and it may be some time before any installation can be completed. The order period for any posts is 6-8 weeks.

3.8. The goal posts are intended to provide a focus and some structured facilities for young people on the Ise estate, who have been causing some damage to other facilities such as the bowls green in their quest for somewhere to play football.

#### **4. Consultation and Engagement**

There has been an identified need for play facilities of all kinds on the Ise for some time.

#### **5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications**

5.1. The Council does still have £7000 in its budget, originally to help fund a new play area, so if the Council does need to pay out before it receives an NNC grant, it can do so without drawing – temporarily – on reserves.

5.2. It is possible that expenditure might occur in this financial year with a grant not being received until the next.

5.3. Whilst it is not ideal to have something owned and insured by the Town Council on someone else's land, NNC written assurances about a licence to occupy and general care of the facility will minimise the risk.

#### **6. Climate change implications**

None specifically. Any repeated flooding of the area will render the posts unusable for part of each year.

#### **7. Policy Implications**

The Council's policy is to support the provision of facilities for young people, especially if it avoids damage or anti-social behaviour occurring.

#### Background Papers

Email correspondence with NNC and NNC members