

## **ADDENDUM REPORT PLANNING COMMITTEE 22 April 2010**

**Item: 10**

**Site: Longcause School, Longcause, Plymouth**

**Ref: 10/00010/FUL**

**Applicant: Mr Mike Jelly**

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Members are advised that the Headteacher of the School has written in support of the application stating that the current sport facilities are inadequate; the facility will provide all weather space for sport all year round as well as delivering more on-site activities; it will reduce trips to off-site sports facilities; Autistic Spectrum Disorder pupils will be able to develop physically, emotionally and socially by participating in a number of activities. The sports facility will allow Longcause pupils to integrate with other schools across the city and will benefit pupils and the wider community.

30 letters of support were received recently. These collectively raise points already referred to in the Officer's report, as well as the following related/additional points:

- The scheme provides better access to physical activity, improves exercise.
- Improves experience of a range of sports – the existing hall is too small for some sports.
- Improves health and well being of students – Longcause pupils tend to be physically inactive outside school and they need to have the opportunity to exercise at school.
- Improves gross motor skills for students with difficulties.
- Enables further extra-curricular opportunities.
- The reduction in off-site travelling increases learning time.
- Facility can be used for break and lunchtime clubs to run.
- The facility would be available for other groups and schools as well as disabled pupils.
- Pupils at the school have special educational needs and the existing facilities are far from adequate.

An additional plan has also been submitted, which shows the existing vehicle turning area within the school site.

Sport England has commented on the scheme and from what they can ascertain the site is not 'playing fields'. If a 'playing pitch' has been laid out on the site within the last 5 years then Sport England would be a statutory consultee. However, providing that the said facility is open to the wider community in perpetuity and adequately maintained Sport England would not, if they were a statutory consultee, raise objections to the application, because the proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields. Otherwise Sport England's Planning Policy Objective 7 supports the development of new facilities that will secure opportunities to take part in sport, and which can be achieved in a way that meets sustainable

development objectives. They conclude that the proposal appears to accord with this policy and that it receives their support in principle.

The recommended decision and conditions on this application are unchanged as a result of the above.