



GUIDANCE NOTE June 2022

Your School Your Club Enhancing Club & Community Use of School Sports Facilities

BACKGROUND

Your School Your Club is an initiative to help promote community use of school sports facilities. The opening of the school sports estate to community and club use will have a major impact on the provision of sports facilities throughout Northern Ireland. Your School Your Club seeks to develop strategic partnerships in order to revitalise existing sports facilities or to develop new/additional provision. The Your School Your Club Joint Working Group is governed by the Department for Communities (DfC); current membership includes DfC, Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), District Councils, Department for Education (DE), Education Authority (EA) and Sport Northern Ireland.

INVESTMENT

Sport Northern Ireland, on behalf of the Your School Your Club Joint Working Group is seeking to establish a list of potential projects that would benefit from support and funding during 2022/23 financial year.

At the time of the release of this Your School Your Club Expression of Interest there is no confirmed capital budget for the 2022/23 financial year.

Successful projects will be predicated on the principle that schools involved are committed to making their sports facilities accessible to sports clubs/local community organisations subject to the provision of fit for purpose and appropriate (sports) infrastructure.



Your School Your Club projects will provide appropriate sports facility infrastructure to enable schools to open their sports facilities to these community organisations/clubs.

ELIGIBILITY

Potential Your School Your Club projects must meet the following eligibility criteria;

- Be situated in a school facility that is not listed for closure in the next 25 years (DE/EA Area Plans);
- Identified need for the facility within council's local area reports or;
- Identified need for the facility (e.g. Local Area Sports Report, the Community Plan, Local Development Plan, School Development Programme etc)*;

**The Joint Working Group would particularly welcome projects from rural areas due to facility shortage.*

Projects seeking investment in 2022/23 Financial Year;

- Must submit an Expression of Interest by Noon on Monday 11th July 2022;
- Must be able to demonstrate the following 'state of readiness' criteria:
 - Planning Permission granted – submit a copy of the approval (green form) with the Expression of Interest;
 - Planning permission application – submit your planning reference number with the Expression of Interest;
 - Tenure arrangements in currently in place for at least 25 years;
 - Written approval from the schools Board of Governors, Managing Authority, and local Council; and
 - Partnership funding in place.
- Must be completed on site by 31st March 2023.



Projects seeking investment from Your School Your Club are invited to submit an Expression of Interest if all information listed above is available.

Project Type Eligibility:

The Your School Your Club Joint Working Group will consider the following project types; *(Please note that this list is not exhaustive)*

- Enhancement of a school sport facility e.g. a sports hall or tennis court surface;
- Enhancement of safety and accessibility to school facilities e.g. fencing, lighting, alarms and electronic access systems;
- **Upgrade** of school pitches* including floodlight installation (training or full sized);
- Floodlighting to existing synthetic pitches (training or full sized);
***upgrade of a grass pitch to a synthetic pitch or synthetic pitch to a higher standard.**

The Your School Your Club Joint Working Group will not consider the following project types; *(Please note that this list is not exhaustive)*

- Small Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) or play parks will not be eligible.

FUNDING THRESHOLDS

The Your School Your Club Joint Working Group will consider funding decisions on a project-by-project basis within the following parameters;

- While there is no minimum investment threshold, Sport Northern Ireland will take Value for Money and additionally into account in assessing projects;
- For larger projects partnership funding will normally be required;
- The Your School Your Club Joint Working Group is particularly interested in Expressions of Interest for projects in, and/or benefitting, rural areas.



EXAMPLE PROJECTS

Example 1. Council identifies a lack of playing pitches. The Council approaches the local School to ask school to open their synthetic pitch to club/community use in the evenings and at the weekend, with the Council managing out of hour's usage. School agrees and an expression of interest is submitted to Your School Your School seeking funding for floodlights.

Example 2. A Club requires an indoor hall for training and games. The club approaches a School to ask for access to their hall in the evenings and weekend. The School agrees and an expression of interest is submitted to Your School Your Club seeking funding for new access doors, alarms and changing room upgrades.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Expressions of Interest are invited for school projects that meet the criteria of this programme before the deadline of Noon on Monday 11th July 2022.

CONTACT

Sport Northern Ireland is acting as the lead contact for the Your School Your Club Steering Group. For further information please contact Conor McCartan and Kevin Courtney by email - yourschoolyourclub@sportni.net