

Community Asset Transfer	Community Transfer Body (CTB) : Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO SCO47883)	Type of Request : Ownership
Application :	Skilz Academy	
Location :	Astro Turf Pitch and Ground, Arbroath Sports Centre, Keptie Road, Arbroath DD11 3BN UPRN: Council Site 7802	

The Proposal

Skilz Academy is a local charity that seeks to improve the lives and opportunities of the people who live within the areas that we operate by using sport and physical activity as a medium. The group currently work in partnership with Active Schools Angus to deliver various free sessions including a UV Sports Programme and Street Football Programme. At present there is not a suitable and affordable location to carry out various planned projects within Arbroath. The group are a well established, trusted charity with great local support within the community, this was recently demonstrated by success in gaining £48,998 worth of funding through the peoples project. The peoples projects is a UK wide funding initiative run by the National Lottery that offered a share of £3 million pounds of funding to selected charities. Within the group’s region, STV North, they were successful by placing 1st in the public vote with 2837 votes followed by, Light it up Ullapool 2261 votes, Active Lives 2142, Buckie Community Theatre 2036 votes and lastly Dundee Football Club in the Community with 1307 votes. <https://www.thepeoplesprojects.org.uk/projects/region/stv-north> These funds will allow the group to continue to work in the community and allow the offer of free sessions to as many young people as possible.

Arbroath is the largest town within Angus with a population of 31,898 (Figures from Arbroath & Area Locality Plan 2017) and is the only major town in Angus where the general population cannot access an affordable, safe and modern astroturf surface year round. This is having a detrimental outcome for those local groups and individuals who would utilise a surface if available in all weathers, year round.

Arbroath Sports Centre Astroturf Pitch

The current surface is a sand based 2G surface which is only suitable for hockey and football and was first installed in 2004 meaning it has been in place for nearly 15 years. The maximum life span of the average astroturf surface is 8 years meaning that the current pitch is long overdue for replacement. As a result of the condition of the current surface the vast majority of local sports clubs refuse to use it as it is deemed unsafe and dangerous, it is also prone to flooding rendering it unusable for large portions of the year. Current usage is approximately 3-5 hours a week for 8-9 months while the pitch is unused completely for 3-4 months a year. In this application Skilz Academy seek to take ownership of the surface and adjacent land and if successful will develop the facility in a series of phases over a period of time to provide a community hub. By completing the facility in stages it is more economically viable with the facility essentially paying for its own development through profits raised.

Phase 1

Removal of the existing surface and surrounding fence which will be replaced with a brand new 3G surface and new fencing. This will provide a surface that is usable in all weathers and will be available for community use all year round. Construction of a small covered area to be used as an outdoor classroom/space for community use.

Phase 2

Replacement of existing floodlights which are coming to the end of their lifespan with new low energy LED lights.

Phase 3

In consultation with Angus Council and all groups, Skilz Academy would eventually seek to design and build a community building adjacent to the pitch for the use of the community. This building will house toilets, changing rooms, meeting room/classroom and office space. It is anticipated that this phase will not commence until year 3 at the earliest. Whilst Skilz Academy seek ownership of and would take a lead in the fundraising/development of the new surface, the facility would be available for the wider community, acting as a sports hub that Arbroath can be proud of. Below is an outline of just some of the activities and organisations that the new facility would be utilised by; reaching the widest demographic of our community.

Planned activities

- Creation of a focal sports surface for Arbroath & surrounding areas.
- Partnerships with local schools to provide extended term time access.
- Girls Only Sports Programme
- Fit & Fed school holiday hungry prevention programme.
- Soccer Saturday Programme
- Expansion of our current free Street Football Programme for primary aged children.
- Expansion of current youth diversionary projects.
- Employability & Volunteering Programme.
- Skilz Football Academy Programme.
- Partnership with Active Schools for creation of pre-school and homework clubs.
- Employment of Community Officer to work with schools and external groups to ensure continued community involvement with all user groups.
- STEM & Sports Programme to encourage those disengaged from main stream education.
- First Touches (pre-school classes) to encourage an early interest in sport & recreation. Fundamentals Program (pre-school programme teaching skills such as literacy through play) - Expansion of our current work with the Prince's Trust and Young Carers groups.
- Improvement of mental health and wellbeing, a proven benefit of sport & recreation.
- Partnership with Arbroath Harp to provide over 35s football opportunities.- Used by Dundee & Angus College
- Reinstatement of Midnight Football which previously provided free drop in football sessions for local youths and showed a major decrease in instances of anti-social behaviour.
- Reinstatement of adult 5 a-side leagues.
- Partnership with Arbroath Walking Football to increase uptake of sport in over 50s.
- Partnership with Scottish Rugby to improve training facilities and increase in provision.

Community Benefit (from application submitted)

These projects will provide a number of key benefits for the community and will allow Skilz Academy to work in line with the group's Strategic Plan (available in Elected Members Sharepoint area) and promote charitable aims of, Public Participation in sport and organisation of recreational activities. Creation of School Programmes promoting equality and inclusion by encouraging participation in programmes that target the dis-advantaged

and vulnerable. Removal of barriers to participation including economical, social and lack of ability.

Benefits to the Community

- Tackling inequality
- Increase in capacity to offer different sports and activities.
- Increase the opportunity for local grassroots football teams such as ACSC, St Murdochs and Arbroath Lads club to offer places to children aged 5-19.
- Offer local sports clubs such as rugby, athletics, tots tennis, athletics an opportunity to utilise the surface to increase membership.
- Increase in capacity to offer walking football for senior members of the community.
- Creation of school programmes (STEM, Friday afternoon sports, breakfast & homework clubs)
- First class surface available for use of Arbroath High School and surrounding schools during the school day.
- Increase in employment and volunteering opportunities.
- Increase in public health, both physical and mental.
- Lowering of instances of anti-social behaviour through diversionary programmes and education. (Already Police Scotland can show statistical evidence of the success of our programmes with a reduction in youth calls during our operational times.)
- Promotion of social inclusion through sport, recreation and education
- Build social capacity and a sense of place.
- Raise community aspiration
- Creation of sports hub by working in partnership with other organisations and community groups by utilising a user centred approach.
- Increase in opportunity for the whole community.
- Creation of the only certified rugby training pitch in Angus resulting in increased visitors to Arbroath.
- Working in partnership with local charity Reach Across to create a programme based around mental health and sport.

Benefits of Proposal (from application submitted)

Skilz Academy's strategic plan calls for a user centred approach to the planning and delivery of their activities, and the development and maintenance of this new centre will mirror this approach. Skilz will seek consultation with individuals and groups within the community, and cogitate how best to utilise the facility to reach and benefit the widest community. Whilst the groups consultation will include seeking the views of local sports organisations/groups and statutory services Skilz also wish to explore how the general public would be able to access it, reaching out to those who may not be able to afford the sometimes great costs of sports clubs, but who still wish to access excellent sport e.g 5-a-side football.

Skilz Academy as a two-teir SCIO is capable of having both organisations and individuals as members and will seek to encourage as many individuals and organisations to take up membership. By working in this way, every member has the ability to decide how best to use the new facility to benefit the entire community.

Skilz Academy will be the custodians but the facility will truly be owned by the Community.

Capacity to Deliver (from application submitted)

Skilz Academy has a demonstrated history of delivering projects that benefit our community and in Arbroath currently works with in excess of 200 young people every week with a further 100 plus young people in Dundee. The group have a strong working relationship with Active Schools Angus as well as working with many other organisations such as TCA, The Prince's Trust and Arbroath Football Club to name a few.

All the trustees reside within Angus and are committed to growing the charity so that it can improve the communities and the lives of the people who live within them. The trustees have unique skills that when placed together form a very strong board with abilities that the group feel are key to establishing the success of this project.

Skilz board is made up of business people who have extensive experience of managing projects of this scale and with access to an extensive network of contacts capable of assisting the project to meet its goals. A professional Accountant who is a partner with a well known local company who is capable of financially managing the project. PE Teachers who work in Arbroath schools and have excellent links with local organisations and are uniquely placed to ensure that our projects are fit for purpose and meet the needs of the young people we work with. Other professionals who work within charitable organisations and are highly experienced at working with young people.

Funding (from application submitted)

Securing funding for this project will be difficult and time consuming but Skilz Academy is in the fortunate position of having an experienced, dedicated fund raiser who has a proven track record of delivering funding to the organisation. This key ability means the organisation is best placed to secure the funding required to upgrade the pitch, on behalf of the community.

Skilz Academy have been awarded funding from Just Enterprise to be supported in this application by their XXXX Millar who has assisted in delivering similar projects throughout Scotland. XXX has been a key contributor to this project and has been able to help the group produce a robust business case and assist with the developmental planning stages. Fraser will continue to provide Skilz with ongoing support as it moves forward.

Skilz membership of over 300 people covers a large group of the community and these members offer various skills and abilities that will be utilised if required.

Skilz have been advised by XXX Fraser who is regional director at Tarkett Sports and a board member at Arbroath Victoria JFC. XXX has a vast experience of projects such as this and has advised on hundreds of such projects throughout Europe. XXX has given his time freely to advise Skilz on the best and most cost effect solutions before the need to approach contractors with details of the project and will continue to offer his support on a pro-bono basis.

Rugby Scotland are fully supportive of this project and will offer assistance in all phase of the program, Rugby Scotland are a large national organisation who are highly experienced at supporting projects of this nature.

Note – an update on how fund raising is progressing has been sought from Skilz Academy.

TABLE INSERTED

Business Plan

A copy of the Business Plan from Skilz Academy for the project is attached as **Annex A**.

Level and Nature of Support

Skilz Academy has made contact with many local organisations and the level of support has been simply incredible and has shown there is a definite need for the upgrading of the present surface to create a first class facility suitable for multiple sports and groups to use.

Every local youth and adult football team,, including Arbroath Lads Club; ACSC, Arbroath Vics, Shotz; Arbroath Harp and St Murdochs have provided letters of support. Together these local teams number over 1000 players who will directly benefit from this project.

Skilz Academy have been contacted by Andy Cummings from Scottish Rugby with support for the project and with the hope that rugby clubs throughout Angus can use the surface for training as no such surface exists. The support extends to funding opportunities as well as expertise.

Local MSP Graeme Dey has provided his support to the project and has already assisted with various funding opportunities for Skilz Academy to pursue.

Police Scotland are supportive of the project and hope to utilize the surface in partnership with Skilz Academy and other organisations to run diversionary activities to help prevent the large volume of your anti-social behaviour instances within Arbroath.

Given their close location to the venue Dundee & Angus College will seek to utilise the surface and work in partnership with Skilz Academy as they have done in Dundee with Craigie Community Sports Hub.

These groups of users are by no means exhaustive but are a representation of the level of support that exists for this project within Arbroath.

At present potential users must travel large distances to use facilities such as the one planned and other similar facilities in Angus are generally fully booked showing a definite need for a facility of this type. Further the previous planned development at Seaton Park which failed due to lack of funding demonstrated the desire by the people of Arbroath for a facility of this kind.

The only other surface similar to the one planned within the Arbroath geographical area is located within RM Condor which is situated outside of the town and is not on a bus route. The pitch is constantly booked but has issues with access as it is only accessible by car and is located on an active military base which has restricted access by its very nature. These issues mean that large portions of our community simply cannot access the surface.

Skilz have included a selection from the numerous letters of support that this project has received and can provide a further amount in excess of 1,000 should this be required.

Appendix 1 to Report 151/20

Letters of Support received at application stage : <u>36</u>	Letters of Objection received at application stage : <u>0</u>
Letters of Support received at public consultation stage : <u>0</u>	Letters of Objection received at public consultation stage : <u>0</u>

<u>Scoring from Council Assessment</u> Community benefit (Score out of 90) : <u>55.2</u> Financial Assessment (Score out of 52) : <u>26.4</u>	Proposed price as set Community transfer body; £100
	What are the rights you are requesting? Access rights for users of the surface will need to be agreed in consultation with Angus Council. Contractor will require exclusive and unrestricted access to the area for the period of the removal and installation of the new surface

The diagram below shows the outcome from the best value assessment based on the community benefit and financial assessment scores. This shows a score in the green area meaning the proposal is likely to represent best value.

GRAPH INSERTED

The maps below show the location of the asset being sought for transfer.

MAPS INSERTED