**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider a ‘support for sport’ application from Volleyball England, to effectively continue the financial support that Kettering Borough Council currently provides to Volleyball England, linked to a new four year specification which delivers specific community benefits.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2.1 On 16th September 2009, the Executive Committee agreed new criteria against which applications for ‘support for sport’ funding would be evaluated. The criteria are still valid and are attached at Appendix A (for reference).

2.2 At the same Executive meeting in September 2009, the Committee considered a funding bid from Volleyball England against the new criteria and agreed to pay a grant of £30,000 to help bring the National Training and Competition Centre to Kettering (based at Kettering Conference Centre). The funding was to cover a period of 3 years and equated to financial support being provided of £10,000 per year for a three year period.

2.3 The initial three year period has now expired and Volleyball England has submitted a further ‘Support for Sport’ application to the Council. In effect, the request asks for a continuation of the current funding level but to cover a four year period rather than the previous three year one (ie, a total of £40,000 over the next four years 2013 to 2017).

**3**. **APPLICATION FOR SUPPORT FOR SPORT**

3.1 The application for support is attached as Appendix B.

3.2 If the application is agreed it will allow Volleyball England to build on the successes of the last 3 years and will be a particular focus for:

* Local community participation and volunteering opportunities in all forms of volleyball
* Domestic and international coach and referee education programmes
* Host domestic national team training camps
* Hosting major domestic volleyball events and competitions including senior and junior National finals
* Hosting international competition including junior indoor and senior sitting volleyball competition
  1. As was the case with the previous application in 2009, the submission meets the Council’s specific criteria.
  2. Any payment of grant would require a new service level agreement which would ensure that the community benefits are secured and that current users are retained. Preliminary thoughts have been given to using the skills and experience of Volleyball England in town centre events for example as part of Kettering by the Sea. Volleyball is already organising a ‘Go spike’ schools club tournament on Hall Meadow Park on 9 June. A service specification will be based on the outcomes which are in Appendix C attached.

**4. VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND**

4.1 The National Volleyball Centre (NVC) based at the Kettering Conference Centre, has been cited as a show piece example for the London 2012 legacy for volleyball in England.

4.2 The ‘home’ of volleyball in England has not only improved delivery standards at a national and local level but has also helped Volleyball England to establish itself as a key national federation on the international scene.

4.3 The NVC has hosted a range of international coach education courses, international training camps and local competitions for young people through the school games and major domestic competitions.

4.4 It is estimated that the presence of the NVC has helped attract 32,000 visitors to Kettering since 2009 with an estimated economic value of £2,000,000. Promotional material which includes the Kettering Borough Council branding has reached around 4.5million people, with the largest circulation figure coming from International coverage on Sky Sports News, December 2012 (2,459,000) demonstrating a potential for huge commercial value.

4.5 The NVC has recently been recognised by volleyball’s international federation the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) as a world Development Centre, making it the hub for international events. This which will bring Under 17 teams to Kettering from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland and the Faroe Islands. These Development Centres are intended to intensify international cooperation in volleyball and beach volleyball placing the NVC and Kettering firmly at the centre of volleyball development across Northern and Western Europe.

4.6 The facilities that are now provided at the NVC at Kettering Conference Centre include the following;

* A world class training hall with 4 international standard courts for indoor and sitting volleyball, kitted out with equipment used at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games
* A central show court with international standard lighting and seating for 500
* A double international standard beach volleyball court with legacy sand from the London 2012 Beach Volleyball event (Sand cost £32,558 with support grant of £60,750 totalling £93,308 from Volleyball England)
* State of the art classroom and resource centre
* On site dormitory space for up to 60 athletes and staff
* An athlete’s lounge and kitchen
* A weight training and cardiovascular area
* A recovery and treatment suite

1. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**
   1. The total amount requested by Volleyball England is £40,000 over the four period 2013 to 2017.
   2. This equates to financial support of £10,000 per year, the same amount as previously requested and approved.
   3. Based upon information submitted by Volleyball England, it is estimated that the financial support will enable just under £900,000 of external funding to be levered in - the total cost of the programme at NVC over the next four years is estimated to be £930,000.
   4. Therefore, the grant is just under 4.5% of the total. Other funding partners are FIVB and NSport but the largest contributions are £728,000 from Volleyball England Whole Sport Plan (Sport England) and £60,000 from the Volleyball core budget.
   5. Paragraph 4.4 outlined that estimated local economic benefits that locating the NVC in Kettering have brought. It is hoped that these can be built upon even further in the coming years for the benefit of the local community and businesses.
2. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The ‘support for sport’ application from Volleyball England is in line with existing Council Policy.

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Executive Committee is recommended to:

* 1. Approve the application from Volleyball England for funding of £40,000 over the period 2013 – 2017 subject to a revised satisfactory Service Level Agreement that continues to secure community benefits, protects current users and ensures that Kettering Borough Council support for Volleyball England is recognised
  2. Give delegated authority to the Head of Community Services to;
     1. Agree the details of the phasing of the grant payment over the four year period, and
     2. Finalise the Service Level Agreement and Service Specification