

Community Development Report

Committee Consideration – 11 February 2014
Council Resolution – 25 February 2014

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Committee	11 February 2014
Council	25 February 2014
Applicant	Associates Rugby Union Football Club
Officer	Anthony Minchin – Senior Community Development Officer Marion Granich – Manager Community Development
Director	Michael Cole – Director Corporate and Strategy
Director Signature	
File Reference	CMS/505
Previous Item	N/A

Executive Summary

This item concerns an application being made by Associates Rugby Union Football Club for funding support towards an upgrade of its clubrooms. The Club is applying for grants from the Department of Sport and Recreation and from Council, through the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund.

Recommendation to Committee

Council:

- a) **Advises the Department of Sport and Recreation that it endorses the Associates Rugby Union Football Club's Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund Application (February 2014 Small Grants Round); and**
- b) **Approves a grant of \$49,707 to Associates Rugby Union Football Club towards its facility upgrade, subject to the following conditions:**
 1. **Funding approval for the project is also provided by the Department of Sport and Recreation; and**
 2. **The Club meets all necessary building and planning approvals required.**

Strategic Plan

KFA: Community Development

This report concerns building community partnerships and enhancing the community's capacity to meet its own needs by supporting local community organisations and sporting clubs.

The City's Recreation Plan rates all sport types as Low, Medium or High priority, in terms of facility funding. The rating is arrived at by considering:

- demand for the sport (membership and membership trends); and
- supply (what facilities already exist within the City for this sport type).

Where there is a high demand to play the sport (evidenced by high and increasing membership) but a low level of facilities already provided for that sport within the City, then the rating will be High.

Where there is a low demand to play the sport (membership numbers are low and are on a downwards trend) and adequate existing facilities for that sport within the City of Nedlands, the sport will be rated as a Low priority.

These priority ratings in the Recreation Plan are not intended to reflect the *value* of any sport type. Each sport type is of great value to its members and the community as a whole. Rather, the Recreation Plan ratings of sport type are intended to provide Council with a way of ensuring that facility funding is targeted at the sport types with increasing participation and inadequate facilities. Targeting Council's limited facility dollar is particularly important in CSRFF funding rounds where there are numerous applications for Council's limited funds.

Background

CSRFF

The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) administers the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF). The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to sporting clubs, community groups and local government authorities to develop basic infrastructure for sport and recreation. The program aims to increase participation in sport and recreation, with an emphasis on physical activity, through rational development of sustainable, good quality, well designed and well utilised facilities.

The fund has three categories, shown below.

Table 1: CSRFF Grant Categories

Grant Category	Total Project Cost Range	Standard DSR Contribution	Frequency
Small Grants	\$7,500 - \$150,000	\$2,500 - \$50,000	Bi-annual
Annual Grants	\$150,001 - \$500,000 (maximum of this range increased from \$300,000)	\$50,001 - \$166,666	Annual
Forward Planning Grants	\$500,001+	\$166,667 - \$4 million	Annual

For applications to be supported by DSR, they must firstly be endorsed by the Local Government Authority. This endorsement may, or may not, include the provision of financial support by the local government authority. For approved projects, DSR will provide a grant of a maximum of 1/3 of the total project costs.

Associates Rugby Union Football Club

The Associates Rugby Football Club (Associates) was established in 1948 and incorporated in 1987. The club has been based at Allen Park since 1988, with their clubrooms located on the Allen Park upper oval. Since the clubrooms were established, further developments have been almost entirely funded by the club. It estimates that over the past 25 years this is valued at in excess of \$200,000.

The Club leases the upper pavilion from Council, the lease expiring in 2020. This lease entitles the club to exclusive use of the facility, on the condition that all maintenance is the club's responsibility. While the lease stipulates that the club is responsible for all maintenance, this does not preclude the club from being able to approach the City for a grant towards capital development.

While Associates is the main user of the facility and is entitled to exclusive use of it, they also allow use by other groups including Swanborne Cricket Club, WA Junior Rugby and various western suburbs schools.

Associates is now one of the largest rugby clubs in Western Australia with approximately 600 members this season, of which 250 are juniors (18 and under). Membership growth has been driven by increasing participation in rugby state-wide, particularly among adolescents, and the Club's success in developing young rugby players, some of which have gone on to play for the Super Rugby Team Franchise and Western Force.

Key Relevant Previous Council Decisions:

N/A

Consultation

Required by legislation: Yes No
Required by City of Nedlands policy: Yes No

Administration has liaised closely with Associates Rugby Union Football Club in the preparation of this application. The Club has completed a CSRFF grant application, which is available to Councilors on request from the CEO's office.

Legislation / Policy

Council's Capital Grants to Sporting Clubs Policy states that *"To ensure the financial support it provides to sporting clubs is effectively target, Council will consider the following key priorities:*

- 1. Multi-use: priority will be given to developing facilities that will be used by more than one sporting club or type, particularly where such clubs are not yet sharing facilities. This is to facilitate the intent of maximising efficiencies and encouraging clubs to share some facilities while still retaining each club's separate management and identity.*
- 2. Recreation Plan rating: priority will be given to supporting sports identified as a high priority in the City's Strategic Recreation Plan. The Strategic Recreation Plan provides a rating for each sport type, based on two factors: the demand to play that sport type and the facilities already provided for that sport type. These two factors result in a rating for each sport type as high, medium or low priority for facility development. Sport types with a high level of demand (growing membership) and a low level of existing facilities receive the highest rating.*
- 3. Other funding: priority will be given to projects that are eligible for funding for other government bodies such as the Department of Recreation's Community Sport and Recreation Development Fund (CSRFF) or Lotterywest funding. This is to facilitate the overall financial viability of the project and contribute most effectively to the upgrade of community facilities.*
- 4. Level of community benefit: priority will be given to projects that demonstrate a high level of benefit to the local City of Nedlands community. This will include, but is not limited to, City of Nedlands resident membership of the applicant sporting club (total and proportional), support for junior sport and the level of community access (i.e. by non club members and by community groups and organisations)."*

In general, DSR will fund up to 1/3 of the total cost of an approved project, with the remaining 2/3 to be funded by either the applicant or a combination of the applicant and the relevant local government authority. The City's usual practice is to fund up to 1/3 of an approved project.

Budget/Financial Implications

Within current approved budget: Yes No
 Requires further budget consideration: Yes No

Council allocated \$100,000 for expenditure on CSRFF grants to sporting clubs in the 2013/14 budget. Of this amount \$21,433 has been paid to the Western Suburbs Cricket Club for a CSRFF grant previously approved by Council. Therefore \$78,567 remains available for Council to allocate towards CSRFF grants to sporting clubs in the 2013/14 financial year.

There are two CSRFF funding rounds each financial year. This is the last CSRFF funding round for the 2013/14 financial year.

Risk Management

The main risk is the club is not successful in obtaining DSR funding. This risk would be reduced by Council support of the application.

A second risk is of the Club not completing the project or not completing it to the required standard. The control in place is that completed projects must be inspected and approved by the City before the DSR or Council funds are released.

Discussion

Table 1: Associate Rugby Union Football Club Membership 2014

Total membership	600
# members that are CoN residents	413 (69%)

In recent years the Club has felt the strain of inadequate facilities. Given the current growth trends and the need to provide better amenities to players and supporters of the club, development is required to update the existing facilities.

In particular the club has identified the need for more adequate male/female and disabled access restrooms to ensure the needs of all players and members of the local community are met. The club has also identified the need for improved kitchen and increased storage facilities for sporting equipment.

The proposed upgrade of the clubrooms will involve the following.

1. New female restrooms
 - New entrance at front of building rather than rear unlit entry
 - more suitable for larger match day crowds
 - Improved aesthetic appeal
2. New male restrooms
 - more suitable for larger match day crowds
 - Improved aesthetic appeal
3. New disabled Restroom
 - Fitted with shower, toilet for specific disabled access fittings

- Fitted with baby change table so it can double as a parents room if required
- 4. Kitchen Extension
 - Upgrade to ensure compliance with relevant health and safety standards
 - Increased food preparation and dry food storage area
 - Increased capacity for social events held at the club
- 5. New storage Area
 - Enclosed shed with roller door for safe storage of sporting equipment
 - Enclosed area for club bins and recycling waste

A plan of the proposed facility upgrade is shown at Attachment 1

Table 2: Project Costings

Funding Source	Proposed Contribution	Proposed Project Cost
Nedlands	\$49,707	\$149,121
DSR	\$49,707	
Associates	\$49,707	

The overall cost of the proposed project is \$149,121. The proposed works maximise the use of the current clubroom, building upon the footprint of the building and existing resources. The works will make full use of existing utilities, with current water and sewage lines only requiring minor adjustments to service the planned development. The works are within the club's leased area. The Club is requesting a grant of \$49,707 from Council and the same from DSR, with the Club itself providing the remaining 1/3.

Multi-use:

The proposed project aligns well with Council policy. While the facility is used mainly by Associates Rugby Club, there is some level of multi-use, with Associates allowing use by Swanbourne Cricket Club, WA Junior Rugby and various western suburbs schools.

Recreation Plan Rating:

The Recreation Plan rates rugby as a Low priority for facility funding. However, this Low rating was provided some 4 years ago. Since this time, state-wide participation in rugby has increased considerably. This increased participation in rugby is also reflected in Associate's increasing membership trend. Therefore, the City's Recreation Plan is to some extent outdated on this matter. Associates increasing membership and the inadequate nature of their clubrooms in terms of basic infrastructure (toilets, kitchen facilities) would suggest a higher priority rating.

Other Funding:

Associates are applying to DSR for funding. It is recommended that Council funding is conditional on the Club receiving DSR funding. With all three funding partners, the project will be viable, generating maximum physical activity benefit from a manageable amount being contributed by each partner.

Community Benefit:

This project has the capacity to generate a high level of community benefit to the City of Nedlands community. Over 400 of its members are City of Nedlands residents. The project will also benefit junior sport, particularly through the facility's use by WA Junior Rugby and by various schools in the western suburbs.

In summary, this building upgrade is for a cost-effective, modest, well-targeted upgrade that will genuinely provide for increased physical activity. The upgrade is essential if the Club is to continue to grow and provide for its members, as well as continuing to ensure a high standard of rugby is played in the local community.

Conclusion

Therefore it is recommended that Council approves grant funding of \$49,707 towards the upgrade of facility leased by Associates Rugby Union Football Club on Allen Park upper oval.

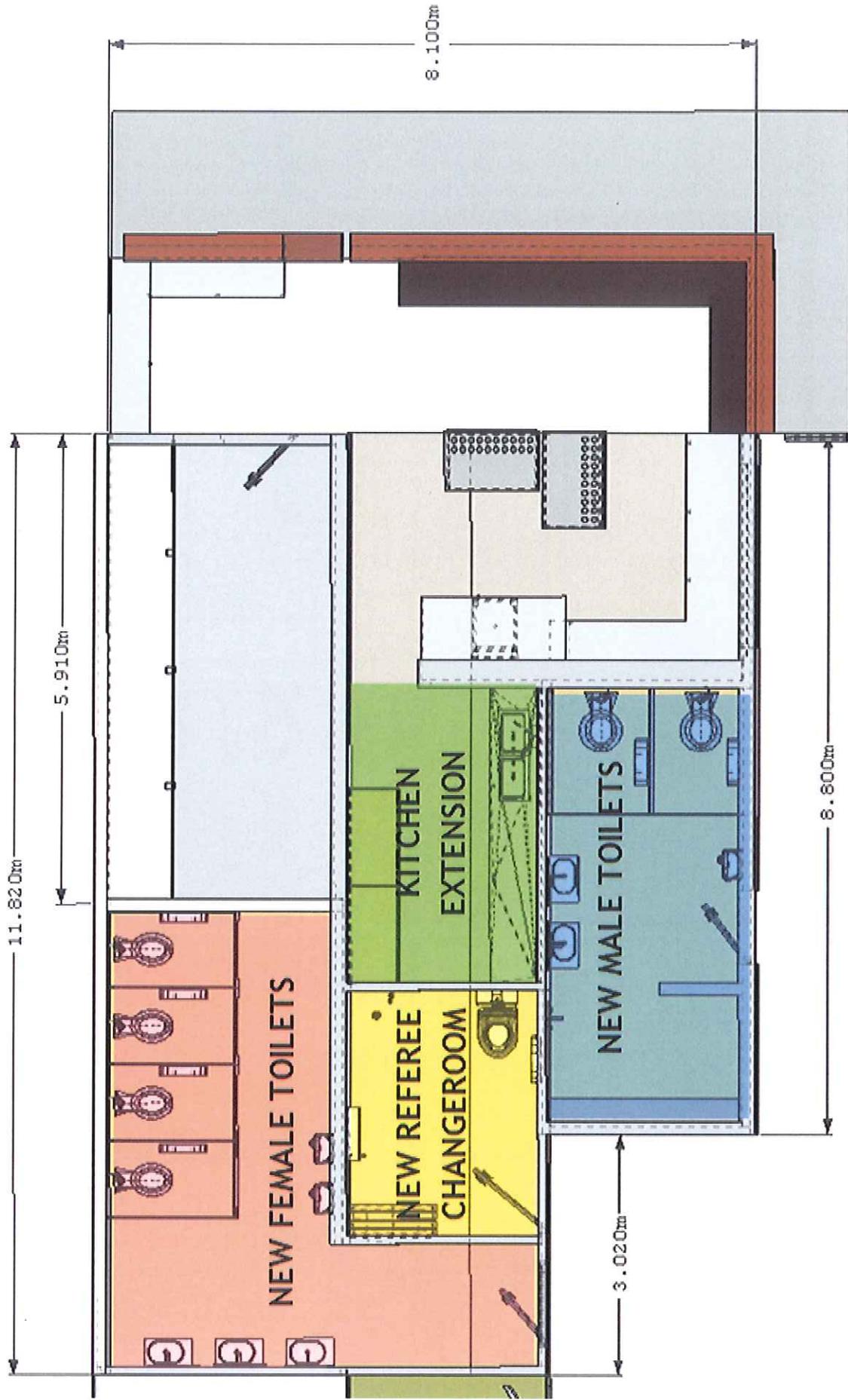
Support of this project will strengthen the likelihood of the club receiving funding from the Department of Sport and Recreation. It will also reinforce Council's position that supporting and developing sport and recreation infrastructure is essential for creating healthy communities.

Attachments

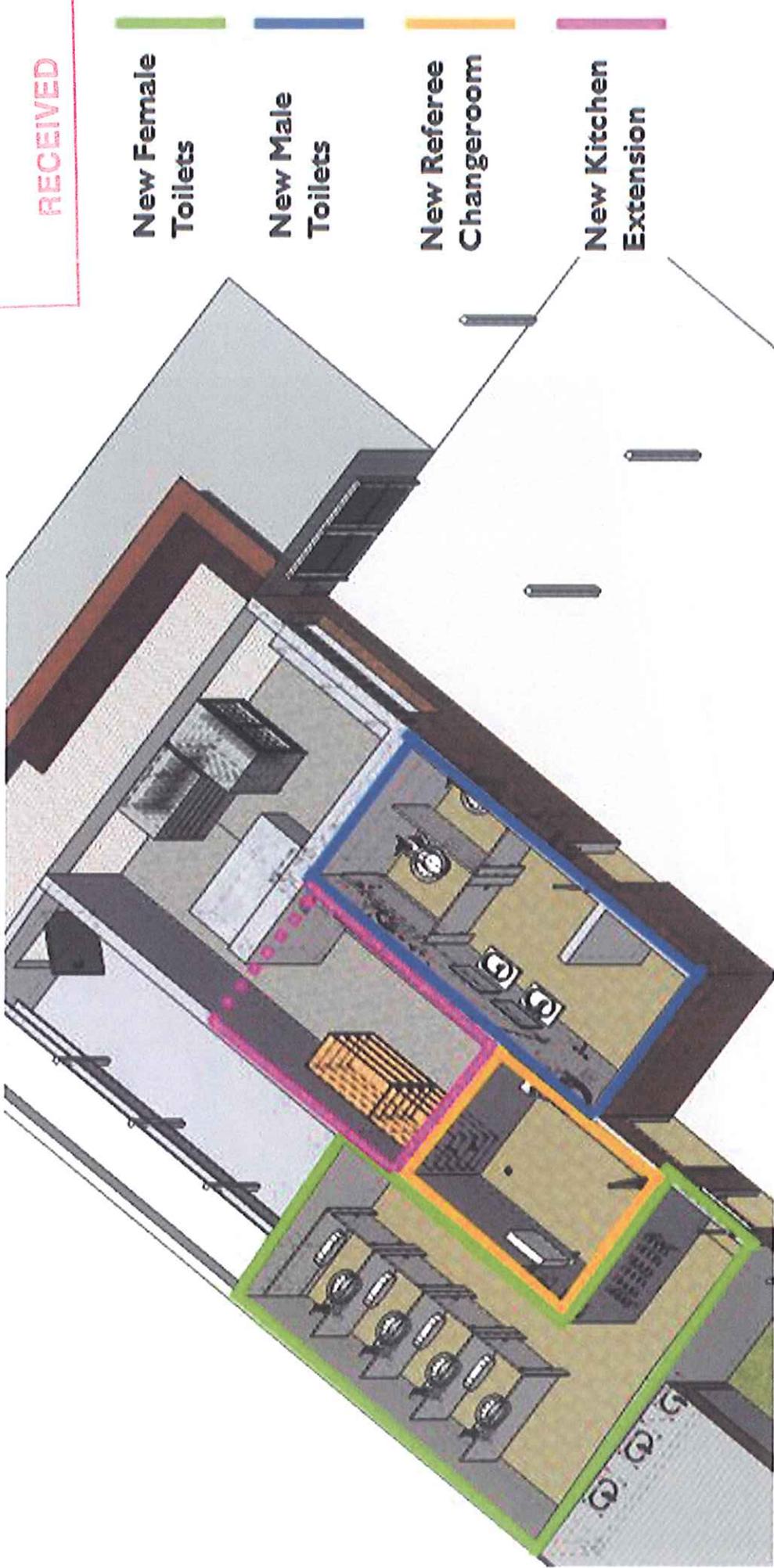
1. Proposed Facility Upgrade, Associates Rugby Union Football Club, CSRFF Application February 2014.

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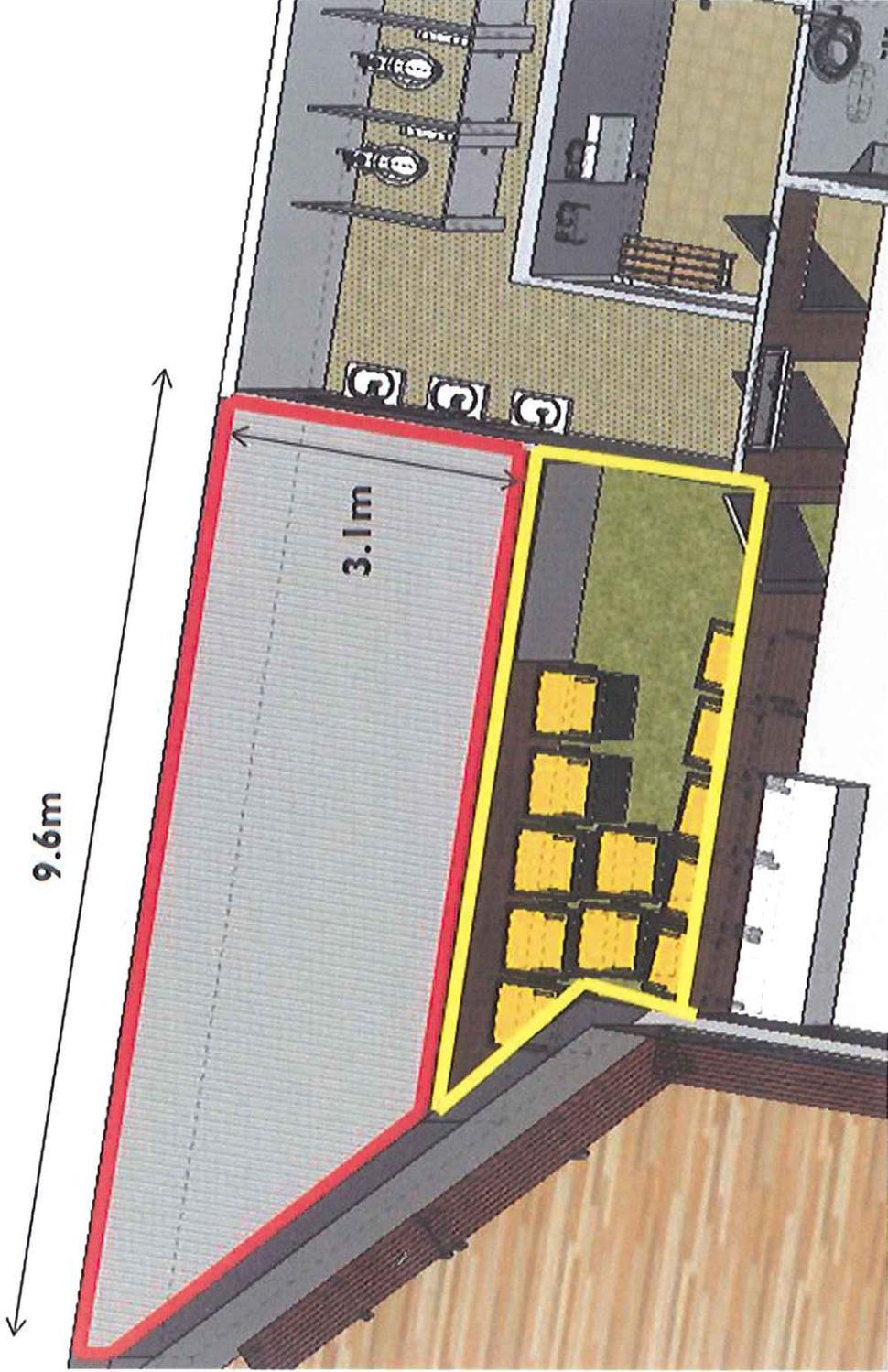


New Female Toilets

New Male Toilets

New Referee Changeroom

New Kitchen Extension



New Shed

Wheelie Bin
Storage Area