

APPENDIX E

Funding Plan and Grant Application Strategy

Sheepcot Recreation Ground Pavilion Refurbishment – Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

E1. Funding plan summary

The table below sets out all identified funding sources. The plan demonstrates that the project can be delivered within the net cost of £400,000 after VAT recovery. The Clerking team and Cllr Urbick are authorised to pursue additional funding sources beyond those listed here and will report any new applications to council for information.

Funding source	Status	Amount	Deadline / notes
Council funds			
Sheepcot Improvements EMR	Confirmed	£92,322	n/a
OJFS sale proceeds (Old Jubilee Fire Station)	Contracts exchanging - confirmed	£75,000	Subject to completion
CIL neighbourhood receipts (partial allocation)	Subject to council decision	£7,000	Q12026-27
FY 2027-28 budget provision	To be agreed at Oct/Nov budget	£30,000	Oct/Nov 2026
Council funds subtotal			£204,322
Community contributions			
Football club fundraising (conservative estimate though targeting £40,000)	Target confirmed	£20,000	Ongoing
Community subtotal			£20,000
Local and district grants			
SODC Capital Grant scheme	To be applied for	£75,000	20 July 2026
County Councillor priority fund	To be applied for	£5,000	TBC
Local grants subtotal			£80,000
Sport funding			
Football Foundation small grant	To be applied for	£25,000	Rolling - priority
Sport England Community Asset Fund	To be applied for	£50,000	Rolling - with cost evidence
Sport funding subtotal			£75,000
National charitable grants			
National Lottery (Awards for All)	To be applied for	£10,000	Rolling - priority
Garfield Weston Foundation	To be applied for	£10,000	Rolling
Bernard Sunley Charitable Trust	To be applied for	£10,000	Rolling
Tarmac Community Fund	To be explored	TBC	Check eligibility
National grants subtotal			£30,000 +

Funding source	Status	Amount	Deadline / notes
Environment and sustainability grants			
Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (energy and biodiversity elements)	To be applied for	£20,000	TBC
Environment grants subtotal			£20,000
TOTAL IDENTIFIED FUNDING			£452,322 +
NET PROJECT COST (after VAT recovery)			£400,000
SURPLUS BEFORE CONTINGENCY			+£52,322 +

The surplus of £52,322 (before Tarmac and any other additional sources) provides a healthy buffer against grant applications that may come in below the amounts applied for. The Clerking team and Cllr Urbick are authorised to identify and apply for further sources not listed here. The funding plan will be reported to each council meeting as a standing item until the package is complete.

Note on FY 2027-28 budget provision: the £30,000 budget contribution is included in the plan on the basis that the Finance Committee will consider it as part of the October/November 2026 budget-setting process. Whether it requires any precept adjustment will depend on the overall budget position at that time and will be a matter for council to determine in the normal way.

E2. Grant application strategy

Core narrative

All grant applications should be built around four consistent elements, adapted in emphasis for each funder.

- **Evidenced need.** The need is independently confirmed by SODC's Open Spaces Strategy (December 2022), which assessed the Sheepcot pavilion as in poor repair and identified its replacement as a priority. SODC's own Active Plan also identifies this site.
- **Breadth of community benefit and accessibility.** More than 300 active participants, including over 250 young people across 24 junior teams with near equal gender representation, two adult women's clubs, and a tennis club. The refurbishment delivers accessible toilets, accessible changing facilities, and accessible parking for the first time. The design has been developed with full compliance with current accessibility standards and removes barriers that have historically excluded disabled users and spectators. The site is publicly accessible and hosts community events throughout the year.
- **Time-critical gateway.** Goring United risks demotion without suitable facilities by September 2027. The pavilion is also a gateway to the Football Foundation AGP grant of approximately £1.3 million. A £75,000 SODC grant would help unlock more than £1 million of subsequent investment, a leverage ratio of more than 17 to one.
- **Sustainability and nature recovery.** Solar panels, full wall insulation, conservation rooflights, permeable surfacing, bat and swift bricks, native planting, and a wildflower strip. The project complies with the Chilterns National Landscape Management Plan and has planning permission.

Application sequencing

The priority order below is designed to maximise the number of submitted applications before the SODC Capital Grant deadline of 20 July 2026. Each submitted application strengthens the SODC financial sustainability score. Note that with the OJFS receipt confirmed, the council will be applying to SODC with 100% of funding either secured or applied for, which is the highest scoring position on the financial sustainability matrix.

#	Funder	Amount	Deadline	Lead
1	Football Foundation small grant	£25,000	Rolling - now	Clerking team + Cllr
2	National Lottery Awards for All	£10,000	Rolling - now	Clerking team + Cllr
3	Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment	£20,000	TBC - confirm round	Clerking team + Cllr
4	County Councillor priority fund	£5,000	TBC	County Cllr after request from Clerking team + Cllr
5	SODC Capital Grant scheme	£75,000	20 July 2026	Clerking team + Cllr, request support from District Cllr
6	Garfield Weston Foundation	£10,000	Rolling - after SODC	Clerking team + Cllr
7	Bernard Sunley Charitable Trust	£10,000	Rolling - after SODC	Clerking team + Cllr
8	Sport England Community Asset Fund	£50,000	Rolling - with cost evidence	Clerking team + Cllr
9	Tarmac Community Fund	TBC	Check eligibility first	Clerking team + Cllr

The Clerking team and Cllr Urbick are additionally authorised to identify and apply for other suitable funding sources not listed here, and will report any new applications to council for information.

Adapting the narrative for each funder

Funder	Key emphasis and notes
SODC Capital Grant	Lead with thriving communities theme, add climate action as secondary for bonus points. Emphasise the Open Spaces Strategy as independent evidence. Include the FF gateway argument prominently. Highlight the first-time accessibility improvements: accessible toilets, changing rooms, and parking. Note that 100% of funding is secured or applied for. Confirm cost evidence approach with grants officer before submission.
Football Foundation	Lead with promotion status and September 2027 deadline. Emphasise 24 junior teams, gender parity, and women's clubs. Note that the pavilion unlocks the subsequent AGP application. Focus on sport delivery.
Sport England	Breadth of sport across football and tennis, public access, long-term viability. Participation numbers and gender balance data. Alignment with Sport England's women and girls in sport strategy. Accessibility improvements for disabled participants.
National Lottery Awards for All	Keep simple and community-focused. Lead with 300 plus participants, young people, accessible toilets and changing rooms for the first time, open public access to all.
Garfield Weston / Bernard Sunley	Community benefit and capital need. Independent evidence base. Council as steward of a public asset. Planning permission already granted. Accessibility as a core outcome. Keep concise.

Funder	Key emphasis and notes
Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment	Focus entirely on energy and biodiversity elements: solar panels, insulation, rooflights, permeable surfacing, bat and swift bricks, native planting, wildflower strip. Include the DAS biodiversity section as appendix.
County Cllr Priority Fund	Brief covering letter with funding plan attached. Confirm current round and requirements directly with each councillor.
Tarmac Community Fund	Check whether there is a Tarmac facility within the qualifying radius of Goring (it appears to be a potential, though need confirmation from Tarmac). If eligible, frame around community infrastructure and public benefit. Their fund operates through the Landfill Communities Fund mechanism.

E3 Contingency mechanisms

The surplus position means that formal contingency mechanisms are unlikely to be needed if the principal grant applications perform to expectation. However the council should be aware of the following options should any funding gap emerge.

- Future CIL receipts. Two consented residential developments are expected to commence within one to two years, generating further neighbourhood CIL receipts. Any receipts received before the project funding is finalised can be considered for allocation to the pavilion, subject to council decision at the time.
- Internal borrowing against long-term EMRs. The council holds a number of earmarked reserves with expenditure horizons of two years or more. If a short-term funding gap emerges, the council could resolve to borrow internally from one or more of these EMRs, repaying within two to three years from the revenue budget. This avoids external interest costs and requires no external approval, but does require a formal council resolution and transparent accounting treatment. A report identifying the most suitable EMR for this purpose would be brought to council if needed.
- PWLB borrowing. As a final backstop, the council can borrow from the Public Works Loan Board for capital purposes under the Local Government Act 2003. This requires full council approval and cannot be delegated. It is presented as a last resort rather than a primary mechanism.

Scenario analysis

The table below illustrates the range of outcomes across three scenarios, incorporating the OJFS capital receipt.

	Best case	Mid case	Conservative
Council funds (EMR + OJFS + CIL + budget)	£204,322	£189,322	£167,322
Community fundraising	£40,000	£30,000	£20,000
Grants (all sources)	£220,000	£175,000	£130,000
Total identified	£464,322	£394,322	£317,322
Surplus / (gap)	+£64,322	-£5,678	-£82,678
Contingency if needed	None required	Future CIL receipts, increase from OJFS proceeds	Internal EMR borrowing + increase from OJFS proceeds + future CIL

The mid case is considered the most realistic planning assumption. Even in the conservative scenario, the gap is small and bridgeable through future CIL receipts, increase from OJFS proceeds or short-term internal EMR borrowing without a precept increase.

E4 Governance and reporting

- All grant applications will be reported to the next available council meeting after submission, for information.
- Any grant offer received will be brought to full council for formal acceptance before it is confirmed with the funder.
- A funding tracker will be maintained by the Clerking team showing the status of each application, amount applied for, outcome, and any conditions. This will be a standing agenda item at each council meeting until the funding package is complete.
- If any application is unsuccessful, the Clerking team will report to council with a revised funding position and a recommendation on whether to proceed, seek alternative funding, or adjust project scope.
- No contract will be entered into until the Finance Committee is satisfied that sufficient funding is in place, in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.19.

Key contacts

Contact	Relevance	Action
SODC Community Enablement Team (grants@southandvale.gov.uk)	SODC Capital Grant - cost evidence confirmation, application guidance	Call before submission
District Councillor	SODC grant relationship, grants officer introduction	Meeting arranged
Football Foundation contact	FF small grant, AGP eligibility, cost figure verification	Call to confirm current grant levels
County Councillor	County Cllr priority fund	Letter with funding plan
Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment	Energy and biodiversity grant	Check current round and eligibility
Tarmac Community Fund	Possible Landfill Communities Fund source	Check facility radius and eligibility

The grant application process is a team effort. Clear responsibility, regular reporting to council, and active funder relationships will be as important as the quality of the written applications.