## A8.18 Outdoor Gym Proposals – report to Amenities Committee 5 February 2018

### Background:

The Council undertook a health and fitness survey in 2017. The results from the questionnaire indicated a strong interest in the provision of an outdoor gym in the Parish. This was supported by the Council who set aside £5,000 from the 2018/19 budget and resolved to seek external funding of up to £10,000 to support the scheme.

### Working Group Investigations:

Cllr Robinson visited three outdoor gyms in Oakengates; Dawley and Little Wenlock to identify which types of equipment were popular and robust. All three sites had equipment provided by Sunshine Gyms who are based in Telford. The equipment looked sturdy and in good condition. She looked at layouts and positioning relative to other facilities in the relevant parishes. Equipment installed in grassed areas was provided with grass guard rubber matting.

Generally speaking, the equipment with moving parts appeared to be more heavily used than static equipment, particularly those which could be used without sitting down. This is probably because wet seats are unappealing.

Oakengates was the largest site with equipment laid out in two rows adjacent to a children’s play area. The gym included 12 pieces of equipment, which is available as a complete gym package. Smaller packages are available or the equipment can be specified as individual pieces. Some equipment can be used by two or three people at one time. Package prices, including installation and delivery costs are attached for information.

Dawley and Little Wenlock had smaller gyms, both of which were adjacent to children’s play areas. At Little Wenlock the equipment was laid out in a circle to encourage circuit training.

Comparative packages have been priced by Sovereign (two options suggested) and Proludic; (I am awaiting prices and brochures following a site meeting later this week).

Suppliers seem willing to tailor packages to suit the site and the budget of the Council.

### Recommendations:

It is recommended that the grassed area next to the skate park be used to site an outdoor gym. It is accessible 24 hours a day and benefits from existing Parish lighting. It is recommended that adult equipment is installed but it is also likely to appeal to older teens. Children’s gym equipment is available and this could be located at the Longmeadow play area but as younger children are currently well catered for it is suggested that adult equipment be the first priority.

It is unlikely that the area next to the skate park would accommodate 12 pieces of equipment but it could comfortably fit 6 – 8 pieces of equipment, (this would need to be confirmed before placing an order). The Sunshine Gym Community Fitness Suite with 8 pieces of equipment, for use by up to 12 people would be more appropriate to the site. Alternatively, Option 1 provided by Sovereign would be suitable in a slightly modified layout. Their equipment is very similar to that of Sunshine Gyms.

### Grant Funding:

A meeting has been arranged this week with Pete Banford, who is our Community Enablement Officer whilst Lucy Roberts is on maternity leave. He manages an EU grant fund which might be able to contribute to this scheme. Further details of the qualifying criteria will be reported to the meeting.

Up to date forecasts of income and expenditure will be brought to the meeting together with any predicted underspend that might permit the project to be taken forward in the current financial year.