Update to Officer Report

1. OFFICER COMMENTS

1.1. As indicated in the Officer report, it was hoped that Members would be updated with a recommendation for both of the above applications prior to the Committee meeting. Unfortunately, due to on-going discussions between the applicant and District Valuer (DVS) and delays in the receipt of information from the applicant, the further sensitivity testing being carried out by the District Valuer (DVS) is not complete. Therefore agreement has yet to be reached with the applicant in respect of an appropriate level of affordable housing provision.

1.2. Given the importance of securing a policy compliant residential scheme in terms of affordable housing, coupled with full and proper justification for the loss of the playing field, Officers have taken the decision to defer both applications until February Committee. This should allow sufficient time for the DVS to submit their final report and for Officers to complete negotiations and reach agreement with the applicant on an appropriate level of affordable housing.

1.3. Whilst a positive recommendation could be given for the sports centre application (15/01162/FUL), this being acceptable as a stand-alone proposal, Members are reminded that these two applications are linked and should be considered together; the new sports centre and hockey pitch providing justification for the loss of the playing field and a s106 agreement relating to both sites. It is therefore felt appropriate to defer both applications.