

COALFIELD FUNDING WITHIN THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Wormstrup- Special Responsibilities
Coalfield's
LEAD OFFICER: Mike Tichford – Head of Regeneration
REPORT AUTHOR: Diane Ward – Regeneration Projects Officer

Summary:

Egremont Rugby Football Club Ltd have secured substantial funding from Sport England to improve the facilities offered by the club, plus a grant of £147,804 from the Rugby Football Union, £50,000 from West Lakes Renaissance and a further £5,000 from BNG. However, due to an outstanding mortgage amount of £17,000 for the land, taken out by the Trustees of the club, this funding is in danger of being lost.

Recommendation:

£65,000 of the current approved capital programme (which includes the carry forward from 06/07) is identified as coalfield funding. We ask the Executive to recommend:

£17,000 of the coalfield funding be awarded to the Egremont RFC Ltd to pay off this mortgage and hence secure the future development of the club.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The capital spend on the project is estimated to be in the region of £500,000, with additional revenue spend to support the employment of a sports development officer to increase community participation in the club.

1.2 The current facilities offered by the club are inadequate for the local area and cannot support the number of people participating in sport, particularly girls, women and disabled people. The changing facilities currently fail to meet 34 of the minimum standards specified by Sport England. They lack disabled access, and with just one set of changing rooms and showers neither male and females nor adults and juniors can use the facility simultaneously.

1.3 Drainage of the current pitch is also required plus the provision of an additional floodlit all weather training area which would extend the use of the facilities to a greater number of people year round.

1.4 The Egremont Rugby Football Club Ltd was formed in 2000 to take forward the development of the club and apply for grants.

2. ARGUMENT

- 2.1 Egremont RFC Ltd has already secured the funding required for the capital works and the revenue spend for the first year of operation.
- 2.2 The £324,800 awarded by Sport England will not be released until the Egremont RFC Ltd can discharge the mortgage as in effect they do not own the land, as the deeds remain with the HSBC bank as security against the mortgage.
- 2.3 Egremont RFC Ltd had assumed the mortgage could be transferred to the group to pay off over-time. However this would involve 'a second legal charge' which is unacceptable to Sport England.
- 2.4 If the Council agree to allocate £17,000 of coalfield funding to clear this mortgage, then the half a million pound scheme can go ahead.

3. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The Rugby Club could try to raise funds from other sources, but funding applications take considerable time to be appraised which would delay the scheme. All grants awarded (except the 12 month revenue funding) are expected to be spent within 2007/08 and therefore any further delays will make the project difficult to deliver.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The Executive to recommend a contribution of £17,000 from the coalfields funding to be awarded to Egremont Rugby Football Club Ltd to discharge the mortgage and therefore secure the substantial development of the club in Egremont.

5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

- 5.1 The funding is already identified as coalfield funding, and the project is within Coalfield Regeneration Trust priority wards, and will also be accessible by those living in North West Coalfield Community priority wards.

- 5.2 The existing £65,000 for coalfield's within this fund will be reduced to £48,000

6. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The project will be managed by Egremont Rugby Football Club Limited and all risks associated with grant funding will be borne by the club.

7. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

- 7.1 This project will help to achieve transformation and promote prosperity. The project contributes to the regeneration of Copeland (2.2), equality of opportunity (2.4), leisure & culture (3.6) and improving health (3.7).

List of Consultees: Steve Tickner -Accountant, Cllr Cath Giel, Cllr Henry Wormstrup, Cllr T Knowles, Simon Walker – Egremont MTI Manager and Fergus McMorrow – Corporate Director Economic Prosperity & Sustainability.

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	n/a
Impact on Sustainability	n/a
Impact on Rural Proofing	n/a
Health and Safety Implications	n/a
Project and Risk Management	6.1
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	1.2
Children and Young Persons Implications	Increase sporting opportunities / facilities
Human Rights Act Implications	n/a

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision NO