

POW SPORTS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr Allan Holliday
LEAD OFFICER: Keith Parker
REPORT AUTHOR: Philip Sutton

Summary: This reports presents a proposals to support the Pow Sports Consortium (Whitehaven Amateurs Football Club) by bankrolling payments against invoices in order for the club to meet payment schedules.

Recommendation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Executive is asked to approve financial support by bankrolling up to £136,000.
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Impact on delivering Copeland 2020 objectives: An initiative lead by The Pow Sports Consortium of which Whitehaven Amateur Football Club is a leading member, has delivered the first phase of regeneration activity in the Pow Beck Study. The programme focuses on stimulating Economic Development, Business Growth improving the Built Environment and developing skills, all of which complement the Council's Regeneration Strategies.

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): The development looks to address anti social behaviour through the provision of easily accessible alternate positive activities, (football and Rugby etc) especially for young people.

Financial and human resource implications: Use of the Capital Programme for bankrolling up to £136,000 to support the Pow Sports Consortium. The development is fully funded through Sport England, South Whitehaven Partnership Copeland Borough Council and West Lakes Renaissance. The latter being released only upon submission of quarterly paid claims.

Project & Risk Management: There is an opportunity cost to the Council of bankrolling this organisation, and this is the lost cashflow implication of not being able to invest the £136,000 over the time period. This cost would be minimal. The development is complete. The applications to funders have been subject to appraisals which have incorporates project and risk management assessments.

There is a risk to the Council that the football club might not be able to make the repayments if the football club did not receive, all or part, of the grant of £136,000 from West Lakes Renaissance once the invoices have been paid. This risk is minimal and has been protected as far as possible by the receipt of a signed agreement, to repay the funds, by the Chairman of the Club.

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** None
- **Ward:** None

Other Ward Implications: None

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Following successful bids to Sport England, West Lakes Renaissance, South Whitehaven Partnership and the Council Whitehaven Amateur Football Club took financial and project management responsibility for the building of the new synthetic sports pitch, on behalf of the Pow Sports Consortium, on their land, off Coach road, Whitehaven.
- 1.2 The club have worked closely with the builders and funders to realise a magnificent new facility, which was officially opened by the Deputy Mayor on Saturday 26th November. The project underpins the Council's planned regeneration project in the area and although fully funded, the Council has received a request from the club to bankroll the final proportion of the expenditure in order to bridge the gap between payments to the contractor and the landowner and reimbursement from the funder.

2. EXPLANATION

- 2.1 West Lakes Renaissance have previously agreed to support the full cost of the remaining parts of the sports pitch development (in an offer letter dated 12 January 2005 attached at Appendix B) but this funding can only be accessed following defrayment and can not be claimed in advance.
- 2.2 Whitehaven Amateur Football Club does not have sufficient resources to bankroll the payments and negotiations with Sport England, The County Council, and West Lakes Renaissance seeking an alternate solution have been unsuccessful.
- 2.3 In order that the Council is not drawn into the agreements between the Club and their grant funder checks will be made to ensure they are covered by the grant approvals.
- 2.4 The Council will make an agreement with the Club to ensure they, on completion of the works, submit the contractor's invoice to the authority. The Council will then seek confirmation, in writing, from the funder that the works have been carried out in accordance with the grant and that the funder is prepared to make reimbursement (to the club) prior to the Council making the payment on behalf of the club to the creditor.
- 2.5 In this way the Council will avoid making a payment direct to the Club in case of insolvency, etc.
- 2.6 Should members choose to assist the bankrolling, it is anticipated the invoices will be paid in December 2005 and January 2006 with the claims being submitted to West lakes Renaissance in January 2006 and subsequent repayment being made no later than March 2006.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Executive is asked to approve the recommendations to act as bankroller for the development.

List of Appendices

Appendix A -E mail Request from Whitehaven Amateurs FC

Appendix B- Copy of the funding Offer from West lakes Renaissance to Whitehaven Amateurs FC

List of Background Documents: Pow Beck master plan

List of Consultees: Corporate Team, Accountancy Services Manager, Principal
Community Regeneration Officer

