

REQUEST FROM MILLOM POOL PARTNERSHIP TO ACT AS AN ACCOUNTABLE BODY FOR MILLOM POOL DESIGN AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Deputy Leader Cllr Cath Giel / Portfolio Holder Cllr Hugh Branney.

LEAD OFFICER: Cath Coombs, Acting Head of Leisure & Environmental Services / Julie Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy

REPORT AUTHOR: Cath Coombs, Acting Head of Leisure & Environmental Services.

Summary and Recommendation:

To assist the Millom Pool Partnership in receiving North West Regional Development Agency grant funding, in accordance with section 3.1.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Copeland Borough Council (CBC) have been approached by Roland Woodward, on behalf of the Millom Pool Partnership (MPP) to act as an Accountable Body in relation to a grant secured from the North West Regional Development Agency (NWDA).
- 1.2 The grant totals £100,315 including VAT and its purpose is to develop design and feasibility studies for a new pool in Millom and associated facilities. It is intended that this will replace the existing Millom Pool.
- 1.3 Copeland BC Officers within the Cultural Services department have been supporting the Millom Pool Partnership in driving forward this project, and this grant offer from the NWDA represents a major step forward in securing new leisure provision in Millom.

2. ARGUMENT

- 2.1 The need for a new swimming pool in Millom was first identified in 1996, with funding bids submitted to the English Sports Council in 1997 (rejected 1998) and again to Sport England in 2001 (rejected 2001).
- 2.2 Despite this, there has been a consistent effort by the people of Millom to secure a new pool. The need was again identified as part of the Market

Towns Initiative 2005/06 Performance Plan and the Millom Pool Group has been proactive in developing the project further and sourcing additional support.

- 2.3 This offer of grant from the NWDA will ensure that the Millom Pool Partnership can procure specialist leisure, commercial and technical advice. This will enable capital funding applications to be submitted and designs to be developed to a stage that planning permission can be applied for.

3. **OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED**

There are two possible options:

- 3.1 **Option one – agree to act as an accountable body and bankroll the works**, on the understanding that appropriate studies are commissioned in agreement with CBC officers. This will ensure that this award from the NWDA is used to move the project forward to the next stage, providing a significant opportunity for this project to succeed.
- 3.2 **Option two – refuse the request.**

4. **CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The request from the Millom Pool Partnership is reasonable, and gives the Council the opportunity to support the Partnership in achieving a long term ambition for the town.

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

- 5.1 There will be a potential loss of interest, as claims are submitted retrospectively to the NWDA. Copeland Borough Council will be offering an in kind contribution to the project by waiving our admin fee relating to the Accountable Body and the lost interest.
- 5.2 By assisting the Millom Pool Group with this request, no further support for either capital contributions or bankrolling of the construction phase are inferred. If further requests for assistance are received these will be considered on a case by case basis.

6. **PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 The Head of Development Strategy has had dialogue with officers at the NWDA to ascertain the funding requirements. The grant is capped at £100,315 from NWDA at this stage. Prior to signing any offer letter with

NWDA for this funding, or setting out an agreement for expenditure being committed by the Millom Pool group checks will be made against grant award criteria in the funding letter to ensure that the funds are fully recoverable from the NWDA. Progression of option one will be against a positive outcome from these checks.

- 6.2 The offer letter will be with Copeland Borough Council and is ready to be released following agreement by the Executive. The NWDA have indicated that they will attach a copy of our scheduled approach, see appendix 1, with necessary caveats to the funding letter. Although not seen as ideal, NWDA accept that the project needs a realistic timescale and will enable some unavoidable spend for the project to be in 2009/10. NWDA have confirmed that there are no 'clawbacks' should the planned project not proceed to the construction phase.

7. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

- 7.1 Assisting the Millom Pool partnership to progress the project directly delivers against the Corporate Plan objectives 3.6.3 – support other community backed groups to ensure adequate leisure provision.

List of Appendices

None

List of Consultees

Leader – Cllr Elaine Woodburn.
Deputy Leader – Cllr Cath Giel.
Portfolio Holder – Cllr Hugh Branney.
Corporate Team.

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	Supports
Impact on Sustainability	Supports
Impact on Rural Proofing	Supports
Health and Safety Implications	None
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	None
Children and Young Persons Implications	Supports
Human Rights Act Implications	None

Section 151 Officer Comments	Would wish to see NWDA assurances before signing funding letter.
Monitoring Officer Comments	Further details need to be obtained from NWDA as to the terms of any grant in order that the Council can be sure of the implications of what it is considering taking on including making an assessment of risk as to its worst case legal liability.

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

APPENDIX 1

Millom Pool – Suggest approach to project - October 2008.

Task No.	Action.	Owner	To be completed by.
1	<p>Develop a robust revenue model, ensuring that each part of the facility proposed is sustainable financially.</p> <p>This includes development of a detailed revenue based business plan for both the core facility (25m pool) and a number of ancillary options that have been discussed in the past. A number of options need to be modelled including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand alone 25m 4 lane pool with changing room, small office / reception / vending area. • 25m pool (as above) with fitness facilities targeted at junior users. • 25m pool (as above) with fitness facilities targeted at adult users. • 25m pool (as above) with fitness and health suite. Again some discussions have taken place relating to additions of a sauna, steam area. The implications need to be determined. • 25m pool (as above) with fitness and health suite plus multipurpose 	Neil Allen / Chris Davidson.	Mid Nov 08

	and therapy room. Suggest that 2 models are produced, one for a charitable company and without.		
2	Staffing arrangements need to be determined for the pool and any other options, to feed into the revenue model. The plan should contain suitable and sufficiently qualified staff for all of the options. Costs should include staff pension contributions. As the new pool will replace an existing facility the impact of any staff transfers under TUPE for existing staff and future liabilities should be determined (pension scheme deficits for example) and reflected in the financial plans. This needs to link to proposed facility timetable.	Neil Allen / Chris D / Millom Pool.	Mid Nov 08
3	Equipment replacement lifecycle costs should also be determined with at least a 25 year plan of major plant replacement being developed. This relates to things like pool filter refurbishment and boiler replacement.	Neil Allen.	Mid Nov 08
4	Management and governance arrangements need to be determined, as the VAT implications of the status of the trading company will have an effect on the revenue model, depending if the managing organisation is trading for charitable purposes. This includes obtaining outline agreement for the preferred option.	Neil Allen / Paul Stewart.	Mid Nov 08
5	Ascertain impact on existing leisure facilities in Millom.	Neil Allen / Chris D / Millom Pool Group.	Mid Nov 08
6	A comprehensive funding appraisal is required (capital and revenue), with likelihood ratings. The brief should also include a section on submitting funding applications.	Barry Kushner.	Mid Nov 08
7	Land issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check that existing site investigations can be used for the purpose identified 	Barry Kushner / Julie	Mid Nov 08

	<p>in the brief as any warranties may not be transferable and some investigations may be required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an existing FRA, ground investigations, ecological investigations e.t.c? • Demolition and site clearance costs of the existing facility should also be included. 	Betteridge.	
8	Develop further the existing business plan, with results of studies (above) included. Check the business plan for remaining gaps. Identify robust project management arrangements along with time line for project with clear milestones identified.	Barry Kushner.	Mid Nov 08
9	Develop and agree scope of the design brief, suggested to only go to RIBA stage C.	Millom Pool Group / Cath Coombs (+ Neil Allen?)	End Nov 08
10	Report to Copeland BC Executive outlining implications of accountable body for NWDA funding (£101K).	Cath Coombs.	Dec 08
11	Design brief advertised and suitably qualified organisation commissioned.	Millom Pool Group / CBC.	Jan 09 – March 09