

LEISURE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr Allan Holliday

LEAD OFFICER: Cath Coombs

REPORT AUTHOR: Cath Coombs

Summary: To seek approval from the Executive to implement service level agreements for Millom Recreation Centre, Egremont Town Hall, Egremont and District Swimming Pool Trust and Copeland Stadium Trust (Cumbria Academy of Sport) for 2006/7.

Recommendation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That Members approve the payment in line with the agreements.2. That authority is delegated to the Corporate Director, Quality of Life and Portfolio Holder for Environmental and Cultural Services to resolve this matter in future years, subject to funding being in place.
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Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan: The support of these four organisations provides increased opportunity for Copeland residents to participate in leisure and cultural activities, in line with objective QL1.

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): These facilities are much needed community resources that provide diversionary activity for young people. Activities provided from the facilities contribute positively to healthy lifestyles and assist in developing stronger and safer communities.

Financial and human resource implications: A total of £40,675 from the revenue budget. This is made up of the following payments: Millom Recreation Centre (£7,790); Copeland Stadium (£5,000); Egremont Market Hall (£12,885); Egremont and District Swimming Pool Trust (£15,000).

Project & Risk Management: None.

Key Decision Status

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

Other Ward Implications: None.

1. INTRODUCTION

Members will be aware that Service Level Agreements have previously existed for all four facilities which have provided a cost effective way of widening access to leisure provision within Copeland. Within recent months, the Leisure Partnerships Officer has been in contact with all four of the organisations identified above to ascertain their current performance and grant requirements for the 2006/7 financial year. The result of these discussions is outlined in the following paragraphs.

2. MILLOM RECREATION CENTRE

The Council have for a number of years provided a grant to Millom Recreation Centre to defray essential expenditure and assist in the Centre achieving a sustainable financial position. In return for the grant, the Centre agrees to maximise opportunities for participants and coaches to fulfil their potential, market the facility to the wider community and to work with the Council's Sports Development Officers.

The Centre also agrees to make the centre available for general use in pre-defined times as well as regular pre-booked activities. Usage and income information is made available to the Council and it can be demonstrated that this facility provides a valuable well used resource for the people of South Copeland.

It can be seen from the attached performance monitoring report that there were over five and a half thousand visits to the centre in 2005/6 and early indications are that even more people are using the centre this financial year.

The total requested grant for this facility is £7,790, identical to the award in 2005/6. This would be paid in two equal instalments of £3,895.

3. EGREMONT TOWN HALL

This grant, payable to Egremont Town Council to assist with the management of Egremont Market Hall has also been in existence for a number of years. It also utilises the grant to restrict losses to manageable amounts.

The Hall is a major community facility in Egremont that is used by a range of community groups on a regular basis. It is open seven days per week and activities include dances for the elderly, educational classes and fitness activities. The facility is well used, with over sixteen thousand visits recorded in 2005/6 and an increase is predicted for the end of this financial year.

The total requested grant for this facility is £12,885, identical to the award in 2005/6. This would be paid in two equal instalments of £6,442.50.

4. EGREMONT AND DISTRICT SWIMMING POOL TRUST

Egremont and District Swimming Pool Trust manage the swimming pool at Wyndham School on a not for profit basis. The aim of the Trust is to promote leisure and recreational services to the wider community and the grant is required to restrict losses to a manageable amount.

In return for the grant, the Trust agrees to maximise opportunities for participants and coaches to fulfil their potential, ensure that public swimming is available not less than 55% of the available time, market the facility to the wider community and to work with the Council's Sports Development Officers.

A request was received for this year's Service Level Agreement payment to be increased, primarily as there have been no inflationary increases in recent years and the Trust has to absorb ever increasing utility costs. No provision to grant this request has been included within the 2006/7 draft service level agreements as there is no budgetary provision for an increase.

The total proposed grant for this facility is £15,000, identical to the award in 2005/6. This would be paid in two equal instalments of £7,500.

5. COPELAND STADIUM TRUST (CUMBRIA ACADEMY OF SPORT)

The Copeland Stadium Trust manage, on a not for profit basis, a multipurpose sports facility that is available to both Clubs and local people. Facilities include a running track, athletics arena and pitch provision. In 2005 the Cumbria Academy of Sport secured funding in the region of £895,000 from a variety of funding bodies to upgrade the facilities and this work is nearing completion.

The Copeland Stadium Trust have also invested in a full time Development Manager who has recently taken up post; an exciting development as it will enable stronger links to form with the Council's sports development function and provide an opportunity to widen community access further.

In 2005/6 there were 3,391 visits to the stadium. Access within this financial year has been restricted due to the building works, but a significant increase overall on last year is anticipated as the new facilities come on stream.

It is recommended that the full year grant for the facility (£5,000) is still awarded for the 2006/7 financial year to support the Trust in the remaining six months of the financial year as, historically, it takes time for a new investment of the type undertaken to reach a mature financial position. It is further recommended that the Leisure Partnership Officer works with the Trust to ascertain if any grant funding is required in future years when the impact of the investment becomes clearer.

6. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

It is proposed that, within the new agreements, the reporting procedures are standardised and the reasoning behind discrepancies is explored in greater detail.

Performance monitoring information for 2005/6 and 2006/7 is attached as appendix 1.

7. REQUEST FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY

These Service Level Agreements form part of the recurring revenue budget and it is requested that authority is delegated to the Corporate Director, Quality of Life and Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services in future years, up to the maximum level within the revenue budget (leisure grants).

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Performance monitoring information.

Appendix 2 – SLA Copeland Athletics Stadium.

