

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S
REPORT TO CABINET**

19th March 2024

Report Title: Sport England Swimming Pool Support Grant to Kidsgrove CIO

Submitted by: Service Director - Commercial Services

Portfolios: One Council, People & Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: Kidsgrove and Ravenscliffe

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
To outline the award of grant funding for Kidsgrove Sports Centre from the Sport England Swimming Pool Fund.			
<u>Recommendation</u>			
That Cabinet:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Notes the Sport England capital grant from the Swimming Pool Fund is in principle accepted by the Council to support the eligible projects at Kidsgrove Sports Centre. Authorises the Duty Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for One Council, People & Partnerships is authorised to sign all necessary agreements to enable the grant to be passported to Kidsgrove Sports Centre. 			
<u>Reasons</u>			
Due to the level of capital funding allocated to Kidsgrove Sports Centre it is appropriate that Cabinet makes the decision to progress understanding the process and risks.			

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2023 Sport England launched the Swimming Pool Support Fund and enabled local authorities to place bids for eligible swimming pools within their area. To be eligible the pool needed to have public access and support community swimming. Bids could be made for capital projects which support improvements to reduce future utility costs, thus making swimming pools more financially viable for the future.
- 1.2 Two bids were included for Newcastle the first was for pool covers at J2 and the second was for solar panels and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) unit for Kidsgrove Sports Centre. In January 2024 Sport England notified the Council that funding was being allocated to Kidsgrove Sports Centre.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The funding agreement from Sport England places the responsibility on the Council to ensure that the capital schemes are deliverable, that monitoring of pool use is provided through Sport England's Moving Communities platform and any clawback is made if required.
- 2.2 Kidsgrove CIO has 2 capital elements supported, the Solar Panels and CHP unit, Kidsgrove CIO will need to procure the works and ensure satisfactory installation and maintenance. Under the lease the Council will be required to give landlord consent to the changes to the building structure.
- 2.3 Kidsgrove Sports Centre CIO need to sign up to the Moving Communities platform which monitors participation numbers, customer satisfaction, and the financial performance of the centre.
- 2.4 There are clauses in the agreement that should the pool not continue to deliver community access then the funding can be clawed back by Sport England within a ten-year period. There are a range of risks associated with this and Kidsgrove Sports Centre CIO will need to ensure they continue to operate within the agreed parameters. Should they wish to alter their operational plans then discussions will be required with Sport England to satisfy them that any changes are acceptable.

3. Recommendation

That Cabinet:

- 3.1 Notes the Sport England capital grant from the Swimming Pool Fund is in principle accepted by the Council to support the eligible projects at Kidsgrove Sports Centre.
- 3.2 Authorises the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for One Council, People & Partnerships to sign all necessary agreements to enable the grant to be passported to Kidsgrove Sports Centre.

4. Reasons

- 4.1 The grant funding is significant and will make a clear contribution to the operation of the Kidsgrove Sports Centre. Investment in the Solar Panels and CHP unit will drive energy savings which will reduce the operational costs of the centre.

5. Options Considered

- 5.1 The Council has a choice whether to support Kidsgrove CIO to access the grant.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 Sport England require Kidsgrove Sports Centre CIO as they hold the leasehold to enter into a separate Grant Adherence Agreement committing them to comply with the funding agreement. This agreement will be between three parties; Sport England, the Local Authority and the Kidsgrove Sports Centre. A draft of this agreement is available on request. It is critical however to note that the Council remains the applicant for the funding and will therefore remain responsible to Sport England for compliance with the terms of the funding agreement for the Kidsgrove Sports Centre. In line with the Sport England guidance the Council will consider a separate agreement with Kidsgrove to ensure that the responsibilities placed on the Council to deliver the scheme are passed to Kidsgrove Sports Centre CIO.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 The plans are not intended to have any direct impact on equality, however by increasing the viability of the scheme then the facilities are more likely to remain open to all members of the community.

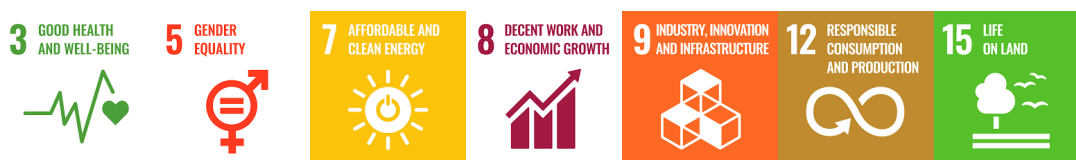
8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 The grant allocation is £235,375 (£155,125 for the installation of Solar Panels and £80,250 for the installation of a CHP unit), funding can be shared across the two projects but can not be spent on other projects. Should the costs of installation be greater than the grant Kidsgrove CIO will be responsible for financing. At the time of writing this report Kidsgrove CIO were obtaining quotations for the installation and establishing other associated costs.
- 8.2 Kidsgrove Sports Centre CIO will be required to procure the two projects, oversee the project management of them, and pay any initial invoices for works undertaken. Upon receipt of validated invoices, the Council will then recover money from Sport England and the transfer this to back to the CIO.
- 8.3 Sport England reserves the right to withhold up to 10% of the Capital Grant until the following conditions are met:
- Completion of data returns on Sport England's Moving Communities platform undertaken by Kidsgrove Sports Centre CIO;
 - The Council ensures that Kidsgrove CIO has completed the Quest Environmental Management Awareness Audit / Review;
 - The Council ensures that Kidsgrove CIO has completed the Quest Environmental Management Awareness Training course.
 - The Council submits a copy of the local strategic plan for physical activity to Sport England.
- 8.3 The Council can make single or multiple claims from Sport England for the grant based on third party invoices showing eligible expenditure. The latest date for a claim is 28th February 2025 so that drawn down can be completed by 31st March 2025.

9. Major Risks & Mitigation

- 9.1 Due to the timing of the funding round applicants had limited time to develop fully costed bids therefore the grant applications were based upon quotations. There is a risk that when the procurement is undertaken that the costs are greater than anticipated, should costs increase it is intended that Kidsgrove Sports Centre CIO will be required to find any shortfall. Equally technical surveyors may be required to confirm the installation methodology.
- 9.2 Kidsgrove CIO will need to decide on their procurement approach and the management of the contractors to ensure that the installation is effectively managed. It is proposed that the installation companies act as principal designer for their respective projects.
- 9.3 Should Kidsgrove CIO not comply with the funding agreement there are clawback conditions.
- 9.4 Structural surveys will be required to ascertain where solar panels can be installed on the roof, should any area not meet the required weight bearing load then these areas will be omitted from the installation.
- 9.5 In relation to planning, while the solar panels are likely to comprise permitted development, the CHP unit will require planning permission which is likely to be acceptable in principle.
- 9.6 Kidsgrove CIO will share the plans with Wilmot Dixon to ensure that any works undertaken will not infringe on any building warranties that are currently in place following the major refurbishment.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)



11. Key Decision Information

- 11.1 This is a key decision based on the grant allocation.

12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

- 12.1 None.

13. List of Appendices

- 13.1 None.

14. Background Papers

- 14.1 Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund Capital Grant Agreement and Grant Adherence is available on request.