



Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities	Councillor Lesley McKay, Resources Portfolio Holder and Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	25 January 2024

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) - Grant for improvements to Garstang Community Sports Club

Key decision: Yes

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to grant £280,000 of UKSPF to Garstang Community Sports Club Limited to fund capital works for the phase one redevelopment of the community sports club building, situated at PR3 1EB.

2. Council priorities

- 2.1 This report aligns to our corporate priorities involving raising rates of physical activity, by increasing participation opportunities and improving accessibility for all ages to engage in sport, health and wellbeing activities, thus supporting the delivery of Wyre's Moving More Strategy.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That £280,000 is granted to Garstang Community Sports Club Ltd for capital works to redevelop the multi-sport hub facility.
- 3.2 That the capital programme be updated to reflect the spend profile, which is split over two financial years as follows: £15,000 in 2023/24 and £265,000 in 2024/25.

4. Background

- 4.1** The UKSPF is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda providing £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025. Wyre's allocation being £3,949,132 (which includes £20,000 for preparing the Investment Plan).
- 4.2** The Investment Plan of projects for Wyre, was selected via a project selection group from a shortlist compiled from proposals returned via three routes, namely:
- Town Centre Partnership Boards (established as part of the council's Town Centre Strategy Fund programme) nominating projects from priorities as set out in Town Centre Regeneration Frameworks.
 - A long-list of countywide business, people and skills support projects supplied via Lancashire County Council.
 - A long-list of borough-wide projects which picked up priorities that were outside the remit of the Regeneration Frameworks.
- 4.3** Projects were selected based on the strength of their strategic fit in addressing key local needs and providing outputs which will support the council's Town Centre Recovery Projects' objectives.
- 4.4** Garstang Community Sports Club, formerly Garstang Sports and Social Club, is one of the proposed Investment Plan projects. It supports the Wyre Moving More Strategy and is identified in the Greater Garstang Partnership's [Garstang Town Centre Regeneration Framework](#) (Theme 4: Community, section 4.2).
- 4.5** The facility occupies a site immediately to the north of the town centre along the west bank of the River Wyre. Currently, there are six different sports clubs that use the facilities, they are, rugby, football, cricket, tennis, running and canoeing and kayaking. Collectively they have a membership in excess of 1,000 members. Over the last five years the membership of these clubs has grown significantly across age groups and genders. The increasing demand, as the individual sports clubs grow and play at higher league levels, coupled with the increase in local housing development, has resulted in the main club building needing to undergo a significant overhaul to make it an inclusive fit for purpose facility, whilst still satisfying the standards required by the regulatory sports bodies.
- 4.6** Planning permission was granted on 4 January 2019. The Club made a technical commencement, and the planning permission is still live. A further planning application, which incorporates a variation to the plans was approved on 18 January 2024. The Chairman of the Club has confirmed that there are no implications regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC).

- 4.7** This report concerns phase one of the redevelopment, that is, the construction of the single storey extension, which includes the expansion of the ground floor community space, the addition of new changing facilities, official's accommodation and a viewing space.
- 4.8** In addition to the leagued teams, the Club hosts ad-hoc community sports, health and wellbeing activities. The Club's vision is to provide a broader approach than just sports, developing the facility as a community hub and encouraging participation from a wider cohort of people and organisations, through the delivery of sports, health and active lifestyles programmes.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** The site upon which the club is situated has been transferred to the newly formed Garstang Community Sports Club Ltd. Wyre Council has approved the Deed of Covenant, and are awaiting the official Land Registry Office Copy, which is in process.
- 5.2** The estimated value for phase one completion is £720,000, which includes £120,000 for contingency and inflation costs.
- 5.3** Acknowledging that the Club is accelerating its efforts to raise the required funding for the project, the UKSPF Board has identified risks which have the potential to compromise project completion within the required UKSPF programme timeframe. These concerns relate to the organisation's lack of experience in delivering projects of this nature and scale, and the possibility the scheme will be delayed and slip beyond the deadline, owing to factors either within or outside their control. This delay is further compounded by the anticipated waiting period for the results of other large match funding grant applications submitted by the Club, which are likely to be realised around May/June 2024. To mitigate the risks, following ongoing discussions with the Club, the UKSPF Programme Board are seeking to issue the funding in two parts, a sum of £15,000 for feasibility work first, followed by the larger capital amount (£265,000) for delivery of the build. This will be in keeping with the UKSPF requirements. Should the Club not be successful in their fundraising efforts towards the build, the feasibility work will still enable them to be in a stronger position to pursue other funding outside this UKSPF programme. The capital sum could then be reallocated to other projects.
- 5.4** Garstang Community Sports Club Ltd would therefore enter into a two-part grant agreement with Wyre Council. The second part would be granted subject to satisfactory results from the feasibility work and securing the required level of match funding. Therefore, capital expenditure from the UKSPF would be apportioned as follows: £15,000 in 2023/24, and £265,000 in 2024/25. If the project does not proceed beyond the feasibility stage then the £15,000 would be reclassified as revenue and would still be met from the UKSPF. There is still a risk that the build phase will encounter difficulties and before the second agreement is granted, both the S.151 Officer and the Corporate Director

Communities will need to be confident of successful delivery being achieved. Should further assurances be required, there will be an opportunity to amend the grant agreement accordingly.

- 5.5** The Club has secured £50,000 towards the project to date. The Club has a funding strategy in place for the remaining £390,000, which is subject to grants from identified external grant bodies and other fundraising.
- 5.6** In addition, a payment schedule would be agreed with the Club, with each payment contingent on the Club providing satisfactory quarterly monitoring reports to the council. These reports will be in accordance with Government's reporting requirements, and these will be shared and reviewed by the council's internal UKSPF Programme Board.
- 5.7** The Club is intending to employ a dedicated project manager, who will be responsible for the management and delivery of phase one by 31 March 2025.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 6.1** Not to award the UKSPF grant to the Club is an option, as despite being included in the Investment Plan, it is possible to change the projects in the plan, which was illustrative when first drafted. However, the council's UKSPF investment plan has now been approved by government, following consultation with and by Greater Garstang Partnership Board, local partners and residents and as such making changes is more difficult and could bring reputational damage. It is still possible to change the Investment Plan, although approval from the funding body would be required for an alternative project or projects. This brings with it a risk that the funding would be reduced.
- 6.2** If the funding were withdrawn, Garstang Community Sports Club would struggle to secure an alternative source that is not repayable (e.g. a bank loan) in a reasonable timeframe, relative to its current need for redevelopment and growth. It would be especially difficult for the Club to secure the full amount it needs solely through other external grant bodies, owing to competition for funding and the strict criteria that many of the mainstream funders employ. Therefore, this UKSPF award would significantly increase the likelihood of the Club securing other match funding to deliver the project.
- 6.3** Another option considered would be to award a significantly higher amount to reduce the burden on the Club to find match funding and escalate the project's delivery timeframe. This option is rejected as it is considered that the Club would struggle to deliver a bigger project in the UKSPF programme delivery timeframe and the remaining funding is already allocated. This would also mean that other projects would need to be sacrificed which is not supported by the shortlisting process.

6.4 Finally, funding for just the feasibility study could be awarded and the remaining funding reallocated to other projects. However, it should be noted that some controls exist already in the scheme so that should the project not be feasible, or the match funding not secured in time, the project will cease after the feasibility works stage.

7. Delegated functions

7.1 The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive functions delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council’s constitution): “To determine payment of grants to outside bodies within allocated budgets”.

7.2 The matters referred to in this report are also considered under the following executive function delegated to the Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder “To consider matters relating to sport and recreation, including sports facilities (apart from playing fields), swimming centres, riverside and marine facilities for leisure pursuits and other leisure and cultural services”.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	The Council’s Capital Programme will be updated to reflect that the UKSPF capital spend of £280,000 on this project will be split over two financial years £15,000 in 2023/24 and £265,000 in 2024/25. The second tranche of funding is dependent upon Garstang Community Sports Club securing sufficient match funding (currently identified as £390,000) to complete phase one works by March 2025 and a successful outcome from the feasibility works.
Legal	The council will enter into a two part grant agreement, developed for UKSPF grants, with Garstang Community Sports Club Ltd.
Climate Change	The project will seek to deliver positive impact through the Club’s procurement of building works that include consideration of local supply chain, and low carbon materials. The project will build awareness and encourage participation in green methods of travel and outdoor low carbon activities. Negatively, the project is expected to increase visitors and competitors travelling to the site, however better storage provisions will enable equipment to be retained at the site and therefore reduce the need for transportation of it to and from the site.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
Decision Notice	04 Jan 2019	-18_00181_FUL-Decision_Notice-377224.pdf (wyre.gov.uk)
Planning application 23/01131/FUL	28 November 2023	https://publicaccess.wyre.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S4TX8DSDHS H00

List of appendices

None