

Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Cllr Vivien Taylor Street Scene Portfolio Holder and Michael Ryan Corporate Director of People and Places	Cabinet	30 July 2014	8

**CCF Leisure Hub – Proposed Water Park and Skate Park**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek member approval to deliver the water park and skate park projects.

**2. Outcomes**

- 2.1 Delivery of the water park and skate park of the Five for Fleetwood programme funded by the Coastal Communities Fund.

**3. Recommendation/s**

- 3.1 That approval is given to deliver the water park and skate park and the Corporate Director of People and Places authorised to approve detailed proposals and the appointment of supplier(s), complying with Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules.

**4. Background**

- 4.1 A grant of £1.55m from the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) to help regenerate Fleetwood was confirmed 5 June 2014. The grant will be split between a number of capital projects along the seafront, an events programme that will draw people to the area, and support, training and advice for tourism businesses.
- 4.2 The CCF aims to encourage the economic development of UK coastal communities by awarding funding to create sustainable economic growth and jobs.
- 4.3 Capital projects of the approved application seek to create new and

improved tourism facilities that attract local people and tourists to visit Fleetwood more often and for longer periods of time. Evaluation will measure the economic outcomes of improved and newly created tourism facilities; through the delivery of outputs relating to increased visitor numbers, business sales, business startups, safeguarded and new jobs.

## **5. Key Issues and Proposals**

- 5.1** New and improved facilities outdoor facilities will complement recent works to Marine Hall and Gardens; the performance area, car park, repainting of Marine Hall and creation of the Tourist Information Centre there, and to the east of Marine Hall the play area, viewing point, kick about lawn and bowling greens.
- 5.2** The Fleetwood Community Trust (FCT) submitted a Shaping Your Neighbourhood application in 2012 demonstrating community support for a free facility that incorporated a splash pad facility next to the existing paddling pool; which although retained would have been reduced in size by fifty percent. A new toilet facility and a number of small sized seating areas were to be provided. The approximate cost of the project was £382,000 with £10,000 identified for the reconfiguration of the pool and £220,000 for the splash pad within the water park.
- 5.3** During initial project development Council Officers visited the Aqua Park at Happy Mount Park, Morecambe; a free facility managed by Lancaster City Council. High visitor numbers attracted from across the region are experienced throughout the season, with officer monitoring of the nature of use required throughout the day.
- 5.4** In response to initial feedback from the FCT the design for the water park was revised to include a paddling pool and the plan was then made available for public comment. Respondents requested that the existing paddling pool be retained and a splash pad incorporated next to it rather than a new facility being created at the site of the redundant outdoor pool as proposed.

Retaining a pool at this location does not offer a cost saving as the paddling pool requires comprehensive refurbishment, estimated to be in the region of £30,000. Annual costs to repair the asphalt are in the region of £1,800.

- 5.5** Nowhere on the Fylde coast offers a destination water park; it is proposed that in order to improve tourism facilities as prioritised by the CCF a destination facility be created alongside Fleetwood Leisure Centre; regenerating the unsightly redundant outdoor pool and complementing the proposed Café; supporting the creation of new jobs as prioritised by the CCF.

The design would incorporate a paddling pool and splash pad with water jets and fountains designed for use by a range of age groups. Seating,

picnic areas and space for children’s play would be provided next to the facility. The toilet block would be renovated and the Leisure Centre extended; improving the entrance to the building and creating a café with an area for outdoor dining.

Visitors to a water park located at the redundant outdoor pool site would benefit from its close proximity to the proposed café and renovated toilet block; sheltered by the existing boundary wall and with space for outdoor dining visitors would feel encouraged to use the facility for longer periods of time. Integrating the water park with complementary features will make the facility more attractive to new and existing visitors.

The improved entrance to the building would incorporate access to the café, with existing Leisure Centre visitor numbers of 200,000 per annum; this offers a year round customer base. As noted at Happy Mount Park a water park facility requires monitoring throughout the day; situated next to Leisure Centre the facility would benefit from monitoring by YMCA staff and could be secured by them when the café is closed.

- 5.6** The existing children’s play area would be extended to replace the paddling pool, incorporating equipment designed specifically for inclusive play as requested by respondents during the consultation period.
- 5.7** The Fleetwood Skate Park Committee (FSPC) formed in 2012 have demonstrated community support from the Fleetwood area and the Fylde coast for the provision of a skate park facility, and have expressed a commitment to participating in maintenance of the park surface, arranging coaching sessions and fundraising events to support ongoing revenue costs.
- 5.8** In response to feedback received during the consultation period the skate park would be located at a site with good CCTV coverage and which is not directly overlooked by neighbouring properties. The proposed location near the performance area and bowling greens to the west of Marine Hall also offers the opportunity to improve an underutilised area of Marine Gardens. Workshops have been held with interested users and members of FSPC to determine the skate features that will be included in the facility.
- 5.9** Designs illustrating the initial locations of the facilities and indicating the type of features likely to be included have been discussed with Councillors and members of the FCT, Fleetwood Civic Society and FSPC. Public consultation has included a manned exhibition at Marine Hall and an online feedback form.

<b>FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
Finance	The Capital Programme and Revenue Budget is to be amended for the £1,473,242 capital and £75,000 revenue Coastal Community Funding award for the Five for

	<p>Fleetwood programme and is detailed in the separate Agenda report on the Capital Programme review. That report also incorporates the anticipated £20,000 skate park contribution from Fleetwood Town Council.</p> <p>Within the Capital Programme estimated costs for the water park total £530,385 (£480,884 in 2014/15 and £49,501 in 2015/16) and for the skate park £134,529 (all in 2014/15) inclusive of the anticipated Fleetwood Town Council contribution.</p> <p>Ongoing revenue costs in regard to both facilities are expected to be contained within existing budgets together with contributions referred to in paragraph 5.7.</p>
Legal	Compliance with the Council's Financial and Contract Procedure Rules. A contract will be entered into with the successful supplier.

### **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.

<b>Implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
Community Safety	x
Equality and Diversity	x
Sustainability	x
Health and Safety	✓

<b>Risks/Implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
Asset Management	✓
Climate Change	x
Data Protection	x

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<b>List of Background Papers:</b>		
<b>Name of Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Where available for inspection</b>

### **LIST OF APPENDICES**

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