

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 15th March 2022

Title: Sport Wales Capital Grant Award for Aberaeron Swimming Pool and Calon Tysul Ltd

Purpose of the report: To agree that Ceredigion County Council acts in an intermediary role relating to Sports Wales capital funding for Aberaeron Swimming Pool and Calon Tysul Ltd

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member: Councillor Catherine Hughes, Porth Gofal, Early Intervention, Wellbeing Hubs and Culture

1. Background

At the end of November 2021, Sport Wales launched a Capital funding grant scheme for National Governing Bodies, Local Authorities and Leisure Trusts. Expressions of Interest (EOIs) were invited to be submitted by 10th December 2021.

Aberaeron Swimming Pool and Calon Tysul submitted Expressions of Interest independent of the local authority to the capital fund scheme. Council officers provided feedback to Sport Wales on the EOIs and a supporting statement recognising the contribution that both organisations played in providing opportunities for citizens to be physically active in the county including the delivery of school swimming and the Free Swimming Initiative.

On the 19th of January 2022, council officers were approached by Sport Wales asking if the local authority would be willing to act as a trusted partner and submit a stage 2 funding application on behalf of Aberaeron Swimming Pool and Calon Tysul as they were not deemed to be "Leisure Trusts" by Sport Wales's definition and therefore not be eligible to access the capital grant scheme directly.

Discussions between officers of Porth Cymorth Cynnar and Finance and Procurement confirmed that this was appropriate and a stage 2 funding application was submitted to Sport Wales on the 3rd of February 2022.

2. Summary of Stage 2 Funding application

a) Aberaeron Swimming Pool Grant Request £200,000 towards:

1. Installation of a new heating system to increase energy efficiency throughout the building and works to Plant Room machinery.

2. Improvements to the entrance and reception area of the facility, including installation of an automatic door, improving accessibility and decoration and new furnishings for the reception area.

3. Upgrade of showering areas, toileting and baby changing facilities in Male and Female Changing Rooms

4. Installation of new LED lighting in Pool Hall to increase energy efficiency

b) Calon Tysul Grant Request £80,000 towards:

1. Installation of a new Thermodynamic heating system to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions at the facility

2. Installation / repair certified fire doors throughout the centre

3. Installation of emergency lighting, additional lighting in car parking and external areas

Total Grant Request £280,000

Aberaeron Swimming Pool and Calon Tysul are two community trust operated facilities that play an important role in complementing the council's physical activity provision within Ceredigion.

The local authority commissions them to provide Free Swimming and School Swimming services on its behalf to ensure a countywide provision of these activities. Both organisations also operate their own learn to swim programmes which is important as a coastal county. They are also utilised to deliver initiatives such as 60+ and our National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS).

There has been a lack of capital investment in recent years at Aberaeron Swimming Pool and Calon Tysul. The projects identified prioritise improving the energy efficiency of the buildings, which will reduce their running costs and make them more sustainable. The aim is to ensure that they are able to continue to provide opportunities for the public to be physically active for years to come. There are also aspects of the projects that will improve the customer experience at both facilities.

3. Offer of Grant

On the 1st of March 2022 the local authority was informed that both applications had been successful and a total grant offer of £280,000 was made by Sport Wales against total costs of £390k; with the match funding element coming from the external organisations. The grant offer requires acceptance by 16th March 2022, although the ultimate project completion date runs until 01/02/2023.

4. Intermediary Role of Ceredigion County Council

The role of the local authority is to act as the initial grant recipient from Sport Wales and then make a parallel mirrored grant offer with Terms and Conditions reflecting those of Sport Wales to Aberaeron Swimming Pool and Calon Tysul. In effect a

banker role, whereby the Council will then in turn make 1 or more capital grant payments to those entities at key milestone points.

Responsibility for procuring the works to deliver the identified projects rests with Aberaeron Swimming Pool and Calon Tysul. Officers from the Council's Wellbeing Centre Service will ensure that each aspect of the projects has been delivered and will provide advice and assistance on request.

There is no financial liability or contribution from the local authority towards the projects and it is the responsibility of Aberaeron Swimming Pool and Calon Tysul to deliver the projects within the funding awarded. Any additional costs would have to be met by those respective organisations.

**Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed?
If, not, please state why**

Summary:

Wellbeing of Future Generations:	Long term:	Positive: The identified projects will increase the lifespan of the respective facilities
	Collaboration:	Positive: The local authority acting as a grant applicant to support community trust facilities is an example of collaborative working to improve leisure facilities within the county
	Involvement:	Positive: Facility Infrastructure was identified as the main concern of respondents to the council's recent public engagement exercise on its new Physical Activity Development Plan.
	Prevention:	Positive: The proposed projects will improve the energy efficiency of the facilities and will also support opportunities for citizens to be physically active

Integration: Positive: The local authority and community trusts working together to improve services for our citizens

Recommendation(s): That Cabinet agree:

1. That the Sport Wales Grant offer of £280k in relation to capital funding for Aberaeron Swimming Pool and Calon Tysul Ltd is accepted and that the Council acts in an intermediary role as banker.
2. That the scheme is included in the Capital Programme

Reasons for decision:	To enable £280k of Sport Wales Capital investment to be made in Aberaeron Swimming Pool and Calon Tysul.
Overview and Scrutiny:	N/A
Policy Framework:	Ceredigion will provide services that contribute to a healthy environment, healthier lives and protect those who are vulnerable in the county.
Corporate Priorities:	Enabling Individual and family resilience
Finance and Procurement implications:	Council to perform a banker role
Legal Implications:	N/A
Staffing implications:	N/A
Property / asset implications:	Improvements to leisure facilities on council owned land
Risk(s):	Project costings were based on estimates, projects may need to be scaled back following a procurement process.
Statutory Powers:	N/A
Background Papers:	None
Appendices:	N/A
Corporate Lead Officers:	Elen James and Stephen Johnson
Reporting Officers:	Carwyn Young and Duncan Hall
Date:	04/03/2022