

# CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date of meeting:** 11 March 2025

**Title:** Sport Wales Capital Grant Award for Calon Tysul

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

**For:** Decision

**Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:**

**Councillor Catrin M S Davies, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Customer Services**

## **1. Background**

In April 2024, Sport Wales launched the latest round of its Capital grant scheme for National Governing Bodies, Local Authorities and Leisure Trusts. Expressions of Interest (EOIs) were invited to be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

A report was submitted to the officer Leadership Group on 01.05.2024 and approval was given for the Council to act in an applicant / intermediary role to enable Community Leisure Trust Facilities to apply for funding as they were unable to apply directly to Sport Wales for the funding. This mirrors the approach taken by Sport Wales for all previous funding rounds. (Report for Item 214 to Cabinet meeting held on 15.03.2022 in Background Papers)

The Council also submitted its own projects for consideration and Sport Wales's assessment process ensured that each project was assessed on its own merit and that Council and Community Leisure Trust applications did not negatively impact on each other.

Aberaeron Swimming Pool, Calon Tysul and Hamdden Caron all submitted EOIs and Calon Tysul and Hamdden Caron were invited to submit a stage 2 application.

Hamdden Caron decided not to progress with their application however Calon Tysul did submit a Stage 2 application and following the recent availability of additional funding with Sport Wales a grant offer was received on the 09.01.2025.

The additional funding has also resulted in Council projects at Lampeter and Plascrug Swimming Pools and Aberaeron Leisure Centre receiving grant offers and will feature in the Council's Capital Programme for 2025/26.

## **2. Summary of Calon Tysul "Better Future" Funding application**

'Better Future' is a wide-ranging programme of investment and activity across the Calon Tysul Leisure centre and its' operations. It builds from previous initiatives to

invest in green technology, which have enabled the centre to reduce running costs significantly, as well as reducing carbon emissions.

The programme recognises that, in order for the centre survive and thrive, significant investment is needed both to further reduce running cost and to modernise equipment and services. It is of critical importance that the centre can offer sessions and services which are of value to the local community and contribute to the well-being goals of the wider Wales.

The current financial statement indicate that losses have increased in recent years and the reserves position is only positive because of the unsecured loan provided.

The Trustees understand the financial challenges they face. The initiatives they wish to implement are targeted and appear to be considered carefully.

Although the position is fragile if the grant applications are successful the financial position should improve. It is important that the local community supports the centre to ensure that the provision is available in the medium and longer term.

### **Programme Aims and Objectives**

1. Deliver consistent running cost reductions and provide resilient revenue streams, to allow the centre to survive long term.
2. Consistently support and promote health and well-being across the local community through the facilities and activities provided.
3. Modernise the centre, simplify its' running and become a reference site for sustainable local leisure centre operations.
4. Increase community involvement in the centre and provide a hub for community activities.

### **Sport Wales Grant supported elements**

- a) Dryside Oil Boiler Servicing and upgrades
- b) Wetside Oil Boiler Upgrade
- c) Building Management System (BMS)
- d) Removal of the old boiler/incidentals
- e) Chemical Dosing Unit
- f) Wetside Air Handling Unit (Recondition & Insulate)

### **3. 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 grant offer with Terms and Conditions reflecting those of Sport Wales to 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 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 contribution from the local authority towards the projects and it is the responsibility of Calon Tysul to deliver the projects within the funding awarded. Any additional costs would have to be met by Calon Tysul.

There is a clear link between Calon Tysul's "Better Future" programme and the Objectives of the Council's Corporate Strategy which is why the Council performs this intermediary role for county's Community Leisure Trust facilities and the contribution they make to the Health & Wellbeing of our residents.

**Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

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

No, not a policy or service change.

**Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:**

- 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 facility 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 public engagement exercise undertaken in August 2022.
- Prevention:** Positive: The proposed projects will improve the energy efficiency of the facility and will also support opportunities for citizens to be physically active.
- Integration:** Positive: The local authority and a community trust working together to improve services for our citizens.

**Recommendation(s):**

**That Cabinet agree:**

- 1. That the Council acts in an intermediary role as banker for the Sport Wales Grant of £128,750 in relation to Calon Tysul.**
- 2. That the Scheme is included in the 2025/26 Capital Programme.**

**Reasons for decision:**

**To enable £128,750 of capital investment to be made into Calon Tysul.**

**Overview and Scrutiny:**

No, due to the timing of receipt of the grant offer and the deadline for accepting the grant offer.

**Policy Framework:**

Ceredigion Corporate Strategy 2022-27

**Corporate Well-being Objectives:**

- Creating Caring and Healthier Communities
- Creating Sustainable, Green and Well-connected Communities

**Finance and Procurement implications:**

Council to perform a banker role

**Legal Implications:**

None

**Staffing implications:**

None

**Property / asset implications:**

None

**Risk(s):**

If the recommendations are not supported, it would conflict with the decision made at Cabinet meeting 15.03.2022 Item 214

Project costings are based on estimates, project may need to be scaled back following a procurement process

Unforeseen costs or events putting Calon Tysul under financial pressure and unable to operate

Reputational damage if scheme fails in short term

**Statutory Powers:**

N/A

**Background Papers:**

Cabinet Report 15.03.2022 – Item 214 - [Ceredigion County Council Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 15th March, 2022, 10.00 am](#)

**Appendices:**

None

**Corporate Lead Officer:**

Greg Jones, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cymorth Cynnar (Interim)  
Duncan Hall, Corporate Lead Officer: Finance and Procurement

**Reporting Officer:**

Carwyn Young, Corporate Manager: Wellbeing Centres

**Date:**

03.02.2025