

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 2 SEPTEMBER 2014  
title: ROEFIELD CENTRE ACTIVITY ROOM FUNDING REQUEST  
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

### 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present to Members an application for funding from Roefield Leisure Centre to the Council for £15,445, to enable a new activity space to be built within the existing footprint of the centre.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
- Community Objectives – to improve the health of people living and working in our area
  - Corporate Priorities - to protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area, to help make people's live healthier and safer
  - Other Considerations – to work in partnership with other bodies in pursuit of the Council's aims and objectives

### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Roefield Leisure Trust runs the primary sports centre for the Clitheroe area. It provides a range of activities and sports for all ages of people in the local community. Roefield has been granted two substantial loans in the past from the Council. The most recent was to fund the development of the current site. The Trust is paying back both over a number of years, and no other Council funds are provided for ongoing revenue expenditure at the Centre.

### 3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The centre is a busy site providing activities for traditional sports, and health and fitness facilities for both adults and children. The space utilisation within the centre can be improved within the existing footprint, thereby increasing the amount of usable space for a range of fitness activities. That is the purpose of the request for funding.
- 3.2 Given the loan that the Council made in the past, and the other financial commitments the Trust has, they do not believe another loan would be viable at this stage to help fund the project, hence the reason they are seeking a grant towards the project.
- 3.3 The space itself would be used primarily for additional spinning classes (aerobics on a stationary bicycle); however, it would be a flexible space and permit, among other things: other types of aerobic classes; play scheme activities; be available as a meeting room/crèche; a sensory room - for people with disabilities, or help the council on election days.

- 3.4 Currently, there are 14 hours of spinning classes per week, equating to 8,300 attendances. It is anticipated this would be doubled with a larger space in which to operate, providing more opportunities for people to attend, and increased income for the Trust to invest in other parts of their service. This will ultimately benefit local people, as it will enable the Trust to enhance the overall service quality they provide.
- 3.5 The capital cost of the scheme is £30,445, of which the Trust has secured cash contributions of £15,000 from other sources. The Trust will itself contribute £3798 of in-kind support towards discounted rates, and free sessions to encourage more people to become active in the area, following construction of the space.
- 3.6 RVBC uses the Centre for the delivery of the exercise for health programme, and many local people benefit from the activities based there. The new space would help increase opportunities both when these people are on our programme and, more importantly, when they have moved through it and are looking to maintain their healthier approach to life in the future.
- 3.7 Roefield already provides discounted activities for unemployed and disabled people, plans are being drawn up to try and extend this to other groups, utilising the additional revenue generated, if the new activity space is created.
- 3.8 Roefield has considered a bid for Sport England funding to help make up the shortfall, instead of the Council. However, Roefield believes at this time they would like to consider making such an application for a larger scheme to try and extend the centre in the future. Roefield has, therefore, decided that making an application at this stage for a relatively small sum from Sport England would not be a sensible strategic use of that funding option.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – There is no current budget from which this sum could be found, and it would need to be considered as part of the 2015/16 budget.
- Political – The Council has shown commitment to the centre in the past through loans and one-off grants. A similar request from Longridge Sports Centre, which also operates separately to the Council, was recently declined.
- Reputation – The Centre provides a significant leisure resource for the area, the Council has shown its commitment to it in the past with the finance provided.
- Equality & Diversity – The Roefield centre provides activities for all sectors of the population, and their policies are in accordance with the Council's equal opportunity policy.

#### 5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Members consider the request for funding.

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