

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Introduced by the Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well Being)	Executive Cabinet	06/09/2007

## POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF A SPORTS VILLAGE IN CHORLEY

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To consider a feasibility study into the development of a Sports Village in Chorley.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the project does not move forward due to a lack of funding (capital and revenue) and a lack of any identified strategic context.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. The report assesses the need for a Sports Village in Chorley, looks at the potential facility mix and the capital and revenue costings of such a facility and then brings this together into a conclusion and recommendation. Given the revenue and capital costs of the project and the lack of any strategic context, it is not considered appropriate to proceed with the project.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

#### (If the recommendations are accepted)

4. As explained previously, the revenue and capital costs of the proposed project would, if it were to proceed, have a significant impact on the Council's revenue and capital budgets. There is no local strategic context for the project. If it were to proceed this would entail the Council and its partners revisiting all other previously agreed priorities. This course of action is not considered to be appropriate in the light of the feasibility study.

### ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. One option would have been to progress with the project. As previously mentioned, it is recommended that this option is not progressed for financial and strategic reasons.

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

6. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the central Lancashire sub region		Improved access to public services	3
Improving equality of opportunity and life chance	3	Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	3
Involving People in their Communities		Ensure Chorley is a performing Organisation	3

## BACKGROUND

7. Following calls for the Council to consider a Sports Village project in the Borough, the Council obtained funding from the North West Development Agency to commission a feasibility study. The feasibility study was undertaken by Strategic Leisure and commenced in January 2007. The final report was prepared in July 2007.

## FEASIBILITY STUDY

8. A copy of the feasibility study is attached to this report.
9. In addition to the report, Strategic Leisure will attend the Executive Cabinet meeting and give a presentation on the feasibility study.
10. As Members would expect, there is a lot of enthusiasm for new sports facilities within the Borough. This is evidenced by the favourable comments made by the organisations who were consulted.
11. However, the report identifies two significant areas of weakness. The first relates to the strategic context. The development of such a facility does not appear in the Borough's Community Plan or in the Council's Corporate Strategy. As Members will see in the feasibility study, it does not figure in the strategic thinking of many partner organisations. Clearly, if resources were to be diverted to a project of this nature, this would have a significant impact on the Council's ability to deliver the objectives in the Corporate Strategy and to contribute to the wider objectives in the Community Plan.
12. The second area of weakness relates to finances. The feasibility study identifies the capital costs for the project to be circa £10m and the revenue costs to be £300,000 per year. In terms of the capital costs, the study has identified that there are limited opportunities to secure external funding and if any funding was secured there would be a significant capital funding gap that would need to be bridged by the Council. With revenue funding of £300,000 required each year, it is also envisaged that the Council would be requested to make a significant contribution to this gap on an annual basis. Given the Council's current commitments, it is not considered affordable.
13. Following the recommendation in the study not to proceed, there are a number of actions that could be looked at in more detail. Some relate to wider sports provision in the Borough. Officers will review these in consultation with the respective Executive Members and include them in future Directorate Improvement Plans, as appropriate.

## IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

14. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Director's comments are included:

Finance	3	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal			

## COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

15. As the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services has stated, the project, if it were to proceed, would require circa £10m of capital funding and in excess of £300,000 per year. Given the Council's current financial commitments, a project of this scale simply is not affordable.

JAMIE CARSON  
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND CULTURAL SERVICES

There are no background papers to this report.

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Jamie Carson	5815	22 August 2007	