

Title of Report:	Correspondence Report
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 May 2022
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Contributing to Prosperity. Healthy Engaged Communities.
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Director of Leisure and Development

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	n/a
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	n/a
Code	n/a
Staffing Costs	n/a

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present Correspondence for Members consideration.

2.0 The following are listed:

2.1 Correspondence from Coleraine Football Club. (received 12 May 2022)

Correspondence has been received from Coleraine Football Club with a request to formalise the partnership between Council and the Club in support of their applications to the Levelling Up fund.

Correspondence attached.

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Members consider the correspondence.



Re: Coleraine Football Club – Levelling Up Fund Application

Dear Mr Jackson,

Coleraine Football Club are now in an advanced stage of submitting 2 joint applications to the “Levelling Up Fund” in respect of the projects we have presented to the Leisure and Development in April 2021 and again on the 15th February 2022. Now we politely request to formalise the agreed partnership to help support our application. This is a non-financial commitment, currently. We simply wish to ensure the application is robust enough with knowledge, experience, and expertise with the council’s involvement. To this end we would like to extend an invite to a council rep to join the project board.

As earlier stated we are submitting 2 applications which are linked, this is eligible under the criteria, the first is the stadium development for 6,000 seat capacity (circa £13m) aimed at supporting our increasing attendances, attracting minor internationals to the North Coast, spreading the appeal of football around Northern Ireland and we also want to bring the Super Cup back to the Showgrounds. The design will include net zero carbon features, which will make it a “model of best practice for modern stadium design in the island of Ireland”. This proposed plan will also act as an economic stimulus for the Coleraine area by bringing increased footfall to the region, supported by our unique bus and rail infrastructure. The application fits within two strands of the criteria, because of our proximity to Coleraine Town centre we are seen as a regeneration project as well as heritage (sport). The historians within the club point to the earliest games of football in Northern Ireland being played in Coleraine by Scottish sailors and the Showgrounds coming to its 100th anniversary in 2027 make it a worthy recipient of support.

Our second project is our Community Hub with 3G pitch (circa £3m) which is aimed at increasing participation in football and sport in general within the Targeting Social Needs (TSN) areas on either side of the Showgrounds (Cross Glebe and Coleraine Central), this project is also a net zero carbon design. We are in the process of completing the Social Return on Investment program with the IFA and UEFA to obtain a baseline on Non-Monetary Benefits for the economic appraisal (circa, £5m annually), which we can review when the project is up and running in 2025. This project will target health and well-being and anti-social behaviour amongst young people and increased participation of young girls in football. We expect both projects to be able to start in early Autumn 2022 we will be able to meet the spend profile of the fund criteria.

Last year the board had the foresight to start this process with a business plan (DfC’s SOC), which we have now renewed, but the initial business proposition, which we presented to the L&D committee, captured the imagination of all the key influencers needed to secure the letters of support we required to demonstrate the need to justify the application, these include ministers, MPs, MLA’s, council, trade groups, community groups and schools. Outline planning was applied for in October

2021 and we anticipate securing it within weeks and detailed planning will follow immediately after the grant is secured, along with the appointment of a professional team (architects, engineers etc).

We see this is a great opportunity for not just Coleraine Football Club meeting its needs but also the entire Causeway Coast region as a stimulus and the IFA through the provision of a modern venue. If you have any questions or need any further clarification, please do not hesitate to come back to me. This request is time sensitive as the deadline for applications is the 6th July 2022, therefore we would welcome your contribution as early in June 2022 as possible.

Yours sincerely



Colin McKendry

Chairperson