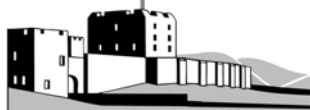


**CARLISLE
CITY COUNCIL**



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REPORT TO COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

PORTFOLIO AREA: HEALTH & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Date of Meeting:

2ND October 2003

Public

Key
Decision:

No

Recorded in Forward
Plan:

No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: SHEEPMOUNT PROJECT UPDATE

Report of: Head of Culture, Leisure & Sport Services

Report reference: CLS55/03

Summary:

This report gives an update of the latest position with this Project.

Recommendations:

Members to note the report.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Sheepmount Project concerns the plan to upgrade the athletics and football facilities at the Sheepmount, with assistance from the Football Foundation, Sports Lottery Fund and Carlisle City Council.
2. The Project will see the addition of two lanes to the athletics track, making it eight lanes wide and therefore suitable for hosting National League events; the changing accommodation will be substantially enhanced, enabling both male and female participants to use the facilities; and the football pitches will have work carried out to them to improve drainage which has led to many cancellations of games in the past because of wet weather.

2. CURRENT POSITION

1. Members approved the appointment of M.P.M. Capita as Project Managers for the Scheme on 3 March 2003, min ref: EX.061/03, since when they have been working towards issuing the tender documents in September 2003. This projected timetable has slipped by around three weeks to October 2003, to enable detailed information to be obtained in connection with the bridge access to the site. Work may be necessary to increase the weight limit for vehicular access to the Sheepmount.
2. The issue of tender documents is currently planned to take place in October 2003, which will be subject to successful Tenders being received, result in the project commencing on site in March 2004.

3. FUNDING SUPPORT

1. The Council regards this Project as a high capital priority and has already identified the necessary finance to match the grants which have been sought.
2. A grant of just over £800,000 has been approved by the Football Foundation. The second primary funder is the Sports Lottery Fund and they have sent a letter of support for the Project to the Council in July 2003, following their most recent Board meeting. The exact amount of the grant will now be clarified with the Lottery. Once this figure is known a press release will be issued to inform local people.

4. CONCLUSION

1. The Project, when completed, will provide Carlisle with a regional facility offering superb athletics and football facilities. The unique funding partnership arrangement will help many people to continue, and others to start, their sporting careers at a facility which will have been subject to considerable investment of time and capital by both the Council and the clubs which use the site now.

MARK BEVERIDGE

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