

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISION MEETING FOR  
REGENERATION AND LEISURE  
17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2015**

<b>Executive Board Member:</b>	<b>Portfolio:</b>
Cllr. Meryl Gravell	Regeneration & Leisure

**REVIEW OF THE SPORT & LEISURE GRANT FOR INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS**

**RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:**

To remove the Sport & Leisure Grant that is currently available to-

- athletes who represent Wales in their chosen sport
- disabled athletes (and their carers) who represent Wales in their chosen sport
- organisations for hosting an event/minor facility improvement

**REASONS:**

The leisure division is required to make savings of £880k over the next few years. By removing the Sport & Leisure Grant a saving of £19,175 (£15,549 Sport & Leisure budget and £3,626 Disability Sport & Leisure budget) would be made.

<b>Directorate:</b> Communities	<b>Designation</b> <b>Senior Sports &amp; Leisure Manager</b>	<b>Tel No.</b> 01267 228309 / 01554 744231
<b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Ian Jones	<b>Head of Sport &amp; Leisure</b>	<b>E Mail Address:</b> <a href="mailto:IJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">IJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
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**Declaration of Personal Interest (if any):**

None

**Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any):**

N/A

**DECISION MADE:**

**Signed:**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

Recommendation of Officer adopted	YES / NO
Recommendation of the Officer was adopted <b>subject to the amendment(s) and reason(s) specified:</b>	
Reason(s) why the Officer's recommendation was <b>not adopted:</b>	

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISION MEETING FOR**  
**REGENERATION & LEISURE**  
**17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2015**

**REVIEW OF THE SPORT & LEISURE GRANT FOR INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS**

**1. Background**

The Sport & Leisure Grant has been in existence for over 10 years and provides cash funding from core budget towards both individuals and organisations within Carmarthenshire.

- Athletes who represent Wales at a National Level within their chosen sport can apply for training costs and/or to compete at a National/International Event.
- Disabled athletes who represent Wales at a National Level within their chosen sport can apply for training costs, to compete at a National/International Event, and to possibly cover costs of a carer.
- Organisations within Carmarthenshire can apply to host an event or for minor facility improvements.

Over the last 30 months, CCC has contributed an average of 20% of the applicants' cost for competing and training during the year (Appendix 1). 77% of applicants required funding towards a specific event, and therefore their ability to continue to compete and train at an elite level would be unaffected by the removal of this grant.

The allocated budget for 2015/16 is £19,175 (£15,549 Sport & Leisure Grant and £3,626 Disabled Sport & Leisure Grant). As the grant is core funded by the authority amidst a period of considerable budget cuts (£880k for Leisure over the next 3 years) this would be a significant saving for Leisure.

In addition to the Sport & Leisure grant having been a form of financial support to sportspeople in Carmarthenshire, CCC has supported, and will continue to support, individuals through the 'Gold Card' scheme which provides free access to one of the Council's Leisure Centres of the applicant's choice, each Centre offering excellent training facilities to maintain and enhance the individual's fitness.

Whilst this has a value of £396 p.a. to the individual, we are allowing individuals to use space in our facilities (e.g. gym, class, swim) and therefore no funds, or indeed core budget, have to be distributed.

## 2. Issues for consideration

- Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire are the only 2 LA's within the region (South West and Mid Wales) that still provide funding for individuals and organisations through core funding (Appendix 2). Other LA's have removed the funding from the Core budget in recent years or have never provided the grant from the core budget.
- On average, the S&L grant has contributed £156 towards an individual's training costs pa. (Appendix 1) whereas CCC's Gold Card scheme provides a value of £396 towards each Gold Card Member's training costs per annum.
- The criteria for the Gold Card and Sport & Leisure Grant are the same; those eligible for the Sport & Leisure Grant would be eligible to apply for the Gold Card (only 26% of Sport & Leisure grant applicants have accessed the Gold Card scheme).
- By raising awareness of the Gold Card Scheme to eligible individuals, the number of individuals accessing the Gold Card would increase thus increasing the total amount of contribution from CCC - If 100% of Sport & Leisure Applicants had accessed the Gold Card, CCC would on average have contributed £40,128 p.a. from April 2012 to March 2015. This sum is far greater than the average amount contributed through the S&L grant of £16,740 p.a. (Appendix 1)

There are alternative funding opportunities available to both individuals and organisations within the county, such as (Appendix 3) -

### 1. Individuals

- CCC Gold Card Scheme
- Other funding sources such as Sport Wales Elite Cymru Grant, Talent Cymru, Ray Gravell Charitable Trust and Friends
- Sponsorship from local businesses and town/community councils

### 2. Disabled Individuals

- CCC Gold Card Scheme
- Other funding sources such as Adam Millichip Foundation and The Richard Overall Trust
- Sponsorship from local businesses and town/community councils

### 3. Organisations

- Sport Wales Community Chest and Development Grant
- Other funding sources such as Swansaid and Cash 4 Clubs
- Sponsorship from local businesses and town/community councils

### 3. Resource implications

Removing the grant would enable us to invest in the Sport & Leisure infrastructure to increase future impact, and also to meet efficiency targets.

An increase in Gold Card Members (which would potentially occur due to this scheme being our sole tool to assist elite sportspeople) has the potential to marginally reduce income at our facilities, however it would encourage more people to access the excellent facilities, helping us to work towards our 'More people, more active, more often' mantra championed by WG, Sport Wales, CCC and Hywel Dda Health Board. Through attending our facilities individuals will receive quality advice and support from our highly qualified trained officers on fitness training programmes etc.

These high level sportspeople also act as role models to others, and to attract them to use our facilities, even at no charge, is of a huge broader benefit to us. Of course assisting them to be as fit and high-performing as they can be is of great importance to the county, where these athletes champion Carmarthenshire on national, European and often world stages.

An increase in Gold Card memberships would have an impact on resources, i.e. additional administrative duties; however a central admin team is already in place to administer applications and memberships and through the recent Sport & Leisure restructure this team have absorbed this task into their remit. This increase is therefore not an issue.

### 4. Recommendation

- The Sport & Leisure Grant to be removed.
- The existing Gold Card Scheme and alternative funding opportunities to be promoted via the Sport & Leisure Officers.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO

## IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Ian Jones

Head of Leisure

Policy and Crime & Disorder & Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy and Crime & Disorder & Equalities N/A

2. Legal N/A

#### 3. Finance

The finance implications are internal: the grant monies that will no longer be required will form part of the future resourcing of Sport & Leisure and contribute to its efficiency programme.

<b>5. Risk Management Issues</b> N/A
<b>6. Staffing Implications</b> N/A
<b>7. Physical Assets</b> N/A

## CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Ian Jones Head of Leisure

1. Scrutiny Committee – N/A
2. Local Member(s) - N/A
3. Community / Town Council – N/A
4. Relevant Partners - N/A
5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information**  
**List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THERE ARE NONE.