

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Executive Committee
Date:	January 12th 2014
Subject:	Llangefni Skate Park – Future Reinstatement
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr. Aled Morris Jones
Chief Executive:	Richard Parry Jones
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Local Members:	Cllr. Nicola Roberts Cllr. Bob Parry Cllr. Dylan Rees
	Also of relevance to all Elected Members as the facility serves all the Island's residents and visitors.

A – Recommendation/s and reason/s
<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>The report outlines a number of potential external grant funding sources that could assist in the reinstatement of the Llangefni Skate Park. It is therefore recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Arrange a meeting between Officers in Economic & Community Regeneration with the Llangefni Town Council and Llangefni Social Enterprise to agree a way forward on delivering a reinstatement scheme; b. Formalise the future management and governance of any facility and learn lessons from past experiences; c. Allocate Officer time from the Economic & Community Regeneration (EC&R) allocated to assist in the process of delivering any reinstatement scheme. <p>Reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Executive – in a meeting 3rd November 2014 – requested that potential funding sources to reinstate the Skate Park were identified. b) The Skate Park was removed following a safety inspection in June 2014 and the community has requested that the County Council assist in its reinstatement. c) Whilst the County Council does not have the necessary funds to cover the full costs of reinstatement, Officer time from EC&R will be allocated to progressing and supporting the Llangefni Town Council and Social Enterprise with any future funding

bids.

- d) Due to ineligibility, the County Council is not in a position to apply for a number of funding sources. Along with substantial budget cuts forecasted over the next 3 years, the County Council should not be the lead organisation in any project.
- e) Should a project to reinstate the Skate Park be successful, lessons must be learnt and a formal governance structure established for the future ongoing management of the facility.

The Executive Committee resolved that Officers – as a matter of immediacy – investigate the availability of grant funding to enable reinstatement, and to report back on potential funding sources to the Executive Committee in January 2015.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them?

A short report which provides an overview on the options available for reinstatement is included as **Annex A** these include concrete; synthetic; wood and metal. A number of potential funding options (Biffa Awards; Aggregate Levy Fund; Magnox; Trust House; Sports Wales; Anglesey Charitable Trust) have been identified and considered fully but it is recommended that the County Council is not to be the lead body in any future external funding bid. This is as a result of significant budgetary cuts over the forthcoming years and also that the County Council is ineligible to apply for some external funding sources. It is the recommendation of Officers that the Llangefni Town Council and Social Enterprise should consider being the lead body to access as many potential external funding sources as possible. This is as a result of their expertise in the ongoing management of such facilities and to ensure the future success of any reinstatement proposal.

It is recognised that responding effectively to the Corporate Plan and overall financial challenges facing the County Council must take priority.

C – Why is this decision for the Executive?

This facility was a valued asset for community in Llangefni and had proven popular. The decision and process to remove the facility has had some negative repercussions on the County Council from members of the public.

The Executive is therefore required to undertake an informed decision which will provide Officers with clear guidance on the future reinstatement of the Llangefni Skate Park.

Should the Executive agree with the Recommendation of this report, Officers will undertake required works to progress an urgent meeting with representatives from the Llangefni

Town Council and Social Enterprise.
CH – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?
The proposed way forward is consistent with the IACC's Corporate Plan and Economic & Community Regeneration Service Delivery Plan (2014/ 2015).
D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?
The proposed way forward is consistent and aligned with the approved budget (and options to ensure future financial reduction requirements are met) of the Economic & Community Regeneration Service.

DD – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	Support the above recommendations
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	Support the above recommendations
4	Human Resources (HR)	n/a
5	Property	Property Services have been utilised in the process to ensure the relevance of the information contained herein.
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	n/a
7	Scrutiny	Has been discussed at Scrutiny 26 th September 2014
8	Local Members	
9	Any external bodies / other/s	Following the decision, the Town Council and Social Enterprise will need to be consulted.
DD – Who did you consult? What did they say?		
1	Economic	The Skate Park is an important asset to the community of Llangefni. The Service recognises the need to assist in the reinstatement of this facility.
2	Anti-poverty	
3	Crime and Disorder	
4	Environmental	
5	Equalities	Equality Impact Statement prepared.
6	Outcome Agreements	Not applicable.
7	Other	

F - Appendices:
a) Llangefni Skate Park Future Reinstatement Report

FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

- a) Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 26th September 2014
<http://democracy.anglesey.gov.uk/documents/g2691/Printed%20minutes%2026th-Sep-2014%2014.00%20Corporate%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=1&LLL=0>
- b) Executive Meeting – 3rd November 2014
<http://democracy.anglesey.gov.uk/documents/g2561/Printed%20minutes%2003rd-Nov-2014%2010.00%20The%20Executive.pdf?T=1&LLL=0>



Llangefni Skate Park Future Re-instatement

December 2014

Prepared by:

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Economic and Community Regeneration**

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report responds directly to the Executive Committee's request to identify potential funding sources to reinstate the Llangefni Skate Park (3rd November 2014). Minutes of this meeting can be viewed at: - <http://democratiaeth.ynysmon.gov.uk/documents/g2561/Penderfyniadau%2003ydd-Tach-2014%2010.00%20Pwyllgor%20Gwaith.pdf?T=2&LLL=1>
- 1.2 The Skate Park was removed following ROSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) safety inspection in June 2014. This report considers design and construction issues, potential external funding sources to enable reinstatement, and the associated management and maintenance issues.

2.0 Context

- 2.1 The Llangefni skate park was established in 2003 by Communities First and Cwmni Tref Llangefni. Capital funding was secured, £50,000 from Communities First and £20,000 from Sportlot. Safety inspections and repairs were initially carried out by the County Councils Leisure Service. Many of these duties and responsibilities were taken on by the Town Council in recent years, but there was no formal agreement between the organisations.
- 2.2 Informal dialogue with the town clerk resulted in a provisional desire to relocate the skate park to a new site near the Lon Las Community Park. Ownership of the equipment, and responsibility for management and maintenance was to be transferred to the Town Council (following a ROSPA safety inspection of the equipment). There was no formal agreement.
- 2.3 The ROSPA safety inspection on the 11th June 2014 stated that *"the course posed an unacceptable and immediate risk and that the equipment may be beyond economic repair and the site should be closed pending removal"*. The skate park facility was removed, dismantled and sold for scrap in late June of 2014.
- 2.6 The process of closing the Skate Park was considered by Corporate Scrutiny on the 26th September 2014 and the Executive Committee meeting on the 3rd November 2014. The Executive Committee resolved that officers as a matter of immediacy investigate the availability of grant funding to enable reinstatement, and to report back on potential funding sources to the Executive Committee in January 2015.

3.0 Design, Construction and Location

- 3.1 Discussions with skate park design and construction companies has improved awareness and understanding of potential designs and construction options with different surface materials - wood, metal, synthetic and concrete. Each option is briefly summarised and the capital cost for reinstating a similar facility is estimated. The cost relate to equipment purchase and installation, and do not include the revenue costs/ capacity.

1. **Concrete** - A concrete construction facility offers a wider range of design possibilities, quieter and is the most durable/lower maintenance. It is the most expensive material with installation and repair costs also likely to be higher. The number of individual pieces bought can be aligned with the available budget. The estimated cost is £100,000-£150,000. Costs of other concrete schemes across the UK are outlined below.

Table 1:- Capital costs of establishing concrete skate parks

Skatepark	Price	Skatepark	Price
Eastbourne	£88,500	Cinderford	£141,000
Brentwood	£95,000	Ashington	£136,000
Mini Plaza	£96,000	Tiptree	£126,500
East Grinstead	£94,000	Daventry	£129,000
Weston Park	£104,500	Kingsfield	£179,500
Spined Mini	£113,000	Orford Park	£203,500
Bradford	£104,500	Worksop	£198,000
Telford	£118,000	Petersfield	£176,500
Bowl Park	£117,000	Victoria Park	£274,500
Werrington	£118,000	Guildford	£231,500
Hailsham	£116,500	Northampton	£268,500
Street Plaza (36 x 14m)	£152,500	Oxford	£296,000

2. **Synthetic** - This is a durable surface with low maintenance requirements offering good levels of grip for users. The number of individual pieces bought can be aligned with the available budget. The estimated cost of re-instating synthetic equipment is £35,000 to £80,000.
3. **Metal** - This would be replacing the removed pieces with ones of the same material. This is a highly durable and vandalism resistant material. The surface requires regular re-coating as it becomes slippery over time. The number of individual pieces bought can be aligned with the available budget, with the estimated cost of re-instating metal equipment being £30,000 - £80,000.
4. **Wood**:- This is the lowest cost material with least durability and is preferred for indoor facilities due to its low life span (5-10 years if utilised for outdoor sites). The number of individual pieces bought can be aligned with the available budget, with the estimated cost of re-instating metal equipment is £30,000 to £65,000.

Table 2: Materials Overview

Material	Positive	Negative	Cost Range
Concrete	Wider range of design possibilities	Most expensive material with costly/lengthy installation period.	Estimated cost £100,000- £150,000.
	Quieter than other surfaces		
	Less slippery when wet	Suitability of sub soil, effect on soil drainage and compaction needs to be considered.	
	Generally lower maintenance than other materials	Significant damage can be difficult / expensive to repair. Product cannot be relocated or easily altered.	
Synthetic	Good grip level and dry's quickly following rain fall	Not as durable to vandalism as concrete and metal.	£35,000 - £80,000
	High Durability		
	Low cost maintenance requirements.		
	Equipment can be relocated and possibly altered.		
Wood	Environmentally sustainable	Higher maintenance requirements than other surfaces. Preferred for indoor facilities as it has a low life span as an outdoor facility (approximately 5 to 10 years dependant on exposure to weather and usage levels). This may be an issue for some funding providers.	Estimated cost £25,000 - £65,000
	Equipment can be relocated		
	Low cost of installation		
	Low cost of replacement parts		
	Lower risk of injury due to surface having more 'give'.		
Metal	Second highest durability and vandalism resistant.	Regular re-coting is required as surface can become slippery over time. Surface can become hot in the summer.	£30,000- £80,000
	Smaller pieces of equipment can be relocated (however larger equipment are usually welded to the surface).	Larger noise levels than other surfaces	

3.3 The cost ranges detailed above are estimates. The actual budget required will become clearer following consultation with users and further information provided on site specification etc.

- 3.4 From the information collected the material that offers the best value in terms of initial capital cost, durability and low maintenance as well as benefits to users in terms of grip future design flexibility etc. is a synthetic based product.
- 3.5 Manufacturers suggested that a development should include the provision of flood lights to make the facility more accessible all year round (this could be a second stage development consideration). The ongoing revenue cost and implications would need to be formally agreed.
- 3.6 Consideration needs to be given to the most appropriate location (i.e. reinstated outside Plas Arthur or placed in the intended new location at Lôn Las). A public consultation would be necessary prior to finalising design and location.

4.0 External Funding Sources

- 4.1 It is not possible for the IACC, in a period of continued financial pressures, and expectations to reduce the scope of activities within non-protected Service areas to reinstate the Skate Park facility with its own core resources. The IACC could potentially contribute towards a funding-mix from different sources (no budget has been identified). The potential external funding sources are outlined below.

Table 3: Funding Sources Investigated

Funding Source	Max Grant	Who can apply	Process and time scales
Magnox	£10,000	LAs and community groups	Rolling Programme
Aggregate Levy Fund	£150,000 (to fund up to 75% of project costs).	LAs and community groups	There are two submission periods for this fund:- 1. April 2015 with projects able to start from 1 st July 2015 and completed by 31 st March 2016. 2. October 2015 with projects able to start from 1 st April 2016 and completed by 31 st March 2017.
Biffa Awards	£50,000	Community groups	Rolling two stage Programme:- First stage expression of interest has a three week assessment period. The second stage full application must be submitted within 3 months of passing the first stage and the assessment period for the full application can take up to 6 months.
Trust House	£30,000 (fund up to 50% of project cost)	Community groups	Rolling Programme:- applications can be made throughout the year with 4 grant committee meeting in late Feb, late April/early May, Mid July and late Oct/ Early Nov 2015. Applications will need to be submitted at least 6 weeks prior to the committee meeting.
Anglesey Charitable Trust	–	Community group	An official request would need to be made. The committee meets every quarter.
Sport Wales Development Grant	£25,000	Local authority and community group	Rolling Programme:- This grant fund has a 6 week application period. Local authority applications will need to provide 50% match funding with community group applications needing to provide 20%. Discussions with grant

			officers suggest that a funding offer of less than the £25,000 available is likely as measurable outcomes to health are difficult to evidence.
Awards for All Wales (Big Lottery)	£5,000	Local authority and community group	This is a rolling grant programme with an estimated application assessment period of 4 months. Larger capital grants are more appropriate for the size of this project.
People and Places (Big Lottery)	£1,000,000	Local authority and community group	This rolling grant programme has a two stage application process which is estimated to take around 9 months. However a skate park does not deliver the economic and social outcomes required to obtain this funding source.
Community Facilities and Activities Programme (CFAP)	£500,000	Local authority and community group	This is a rolling grant programme with a two stage application process estimated to take between 6 and 9 months. However a skate park does not deliver the economic and social outcomes required to obtain this funding source.
Children in Need	£20,000	Community group only	The two stage grant application process is expected to take around 5 months. There are three main submission dates, next being the 15 th January 2015. However the total cost of the skate park exceeds this funding criteria.
European Funding			No viable grants at this time

4.2 Should a collaborative process be undertaken to reinstate the Skate Park facility, the most viable potential funding sources are deemed to be:

1. Biffa Awards:-Projects eligible for this fund must be situated within 10 miles from both a Biffa facility and a landfill (Llangefni would be eligible). This fund can provide up to £50,000 towards this project. This fund is available to projects of no more than £200,000. It is expected a project will be in a position to start the work and submit the first claim within 6 month of an official funding offer. <http://www.biffa-award.org/>
2. Aggregate Levy Fund: - This fund is provided to communities that are adversely affected by the operations of local quarries. Up to £150,000 can be awarded to fund up to 75% of capital project costs. A proven impact through the direct operations of the quarry itself or associated increased traffic needs to be shown. In Llangefni the impact of traffic to and from the CMP and W.J.Owen quarry along the B5110 could allow the community to request funding for projects such as the skate park. However evidence of this impact needs to be gathered to ascertain eligibility for this grant source. [http://www.mineralproducts.org/documents/Aggregate Levy Fund Leaflet.pdf](http://www.mineralproducts.org/documents/Aggregate_Levy_Fund_Leaflet.pdf)
3. Magnox:- Up to £10,000 of match funding could be provided from their socio-economic scheme. <https://magnoxsocioeconomic.com/>
4. Trust House:- Could provide up to £30K of match funding. 50% or more of the funds required need to come from another source. <http://www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk/>

5. Sport Wales Development Grant:- A maximum of £25,000 is available to develop sport and active recreation in communities. However discussions with a grant officer suggested that the health benefits of a skate park are difficult to measure/evidence and therefore a grant offer would likely be less than the £25,000 available. To obtain this fund the required match funding contribution will differ dependant on the applicant: - local authorities need to provide 50% match funding and community groups needing to provide 20%. Funds would look favourably on design that would be inclusive of other users' e.g. BMX.
<http://www.sportwales.org.uk/funding--support/our-grants/development-grant.aspx>
 6. Anglesey Charitable Trust:- A request could be made for financial support (but not from the IACC). This application may need to include similar projects in other areas of the island as fund is given to projects that deliver a benefit to the island as a whole.
- 4.3 Additional sources of funding requiring further consideration include Crowd Funding (fundraising by local community); Sponsorship from local businesses (e.g. ASDA, Llechwedd, Huws Gray etc.); and a IACC contribution.
 - 4.4 The time scales associated with the funding providers application process results in two main options:-

Option 1:- If the Llangefni area is eligible for the Aggregate Levy Fund then an application could be made for the April round of funding, with applications also made to the Sport Wales Development Grant, Trust House and Magnox. Through this option a total capital fund of £215,000 could be generated with construction starting in July 2015.

Option 2:- If the Llangefni area is not eligible for the Aggregate Levy Fund then an application could be made to the Biffa Awards, Sport Wales Development Grant, Trust House and Magnox. Through this option a total capital fund of £115,000 could be generated with construction starting in December 2015.

5.0 Ongoing Management

- 5.1 The reinstatement of this facility could be achieved if the County Council and prominent community groups/organisations worked together. Funding eligibility criteria, VAT implications and future management and sustainability will determine what organisational structure is more likely to succeed.
- 5.2 The IACC would be an ineligible applicant organisation for a number of funding sources. Within the broader context of the budget reductions of the Leisure Function (60% budget savings in the next 3 years), the IACC is not ideally positioned to be the lead organisation in any project. The main options are:

1. The formation of a Wheeled Sport Association where users and volunteers (such as the Hereford model <http://herefordskatepark.co.uk/>) manage the facility.
2. Llangefni Social Enterprise brings together a number of community groups to achieve common improvement/ regeneration goals.
3. The Town Council is an established, professional and sustainable organisation which benefits from VAT exemptions that would enable full grant aid to be spent on the facilities reinstatement.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 A number of potential external grant funding sources exist to reinstate the Llangefni Skate-park. Synthetic based products have been identified as the best possible solution. The capital cost of reinstatement is estimated to be £35,000 - £80,000. The cost does not include the capacity required to progress the scheme in collaboration with other organisations, the community, and potential facility users.
- 6.2 Further work is required to determine eligibility for the Aggregate Levy Fund and Biffa Awards and other potential external funding sources. However, a clear ambition and commitment to collaboration is required. Each potential external funding source has its own process and timescale.
- 6.3 The Economic & Community Regeneration Service does not have an allocated budget to contribute or the staff capacity to lead on a reinstatement project. In addition, the County Council would be an ineligible applicant organisation of many potential external grant funding sources.
- 6.4 The lessons from past experiences must also be learned. Clear governance and sound arrangements will be required from the onset, defining responsibilities and accountabilities (during the reinstatement, and management/ maintenance periods).