

SUBJECT: WELSH FOOTBALL LEAGUE PYRAMID – MONMOUTHSHIRE CLUBS

MEETING: CABINET

DATE: 5th December 2018

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ABERGAVENNY AND CHEPSTOW WARDS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update members on the revised league structure that will be introduced for the top tiers of the football league pyramid in Wales with effect from September 2019;
- 1.2 To explain the effect on the six Monmouthshire clubs currently playing at this level;
- 1.3 To consider allocating Section 106 grants to two clubs to help them meet the FAW facility requirements to enable them to compete at this level in and beyond 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS that

- 2.1 The changes to the top level of the Welsh football pyramid, as set out at **APPENDIX A** be noted;
- 2.2 Budgets of £15,000 and £20,000 be created in 2018/19 to part fund the following projects and that these are funded by corresponding contributions from the Section 106 balances held by the County Council respectively from the developments at the Former Forensic Science Laboratory site, Chepstow and The Hill site, Abergavenny;
- 2.3 Grants of £15,000 and £20,000 respectively, be made to Chepstow Town and Abergavenny Town Football Clubs to enable them to meet the FAW facility requirements by the qualifying date of 30th April 2019.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 There are a number of tiers within the Welsh football pyramid, with the Welsh Premier League being the top tier. None of the football teams in Monmouthshire currently play their football at this level.
- 3.2 Sitting below the Premier League are Welsh League Divisions 1, 2 and 3 and there are six clubs in Monmouthshire that play at this level – Goytre and Undy Athletic play in Welsh League Division 1 (WLD1); Abergavenny Town, Caldicot Town and Monmouth Town play in Division 2 and Chepstow Town plays in Welsh League Division 3.
- 3.3 The current structure at the top of the Welsh pyramid is being changed and with effect from the start of the next football season (September 2019) the structure will more or less mirror the top tier of the English Football League. The new structure in Wales is set out at **APPENDIX A** to this report.
- 3.4 Sitting alongside the reorganisation of the football pyramid, the FAW has introduced a hierarchy of facility requirements that includes minimum pitch sizes and a range of other requirements. These requirements vary according to the tier of the structure at which individual clubs compete. The qualifying date for clubs to have

the requisite facilities in place is 30th April 2019. It is not yet confirmed what will happen at Tier 4 (WLD3) - this will be administered by the Gwent County Football Association in this area.

- 3.5 The Council has financially assisted Undy and Goytre to meet the FAW Tier 2 requirements and it has also assisted Caldicot Town with grant aid to improve its facilities. The facilities at Caldicot Town also meet Tier 2 requirements.
- 3.6 Officers are working very closely with Monmouth Town in an attempt to help it meet the same standards, but there are difficulties because the club plays its fixtures on Chippenham Mead Village Green. The club was demoted from Welsh League Division 1 this season because it's current facilities at the Monmouth Sportsground do not meet the current facility standards to compete in that league.
- 3.7 With regard to the other two clubs currently playing in this structure, Chepstow Town has funded and carried out most of the Tier 3 works required to meet the necessary standards – it has achieved this using its own funds, fund raising and local sponsorship. The one outstanding requirement is a stand with 100 covered seats. With this in place it would not automatically ensure that the club can play in one of the regional First Divisions as shown on the attached structure, but it will have the facilities in place to enable the club to play at this level.
- 3.8 In the case of Abergavenny Town, the club needs to have a covered stand with 100 seats in place to meet the Tier 3 requirements. With this in place it will ensure that the club can continue to compete in the new FAW Division 1 – and it will enable the club to challenge for promotion to the FAW Championship in the future, if its results merit this.
- 3.9 The grant assistance given to the Goytre, Undy and Caldicot clubs was funded from Section 106 balances held by the Council as a result of residential developments in those areas. In relation to the grants recommended in this report to the two football clubs in Chepstow and Abergavenny, it is proposed to offer grants from the Section 106 balances accrued from the housing developments at the former Forensic Science Laboratory site in Chepstow and the development of the former college site at The Hill in Abergavenny.

4.0 OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The Council is reacting to requests from two applicants for grant aid, so the option is really a choice as to whether or not to allocate a grant in either case.
- 4.2 Football in Monmouthshire has the highest level of participation than any other sport in the county and there is a very strong junior membership in terms of participation by children and young people between the ages of 6-16 years before players start to participate in senior competitive sport. There are currently 651 senior players in the county, registered with four different league structures and 1,518 children aged 5-16 registered as taking part in structured football club activities in Monmouthshire.
- 4.3 It would seem inequitable not to give grants to the two clubs concerned (Chepstow Town FC and Abergavenny Town FC) to improve their facilities, given that the Council has already given substantial grant aid to three other clubs in the county which compete at the same level of football in the Welsh football pyramid.

5.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Please see attached at **Appendix B**.

6.0 REASONS

- 6.1 To ensure that elected members are informed about the changes to the competitive league structure in Wales for the top three levels of the Welsh football pyramid.
- 6.2 To ensure that sufficient resources are in place to enable the Council to give grants to the two clubs concerned.
- 6.3 To enable the two clubs to improve their facilities to meet the requisite FAW Tier 3 requirements that will allow the clubs to continue to compete at this level of football.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Council is holding S106 balances of £92,736 received from the developer of the former Forensic Science Laboratory site in Chepstow. The “use by” date for this funding is 21st March 2021;
- 7.2 The Council is due to receive S106 off-site recreation funding of £75,168 from the developer of The Hill site in Pen-y-Pound, Abergavenny. An invoice will shortly be sent to the developer requesting payment and, when received, the Council will have five years in which to spend this money;
- 7.3 The reason that this report is brought to Cabinet for this meeting is that the closing date for applications to the FAW (Welsh Football Trust Ground Improvement Fund) is 14th December and the two clubs need to know the extent of their match funding before they can submit their applications to the FAW;
- 7.4 A further report will be submitted to the February 2019 Cabinet meeting with proposals on how to spend the remaining balances of £77,735 (Chepstow) and £55,168 (Abergavenny).

8.0 WELL BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

Please see attached at **Appendix C**.

9.0 CONSULTEES

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|---|-----------------------------|
| Cabinet Members | Local Abergavenny Members |
| Senior Leadership Team | Local Chepstow Members |
| Abergavenny Town Football Club | Chepstow Town Football Club |
| Football Association of Wales (FAW) | |
| Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer | |
| Assistant Head of Finance/Deputy S151 Officer | |

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

11.0 AUTHOR

Mike Moran, Community Infrastructure Coordinator

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WALES FOOTBALL PYRAMID

Tier 1

12 Clubs

(National Structure)

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|----------------------------------|
| FAW Premier League (12 clubs) |
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Tier 2

32 Clubs

(National Structure)

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|---|--|---|
| FAW Championship (North & Mid) (16 clubs) | | FAW Championship (South & Mid) (16 clubs) |
| | | Goytre and Undy Athletic |

Tier 3

64 Clubs

(Regional Structure)

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|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| FAW League 1 (Region 1) (16 clubs) | | FAW League 1 (Region 2) (16 clubs) | | FAW League 1 (Region 3) (16 clubs) | | FAW League 1 (Region 4) (16 clubs) |
| Abergavenny Town, Caldicot Town and Monmouth Town | | | | | | |

APPENDIX B

Report to Cabinet on 5th December 2018: Welsh Football League Pyramid – Monmouthshire Clubs

Evaluation Criteria

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Title of Report: | Welsh Football League Pyramid – Monmouthshire Clubs |
| Date decision was made: | 5th December 2018 |
| Report Author: | Mike Moran, Community Infrastructure Coordinator |

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| What will happen as a result of this decision being approved by Cabinet or Council? |
| What is the desired outcome of the decision? What effect will the decision have on the public/officers? |
| The upgrading of facilities at Abergavenny & Chepstow Town Football Clubs to meet the Football Association of Wales (FAW) facility requirements The clubs will be able to continue to compete in the FAW Championship and/or the FAW First Division of the new FAW structure Effective partnership working with both clubs to provide good quality participation opportunities for children, young people and adults 1 year appraisal |

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| What benchmarks and/or criteria will you use to determine whether the decision has been successfully implemented? |
| Think about what you will use to assess whether the decision has had a positive or negative effect: Has there been an increase/decrease in the number of users Has the level of service to the customer changed and how will you know If decision is to restructure departments, has there been any effect on the team (e.g. increase in sick leave) |
| Both clubs pass the facility assessments in April 2019 & are accepted into the FAW League Division1 to play in the 2019 football season Positive feedback is received from players and spectators of both clubs – measured by occasional on site surveys at both clubs in the period September – November 2019 1 year appraisal |

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| What is the estimate cost of implementing this decision or, if the decision is designed to save money, what is the proposed saving that the decision will achieve? |
| Give an overview of the planned costs associated with the project, which should already be included in the report, so that once the evaluation is completed there is a quick overview of whether it was delivered on budget or if the desired level of savings was achieved. |
| The proposal is to offer grants to both clubs to a total value of £35,000 |

Report to Cabinet on 5th December 2018: Future Generations Evaluation

monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Future Generations Evaluation (includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments)

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|--|--|
| Name of the Officer: Mike Moran Phone no: 07894 573834 E-mail: mikemoran@monmouthshire.gov.uk | Decision on allocation of additional funding from S106 balances |
| Name of Service: Enterprise | Date completed: 8 th November 2018 |




NB. Key strategies and documents that may help you identify your contribution to the wellbeing goals and sustainable development principles include: Single Integrated Plan, Continuance Agreement, Improvement Plan, Local Development Plan, People Strategy, Asset Management Plan, Green Infrastructure SPG, Welsh Language Standards, etc.



1. **Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below?** Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal.

| Well Being Goal | Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts. | What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|--|--|--|
| A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs | Positive - the project will be funded from S106 balances provided by developers of residential housing Abergavenny and Chepstow, so there is no call on the Council's core capital budget. | Officers will continue to work closely with local clubs to ensure they can offer good quality participation opportunities for junior, youth and senior football. |
| A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support | Neutral | |

| Well Being Goal | Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts. | What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---|--|--|
| resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change) | | |
| A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood | Positive - this proposal involves improving peoples' physical and mental well-being. Both clubs provide a range of participation opportunities for children and young people and there is an established pathway into senior football. | |
| A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected | The proposal will contribute to the safety and cohesiveness of the local communities in which both clubs are located. | |
| A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing | Neutral | |
| A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation | There are no specific proposals in this report to promote and protect the Welsh language - but the improvements will encourage more people to participate in outdoor recreational activities. | Encourage the use of the Welsh language in on-site signage – bilingual noticeboards would promote the Welsh language and encourage Welsh language speakers to use the sites. |
| A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances | The improvements proposed will encourage improved access for disabled people and people with other support needs – also by all sections of the community regardless of their background or ability | |

2. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

| Sustainable Development Principle | Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why. | Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---|---|---|
|  <p>Long Term the future</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for</p> | <p>Funding is available to help ensure compliance with the necessary standards in the short term. The clubs referred to in this report sustainability of the project has been assessed and officers are confident that a play area in this location will be sustainable in the longer term.</p> | <p>Officers will continue to work with local clubs and governing bodies of sport in an effort to ensure that the necessary standards are in place to enable the clubs to perform at the appropriate levels in their respective disciplines.</p> |
|  <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> | <p>The project involves working closely with other parties to deliver more and better quality participation opportunities.</p> | <p>The existing sites fall short of meeting the revised facility requirements of the FAW – the proposal is to work with both clubs to ensure that the required standards are achieved.</p> |
|  <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> | <p>The views of Cabinet members and the local County Council and Town Council members have been sought.</p> | |

| Sustainable Development Principle | Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why. | Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|--|---|---|
|  <p>Prevention Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> | <p>The project involves the enhancement of facilities, as per the intention of the Section 106 Agreements from where the funding has arisen. Problem prevention is not the basis upon which the funding has been given but investing in the improvement of existing facilities will help to prevent problems occurring.</p> | |
|  <p>Integration Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p> | <p>The project will have a positive impact on the health & well-being of people living in the areas of benefit stipulated in the Section 106 Agreements.</p> | |

3. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below. For more detailed information on the protected characteristics, the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Language Standards that apply to Monmouthshire Council please follow this link: <http://hub/corporatedocs/Equalities/Forms/AllItems.aspx> or contact Alan Burkitt on 01633 644010 or alanburkitt@monmouthshire.gov.uk

| Protected Characteristics | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Age | No employment/training issues identified The recommendation will benefit children & young people, adults and their families living in the local community. | | |
| Disability | One of the clubs offers participation for children and young people with disabilities | | Encourage the other club to develop participation opportunities for children with disabilities. |
| Gender reassignment | Neutral | | |
| Marriage or civil partnership | Neutral | | |
| Pregnancy or maternity | The sites are designed for ease of access for pushchairs and wheelchairs | | |
| Race | Neutral | | |
| Religion or Belief | Neutral | | |
| Sex | Both of the clubs concerned offer football participation opportunities for both male & female children and young people. One club has a female team that plays in the Welsh Women's Premier League | | |
| Sexual Orientation | Neutral | | |

| Protected Characteristics | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| Welsh Language | Neutral | Although the recommendation is considered to be neutral it does nothing specifically to promote the use of the Welsh language | It may be possible in the future to encourage applications that actively promote the Welsh language |

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities?

| | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting | What will you do to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Safeguarding | Positive: both clubs have in place appropriate safeguarding policies in line with the sport's governing body in Wales | | |
| Corporate Parenting | Looked after children will also benefit from the safeguarding policies referred to in the section above | | |

5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local population figures taken from the 2011 Census data, updated FAW registration data in relation to both clubs |
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6. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

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| <p>Positive Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal complies with the statutory tests relating to Section 106 funding The scheme will have a positive impact upon the health and well-being of local residents Some people with protected characteristics will benefit from the proposed improvement projects <p>Negative Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is difficult to demonstrate that the project will have a meaningful benefit for promoting the Welsh language |
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The above impacts have not materially changed the recommendations contained in the report.

7. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

| What are you going to do | When are you going to do it? | Who is responsible | Progress |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Work with both clubs and the FAW to implement the proposals | Following the decision of Cabinet | Mike Moran, Community Infrastructure Coordinator | To be reported |

8. MONITORING: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

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| The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on: | December 2019 – to be reported to the Section 106 Working Group |
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9. VERSION CONTROL: The Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable development wherever possible.

| Version No. | Decision making stage | Date considered | Brief description of any amendments made following consideration |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 | Meetings with both clubs | July/August 2018 | Scope of works established |
| 2 | Discussions with FAW | September 2018 | Positive indications received in relation to both clubs |
| 3 | Consultation period | Oct/Nov 2018 | Support from local ward members for proposals |
| 4 | MCC Cabinet Meeting | 5 th Dec 2018 | Decision sought on grant aid for both clubs |