

## REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE



<b>DATE</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> September 2012</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Sport and Culture</b>
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**Brun Valley Forest Park – Development Updates****PURPOSE**

1. To seek approval to progress with a phased approach to all aspects of the Brun Valley Forest Park project

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That Members agree for Officers to proceed with the Inspired Facilities funding application and the Planning permissions required for the project.
3. That Members authorise Officers to pursue all funding opportunities in respect of the Cycling Centre and other aspects of the project.
4. That a further report with a detailed revenue business plan be brought back to the Executive if funding bids are successful.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

5. There are a number of funding opportunities available for the different parts of the project, and some of these are available for a limited period of time

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS**

6. The vision for phase 2 of the Brun Valley project is to introduce further development of the forest park that will provide the town with outstanding outdoor sporting opportunities; through the creation of new facilities and new club development
7. Phase 2 is concentrated in the central area of the forest park, in particular the area from just above Burnley Youth Theatre; the former landfill site; and the area around and including Rowley Lake
8. Sports and activities that will take place at Brun Valley include:

Canoeing, trail running, wakeboarding, orienteering, angling, mountain biking, BMX, closed circuit cycling, triathlon, as well as catering for general walking, outdoor fitness.

9. The project involves the creation of two distinct activity centres: A lakeside outdoor activity centre, incorporating water based activities such as wakeboarding and canoeing, and at the other side of the site; a multi discipline cycling centre
10. The Centre will also cater for outdoor education programmes, including Duke of Edinburgh schemes, environmental play, and outdoor adventure programmes.
11. Key to the on-going success of the project is the development of new or existing sports clubs that will be based within the Brun Valley Forest Park and have shared use of the clubhouse facilities. These will be: Orienteering Club; Canoe and Kayak Club; Wakeboarding Club, Burnley Cycling Club; Burnley Triathlon Club; Angling Club; Running Club
12. There are a number of options being considered for funding the overall scheme. These currently are:
  - Big Lottery Reaching Communities Capital Programme
  - Sport England Inspired Facilities
  - British Cycling capital investment programme
  - Council Capital programme
  - Private Sector investment
  - Sport England Sportsmatch
13. A stepped approach is being adopted. This involves dividing the overall project into smaller prioritised projects. This option allows the project to progress, albeit over a longer timescale.
14. A number of externally funded posts are proposed in support of the project. These include:
  - Disability Activator post (application submitted 16.08.12)
  - Women & Girls development post (target date for submission 31.10.12)
  - Club Development Officer post (confirmation from NGBs expected January 2013)
15. **Wakeboarding** will be the first feature to be developed. There are logical reasons for developing this activity first:
  - NGB support. British Waterski and Wakeboarding have chosen Brun Valley as one of only 5 new sites nationally to fund, and are likely to provide additional on-going support with training etc.
  - Sport England targets. Wakeboarding is proven to attract the new Sport England target age group of 14-25 year olds.
  - Off the shelf package. System 2.0 cable wakeboarding system comes with a full cost breakdown and business plan.
  - Partner support. Both Burnley College and Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School have indicated their support for the scheme and are keen to set up clubs and training programmes for students.
  - Inspired Facilities Fund. Because it is an innovative idea; a completely new sport for the area, and it will hit the target market, the wakeboarding centre will make a strong case for match funding from the Sport England Inspired Facilities Fund. This funding stream is open for applications from 23 July 2012 until 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012 with notification of successful applications to be made in December 2012, which is also timely for this scheme. For Local Authority projects pound for pound match funding is required.

- Wakeboarding offers the best way to achieve quick wins with relatively small investment.
  - Sportivate is the Sport England funded project aimed at 14-25 years taking part regularly in sport. Wakeboarding is an ideal sport to target this age group through schools and colleges, and will enable us to put a strong case forward for additional funding to develop participation.
  - Generate new visitors – this is a new sporting activity for the area – the first in Pennine Lancashire and will bring new visitors to Rowley Lake and the Brun Valley Forest Park. A future events programme will also bring visitors from further afield.
16. Sports Development: British Waterski and Wakeboard provide a structured development programme of award levels for participants. There is also a youth coaching development programme and operator training scheme.
17. Club development – a new club will be created. The Council's Sport and Play Development team will assist the club in its development, bringing in additional funding to help the club grow and achieve Clubmark status
18. Wakeboarding will provide the necessary interest in the area so that the other sports activities will develop in turn: Canoeing/kayaking, orienteering, running etc
19. A presentation on the scheme will be made to the Friends of Rowley group on 11<sup>th</sup> September. Feedback from this will be reported back to the Executive with this report.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

20. Funding: British Water Ski and Wakeboarding have identified Brun Valley as one of five sites nationally that they will support through initial investment followed by on-going training and development support.
21. Burnley College have also confirmed a contribution of £10,000 towards the project.

22.

Costs £	£
System 2.0, tools and spares	28,579
Utilities	5,000 (est)
Water Obstacles	14,253
Clubhouse + starting area	35,000 (est)
Kitchen/Office/Furniture	6,500 (est)
Container	2,000
Rescue boat	3,000
Rental equipment	3,264
Access improvements + site clearance	20,000
Additional (design, permissions)	15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,596</b>

23.

Funding £	£
Council	20,000*
British Water Ski & Wakeboard	20,000
Stocks Massey	3,000
Burnley College	10,000
Sport England Inspired Facilities Fund	79,596 (subject to funding bid, decision Dec 2012)
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,596</b>

*\*This amount is already committed for resurfacing work to Rowley Lane, so has been included as part of the project cost.*

24. Operational costs: The wakeboard operation will be self-financing and an initial revenue business plan has been produced. This will be developed further and brought back with a further report if other funding bids are successful.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

25. There are no policy implications arising directly as a result of this report

## **DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**

26. Detailed discussions regarding the project have taken place with NGBs:  
Orienteering  
Angling  
Wakeboarding  
Canoeing  
Athletics  
Triathlon  
Cycling  
Negotiations are progressing and NGBs will not be able to confirm potential revenue support until December 2012 at the earliest due to the Sport England funding process, however all NGBs are supportive of the project.
27. Discussions have taken place on the Brun Valley Forest Park project with the following people and organisations to date:  
British Cycling – facilities team – site suitability, strategic fit, funding, layout, clubs  
Cycling Projects – Wheels for All, cycling for health, sensory trails  
Head of Sport & Leisure, Salford Community Leisure Ltd  
Industry Wakeparks – site suitability and potential  
Development Officer, British Waterski and Wakeboard  
Lancashire Sports Partnership – funding, contact with NGBs  
Burnley Football Club – D of E scheme manager – accommodating the scheme  
BFC Community Section – potential joint working, forest schools  
Burnley College Sports Department – academic use, wakeboarding, cycling centre.  
Burnley College Principle – academic use, wakeboarding, cycling centre  
SPAA board members – project support, project planning, partnership work  
Pennine Lancs Local Authorities/Leisure trusts – Pennine Lancs cycling offer

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

28. None.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

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**ALSO:**