



Thame Football Partnership Implementing Efficient Financial Structures

Thame has a rich footballing heritage and is one of Oxfordshire's oldest clubs. In recent years it has suffered financial difficulties and in 2005 the club had to move away from its Windmill Road ground to shared facilities out of the town.

Sports Solutions GB was appointed to provide support in all areas of both the project and club's development over two years, to ensure that the new facilities provided a suitable sports hub for the football club and local community.

Strategy and Implementation

The team at Sports Solutions GB managed consultations with appropriate stakeholders and partners to ensure full support for the new facilities. Sports Solutions GB advised on the creation of a new entity; the Thame Football Partnership, which is a combination of Thame United FC and Thame Boys and Girls FC.

The team managed the advisory process, assisting the partnership in gaining the best advice on appropriate financial structures, tax implications and the constitutional legal structures associated with the new entity.

The team at Sports Solutions GB produced a sports development plan and project proposal, which included the redevelopment of Thame United FC's former ground to provide vital capital funding, as well as other suitable grant and funding options, for this £3m development scheme. Costs were detailed, including potential income streams, staff costs, revenue contributions, utility charges and a full five year financial forecast prepared.

Outcome

During 2008, the team at Sports Solutions GB assisted in submitting a successful planning application to South Oxfordshire District Council for Thame Football Partnership, which helped the Community Football Club realise its ambition to provide much needed new sport and recreation facilities for the club and the local community.

Inverclyde Council Making Cost Savings and Developing Cost-Effective Strategies

Background

In 2008, Inverclyde Council appointed Sports Solutions GB to undertake a high level assessment of its community halls and centres through an independent review of operating information in order to identify potential efficiency options available to the council.

Strategy and Implementation

Sports Solutions GB provided an independent assessment of Inverclyde's local community halls and facilities, including those which had recently been closed, those which are managed by voluntary groups and other community facilities managed by the council. The team advised on the most cost-effective methods of making financial savings, including further closures and transfer of activities to other centres as well as alternative management options such as charitable trusts and the voluntary sector.

The assessment was carried out over a four week review period and included:

- > Comprehensive review of information provided including facilities' usage, financial performance, location, physical condition and management structures
- > Taking operational data, an analysis using key performance indicators to illustrate centres' performance
- > Report providing a summary of the key findings by site, along with conclusions and recommendations for ways to make efficiency savings

Outcome

Based on the findings, Sports Solutions GB made a number of key recommendations, including alternative operational and management structures which would make financial savings and advice on VAT and tax implications.