



SPORTS LOANS SCHEME



States of Guernsey
Sport and Recreation

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Introduction and Overview

The Sports Loans Scheme has been set up to help sporting organisations and playing field associations invest strategically in the improvement and/or development of sporting facilities and/or infrastructure **for the benefit of the local community**. All loans are subject to the approval of the Policy and Resources Committee, upon the recommendation of the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture. Guidance will also be provided from the Guernsey Sports Commission – which is expected to confirm that any application goes some way to addressing an issue and/or limiting factor within the sport, and that it aligns with both the objectives of the [Active 8 Plan for Sport](#) and the [Guernsey Sports Commission Action Plan](#).

Building the right facilities in the right places makes participation in sport and physical activity a realistic option for many more people and leads to a better experience for those who are already engaged. This means starting with local insight to truly understand what our community needs and wants. It also means thinking about how potential existing and future facilities can potentially work together – not necessarily just looking at an individual building or the needs of an individual sport.

The Sports Loan Scheme aims:

1. To encourage sporting associations and playing field associations to be clear about the purpose of their investment, encouraging sustainable and self-financing developments capable of supporting service delivery which delivers against outcomes as guided by the Active 8 Plan and the Guernsey Sports Commission.
2. To encourage, wherever possible, sporting associations and playing field associations to work collaboratively to provide a joined-up approach to facility development.
3. To attract capital investment into local facilities, providing new opportunities to encourage people to live active and healthy lifestyles.

The total value of all loans issued in one financial year shall not exceed £250,000 unless the Committee considers a project to be exceptionally beneficial to the local community, from which a large number of Islanders will benefit.

Applications will be considered for a standalone project or as a contribution to a strategic plan that includes more than one project. Loans are available for the development of the capital infrastructure, which can contribute to the costs of new build, modernization or refurbishment and purchasing of major fixed equipment as part of the facility development.

Early engagement with the Committee is recommended to any organisation considering applying for a loan. In the first instance, all enquiries should be directed to **Colin Thorburn, Commercial Risk Manager** on +44 (0)1481 220560 or by e-mailing colin.thorburn@gov.gg.

Active 8 – Plan for Sport

The [Active 8 Plan for Sport](#) was endorsed by the States in August 2020 and saw a commitment of c£1.15m from the States to support eight clear objectives, as shown in figure 1:

Objectives

The Active-8 Plan will create opportunity, build community and support excellence through **eight clear objectives**, to:



Figure 1: Active 8 Plan for Sport Objectives

Underpinning these objectives are a number of ambitions, the following of which relate directly or indirectly to supporting the development of facilities and/or sporting infrastructure:

- Maximise the use of community facilities for sport and active leisure;
- Engage with communities, education providers and families to facilitate and support the changing habits and behaviours needed to lead healthier more active lifestyles;
- Develop, improve and maintain modern, fit for purpose, inclusive and sustainable sporting infrastructure across Guernsey, creating a sense of pride and place;
- Support the creation and provision of inspirational facilities for community play, sport and participation;
- Connect the community with its natural surroundings, inspiring individuals to use the great outdoors to get active, immersing themselves in the natural world to do so;
- Make parks, open spaces, playing pitches and transport links more attractive and accessible to inspire daily habitual physical activity;

- Facilitate and support a highly effective high performance system ensuring resources are targeted and prioritized to deliver performance goals at the highest levels.

Where possible, applications should demonstrate how they will look to address one or some of the above ambitions, or support specific actions detailed in [Active 8: A Plan for Sport 2021-2030](#).

Eligibility Criteria

Projects will need to take into account the following criteria in order to be considered eligible for a Sports Loan application.

- The application project must be identified as a priority for development, demonstrating local insight, joined up working where possible, and be supported by the Guernsey Sports Commission.
- The loan can be used for the development of capital infrastructure, which can contribute to the costs of a new build, modernization or refurbishment, and major fixed equipment where it is an integral part of a project.
- The borrower will be required to provide a form of security that is to the satisfaction of the Law Officers of the Crown. The most favoured is by way of a bond on property owned by the borrower, but this could be by other means (e.g. if the borrower does not have outright ownership of any real property). In this regard, please note the States of Guernsey may be more flexible on forms of security deemed acceptable when compared with banks and other commercial lenders. This is providing the business case is robust, and clearly demonstrates the borrower's ability to repay capital and interest within the proposed term.
- The project should look to benefit a recognized sporting activity alongside ideally additional community benefits.
- The borrower must provide evidence that the required level of revenue and/or financial borrowing to support the project in the long-term is sustainable and achievable.
- The borrower must evidence how they will be able to repay both interest and capital on the agreed loan.

The following conditions will apply to any Loan which is approved:

- a) The interest rate will be aligned to all costs relevant to the States of Guernsey bond (this currently sits at **3.625%**).
- b) Any loan **will not exceed 75%** of the total cost of the project.
- c) The term of the loan will not exceed the end of the bond term (**2046**) or the expected life of the asset (if prior to 2046).
- d) The Committee will be satisfied as to the necessity and appropriateness of the project.
- e) The Committee will be satisfied that the borrower is able to repay both interest and capital.
- f) The Committee will be satisfied they have seen verified copies of Insurance Certificated detailing cover of the Organisation's property, as well as audited accounts for the three preceding years.

How to Apply

Anyone considering applying for a loan is advised make contact to discuss their proposals at an early stage:

NAME	DESIGNATION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
Colin Thorburn	Commercial Risk Manager	+44 (0)1481 220560	colin.thorburn@gov.gg

Key features which applications may be expected to demonstrate, and which will be discussed at this initial stage include:

- A clear strategic vision and planned approach focused on sports specific and community benefits to address an identified need; or
- A clear strategic vision and planned approach focused on sports specific and community benefits to address a current issue and/or limiting factor;
- Facility and/or development proposals which has been developed through a thorough understanding of the target audience – taking into consideration needs of other groups to provide a best value approach;
- A cost-effective build and financially sustainable operating model;
- A facility and/or development that provides the potential to deliver the identified outcomes for that particular sport and/or physical activity;
- An operating contract that can deliver the desired outcomes;

