



power to  
change

business in  
community  
hands

# East Lancashire Football Development Association (ELFDA)



Supporting community sport and helping disadvantaged groups



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Organisation type:	<b>Sports and Leisure</b>
Grant amount:	<b>£200,000</b>
Award date:	<b>June 2015</b>
Location:	<b>Blackburn, Lancashire</b>
Ownership:	<b>Company Limited by Guarantee</b>

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### **Grant purpose**

The grant will go towards the renovation of a nine pitch complex and bring it back into community use. The new facility is expected to generate enough income to cover its upkeep costs

### **Leverage**

ELFDA has raised over £450,000 towards the project and Power to Change funding has helped unlock grants from Sports England and Blackburn with Darwen Council. ELFDA is also planning a community share offer with support of Big Potential

### **Improved health**

Sports participation in Blackburn is below the national average, however over half of adults in the area want to do more. The new facility will provide better access to sports and contribute to improved fitness and confidence

### **Improved social inclusion**

The new facility will empower disadvantaged groups and provide a positive focus for individuals. It will also help address community tensions by facilitating positive interaction between different groups

ELFDA are determined to make sure there are good quality facilities for football in Blackburn and to leave a longstanding legacy for many years to come; with this in mind they have come together to run and maintain this complex of pitches themselves.



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Grassroots football is well represented in Blackburn, involving over 5000 players of all ages, however budgetary pressures on the council meant that local pitches were not being maintained and it was becoming difficult for the large amateur football community to find suitable and affordable places to play.

In 2012 the local community football groups came together as ELFDA to take over an 11 acre council site, restore it and turn it into a sustainable business. Once they're up and running, the plan is for them to generate income to cover their upkeep costs, so that footballers in Blackburn will have pitches to play on for years to come.

The eventual aim is to attract funding for multi sports and improve facilities for all involved. By continuing to work with other communities and organisations, together we can do this

**Bill Maynard**

Chairman, ELFDA