

Last week the Council published the Lessons Learnt Review on the Pow Beck Valley Stadium Project prepared by Rob Blanden from Engage Programme Management Ltd, together with the Council's response to the review.

The Council commissioned this review to ensure the lessons from our experience in this project were embedded in the Council's future work on major projects.

Mr Sean Duffy has suggested that there is another 'full investigative report' which was produced by Mr Blanden. I would like to take this opportunity to, once and for all, clarify that there is not a different report. Mr Blanden was commissioned to produce a Lessons Learnt Review and this is what we have published. There are no further reports.

The report we published, which is marked 'Version 2' on the cover, was finalised in April 2013 and is the final version of Rob Blanden's report.

Drafts of documents are not normally published. However, to avoid any confusion, we have now also published the draft report (version 1) produced by Rob Blanden and a short summary of the final report which he also produced. When reports are produced it is normal for the organisations involved to have the opportunity to provide some feedback on an initial draft, to ensure that the final report is a fair and accurate reflection of the issues outlined in the report.

Following a request for further information about the business planning work that was carried out for the project, the Council has also published a number of financial documents which were produced at the time. These documents, together with version 1 of Rob Blanden's review, are available on the Council's website.

The Council was one of four partners involved in this project. All the partners were passionate about wanting to make the project successful for the benefit of people who live in Copeland, and whilst it is regrettable that the project couldn't progress, the decision by us all to stop the project was the right one, we could do no more.

There are always lessons that can be learnt from projects like this, whether or not they are successful. The Council has accepted the report produced by Rob Blanden and is already applying the lessons it has learnt from this project, as well as wider learning from the Review.

Paul Walker

Chief Executive