

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	6 JUNE 2019	4
<b>YMCA – KIRKHAM SWIMMING POOL - RENEWAL OF SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT INCLUDING NEW SUBSIDY REQUEST</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

### SUMMARY

In 2012 the Policy Development Scrutiny Committee agreed a revised Service Level Agreement with the YMCA, together with an annual subsidy payment, in the sum of £35k per annum (plus an inflationary increase) effective from 2014/15 for a period of 5 years to provide public swimming facilities at Kirkham Baths.

That Service Level Agreement expired 31 March 2019, and Members are now requested to consider the proposed terms and continuation of this agreement as detailed in the report. The approved revenue budget includes provision for a subsidy payment to the YMCA in respect of the operation of Kirkham Baths in the sum of £39,924 per annum. The additional amount of grant payable as a consequence of the annual inflationary uplift is reflected annually in the subsequent update to the Financial Forecast when the amount of the uplift is known.

Representatives from YMCA will be attending the committee meeting to answer any service delivery questions relating to the management and operation of Kirkham Baths.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Tourism and Leisure Committee is requested:

1. To approve the proposed renewal of the Service Level Agreement with the YMCA in respect of the operation of Kirkham Baths for a period of a further 5 years effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Cabinet Report 29 June 2009

Policy Development Scrutiny Committee 12 July 2012

Policy Development Scrutiny Committee 28 February 2013

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services ( <b>Value for Money</b> )	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council ( <b>Clean and Green</b> )	✓
Working with all partners ( <b>Vibrant Economy</b> )	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live ( <b>A Great Place to Live</b> )	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit ( <b>A Great Place to Visit</b> )	✓

## REPORT

### BACKGROUND

1. Kirkham Swimming Baths was transferred to the ownership of Fylde Coast YMCA in 2009.
2. Fylde Borough has three swimming pools considered by Sport England to be directly accessible to the general public which are; Ribby Hall, St Annes Pool and Kirkham Baths. The user ratio for swimming facilities is set nationally by Sport England at 13.07m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 population. The projected Fylde population is around 83,000 and the current swimming facilities at the three facilities provide 12.24m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 population accessibility which falls slightly short of the Sport England guidelines.
3. Kirkham Baths is invaluable to residents within the rural communities of Fylde, especially the rural primary schools who are often unable to travel to other borough swimming pools due to costs. An Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) report estimated a 25% deficit between the water space that swimming clubs, schools and low-income users have access and the ASA's recommended levels.
4. Fylde Council form part of the Coastal Local Aquatic Network which brings together providers of water space within Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre and Lancaster. The group was set up to work collaboratively to encourage more swimming participation and to look at efficiencies of collaborative working.
5. The original service level agreement between Fylde Council and Fylde Coast YMCA was initially agreed by Cabinet in 2009 for a 5-year period and commenced 1 April 2009. In the agreement, the Council agreed to pay an annual subsidy of £35,000 over the five year period.
6. A task and finish group was appointed in 2012/13 to review financial and operational performance of Kirkham Swimming Pool and recommended to the Policy Development Scrutiny Committee to recommend in its report in February 2013 to Cabinet to consider an extension to the existing SLA with the YMCA including an annual subsidy in the sum of £35,000 per annum (plus inflationary increase) from 1 April 2014/15 for a 5 year period as shown:

Year	Amount of Subsidy
2014/15	£35,000
2015/16	£36,000
2016/17	£36,432
2017/18	£37,343
2018/19	£38,874

7. The current Service Level agreement between Fylde Council and Fylde Coast YMCA expired on 31 March 2019.
8. The current Agreement (2014 to 2019) specifies that the YMCA must comply with the following conditions:
  - a) The Grant shall only be used to support the provision of public swimming at the Pool;
  - b) The YMCA will maintain appropriate accounts and financial records covering its operation and use of the Pool and its expenditure, including the Grant. Accounts and records will be considered "appropriate" if they comply with recommended accounting practices for the YMCA and contain separate records detailing the Grant received and how it has been expended;
  - c) The YMCA will allow the Council, on request, to inspect the financial records and accounts that it is required to maintain, provided that the Council will not request them more than twice in any financial year;
  - d) For the period of the Grant and so long as the YMCA operates the Pool as a public swimming pool, the YMCA will maintain a management board or similar body, whose remit will be to act as an interface between the YMCA and the local community;

- e) The management board or similar body formed will include such representatives of local people as the YMCA considers appropriate, but must always contain one person nominated to the body by the Council during the whole of any calendar year during the period of Grant;
- f) The YMCA will operate the Pool as a public swimming pool in accordance with the following requirements:
  - i. The Pool will be open for at least one hour each working day and each Saturday (other than Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day) to the members of the public without pre-booking;
  - ii. The Pool will be made exclusively available for the use of a Lancashire County Council primary school using the facilities for pupils' achievement of national curriculum standard in swimming for at least half an hour per week in respect of each school during the term time of that school;
  - iii. The Pool will be made available for at least ten hours in each week for the provision of swimming instructions;
  - iv. The Pool will be made exclusively available for the use of swimming clubs for at least four hours in each week;
- g) During the period of this Grant the YMCA will act in a manner without distinction as to race, religion, age or disability, and in compliance with all laws, including GDPR regulations.

#### **CURRENT PERFORMANCE**

- 9. There are regular meetings between Fylde coast YMCA and council officers to review performance. A representative of the YMCA will be in attendance at the committee meeting to give an overview on performance for the past year, and to answer any questions.

#### **FINANCIAL SUBSIDY FROM FYLDE COUNCIL**

- 10. Early in 2019, representatives of Fylde Coast YMCA approached the Council for a continuation of the Service Level Agreement for a further period of 5 years, and asked that the current annual subsidy, plus an inflationary increase be retained throughout the proposed 5 year Agreement, to be paid to Fylde Coast YMCA, to ensure the sustainable management of Kirkham Swimming Pool.
- 11. Over the period of the existing agreement the YMCA has allowed the facility to continue its operation without the risk of closure. The Task and Finish Group that previously met felt that swimming provision in rural Fylde is of utmost importance to the community, to school children and user groups, that the council should extend the SLA and funding to protect it.

#### **FUTURE REVENUE BUDGET IMPACT**

- 12. The approved revenue budget includes provision for a subsidy payment to the YMCA in respect of the operation of Kirkham Baths in the sum of £39,924 per annum. The additional amount of grant payable as a consequence of the annual inflationary uplift is reflected in the subsequent update to the Financial Forecast when the amount of the uplift is known.

#### **OTHER OPTIONS**

- 13. If the Committee is not minded to agree to an extension to the Service level Agreement as described within this report (including the payment of an annual subsidy) there would be a resultant revenue saving to Fylde Council of £39k per annum. However, the continued provision of swimming and other sports facilities at the Kirkham Pool site may be placed at risk without on-going financial support to the YMCA for the operation of the facilities.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The approved revenue budget includes provision for a subsidy payment to the YMCA in respect of the operation of Kirkham Baths in the sum of £39,924 per annum.
Legal	A new service level agreement will be entered into with YMCA to include the requirements listed in section 8 of the report.
Community Safety	None arising from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	For the duration of the existing service level agreements, the Council and the YMCA have worked well together in partnership to deliver sustainable services at Kirkham Swimming Pool
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There could be reputational risk to the Council if funding is not provided to continue supporting swimming in rural Fylde.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Tim Dixon	01253 658436	23 May 2019

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Cabinet Report	29 June 2009	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
Policy Development Scrutiny Committee	12 July 2012	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
Policy Development Scrutiny Committee	28 February 2013	<a href="#">Agenda</a>