

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF PROJECTS AND REGENERATION	COUNCIL	6 FEBRUARY 2023	11
IN YEAR BUDGET INCREASE – ST ANNES PADDLING POOL: WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

On the 12 January 2023, the Tourism and Leisure Committee considered a report that detailed the scheme for the installation of recirculatory plant and equipment, designed to improve water quality for the Paddling Pool facility in St Annes. The plant and equipment would contain a dosing element to maintain sufficient chemical levels within the water body to meet paddling pool water quality standards.

The scheme would be split into 2 main work packages, a specialist leisure pool maintenance company to install the recirculatory equipment, and a groundworks package to facilitate the required electrical connections to power the equipment.

The total project cost is estimated at £53,400 with a breakdown included in the main body of the report.

The works will be delivered out of season to ensure the facility is operational ahead of the main visitor season in April 2023 and therefore Council are requested to approve an in-year funded budget increase to deliver the project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Council is asked to approve a fully funded addition to the Councils Capital Programme in 2022/23 in the sum of £53,400 to the 'St Annes Paddling Pool: Water Quality Improvements' scheme, to be met from the Capital Investment Reserve.
2. Council is asked to approve an ongoing unfunded addition to the base revenue budget in the sum of £13,700 from 2023/24 onwards as set out in the report.
3. To note that a retrospective drawdown expenditure report will be brought to a future Tourism and Leisure committee meeting to detail the actual project spend as detailed within the report.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Tourism and Leisure Committee – 12 January 2023

It was unanimously RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to Council approval of a fully funded addition to the Councils Capital Programme in 2022/23 in the sum of £53,400 to the 'St Annes Paddling Pool: Water Quality Improvements' scheme, to be met from the Capital Investment Reserve.

2. To recommend to Council the approval of an ongoing unfunded addition to the base revenue budget in the sum of £13,700 from 2023/24 onwards as set out in the report.
3. Subject to approval by Council as above, the Tourism and Leisure noted that a retrospective drawdown expenditure report would be brought to a future committee to detail the actual project spend as detailed within the report.

Finance and Democracy Committee – 24th January 2022

It was RESOLVED: To approve of a new fully funded addition to the Council's Capital Programme in 2021/22 in the sum of £60,000 to the 'St Annes Paddling Pool (boating pool) - health and safety improvements' scheme, to be met in full from the Capital Investment Reserve

Tourism and Leisure Committee - 6 January 2022

1. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a new fully funded addition to the Council's Capital Programme in 2021/22 in the sum of £60,000 to the 'St Annes Paddling Pool (boating pool) health and safety improvements' scheme, to be met in full from the Capital Investment Reserve.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

REPORT

BACKGROUND

1. St Annes Paddling Pool (as referred to in the report title) is a former boating pool which encloses the octagonal cast-iron bandstand (c1900, Grade II listed) and was constructed in 1912. Despite its original purpose, the facility now serves as a public paddling pool, and enhancements were undertaken in 2022 to improve access and safeguard users.
2. The Paddling Pool is an extremely popular family attraction and is open to the public between April and September.
3. Improvement work was carried out to the paddling pool in 2022 and were designed to improve surfacing safety and access to the facility. The management of the pool includes frequent manual discharge and filling (approximately 3 times a week) with a cleaning regime to support.
4. Following the improvement works, the Parks and Coastal team started to monitor the water quality of the pool through weekly testing. In August 2022, the Environmental Health team advised that the facility should be closed due to the unacceptable level of Enterococci. The sampling was carried out against The Bathing Water (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2016 (as amended), following advice from microbiologists. Given the paddling pool is often used by vulnerable groups, i.e., children under 5 years old it was advised that the pool should be treated to meet desired standards. It must be borne in mind that the paddling pool is an open body of water, and is easily contaminated from a number of sources, e.g. birds, dogs, children and associated faeces.
5. The Parks and Coastal team immediately obtained support from specialists in leisure pool management to understand what options were available to address the water quality issue. Officers have been advised that the preferred option is to install a small recirculatory pool plant system to ensure the water is filtered, chlorinated, and recirculated. The preferred option will also bring added environmental benefit in significantly reducing water usage, consistent with corporate objectives on climate change.

SCOPE OF WORKS

6. The specification for the recirculatory system has been designed by Crystal Leisure Ltd, a local company who specialise in the installation and maintenance of leisure pools.
7. The recirculatory system will require an electricity supply and plant room to house specific controls; the outline design for which has been prepared by Mulholland Building Services Ltd.
8. The electricity supply will be taken from the adjacent Monument Toilet Block, which is maintained by Danfo. The Toilet Block will also contain the small plant room kiosk and access will be granted to the Parks and Coastal Services team for monitoring and maintenance.

COST OF PROPOSALS

9. The total project costs are estimated at £53,400 and can be broken down as follows:

Project Element	Cost
Specialist recirculation equipment and plant installation	£25,000
Groundworks and electrical	£14,000
Safety surfacing Contractor visit (sealing works)	£2,000
Further engineer and design fees through construction phase	£2,500
Risk allowance for permits and statutory fees	£1,000
Subtotal	£44,500
Contingency @20%	£8,900
Project Cost	£53,400

RISK MANGEMENT

10. The below table contains the main risks which could impact the objectives of the project and details the mitigation actions either already undertaken or planned, to reduce the impact of the risk should it occur.

Project Risks (outline any risks to delivery of the project and how these will be mitigated)

Risk	Impact	Mitigating Action
Environmental factors outside of the Council's control could impact water quality	Temporary shutdown of facility	Constant monitoring of facilities chemical levels, regular environmental health team checks, maintaining relationships with supplier for ad-hoc ongoing specialist advice
Permission to drain down pool into main sewer once project is complete	Bespoke license required, potential delays to the completion date	Specialist advice sought from supplier and Senior User. Water will be de-chlorinated to trace levels ahead of any planned drain down. This mirrors the approach taken at Splash where license to discharge is not required.

Permission to connect new plant and equipment to the Danfo electricity supply in adjacent Toilet Block	New connection/supply point will be required – potential delays to works and additional costs.	Initial principle of connections to Danfo electricity have been agreed. Further detailed discussions ongoing regarding details of cable routes and containment through the toilet block into the small plant room housing for Recirculation system. Technical Services engineering team support to coordinate works contracts and monitor works.
Council staff unavailable and/or lack of management resource to coordinate on site works and administrate contracts/tender process	Potential delays to project and additional costs	Engineering team to monitor works and be 'on-hand' to inspect excavations and provide direction to the contractor to manage change. Existing statutory utilities mapping is available.
Unexpected abnormalities are found in the ground during excavation works	Potential delays and additional costs	Appoint experienced contractor with experience in groundworks. Healthy contingency included within capital cost breakdown
Availability of materials/supplies/subcontractors	Delays to works, additional costs	Early contractor engagement to ensure no long lead items. Re-open engagement through the tender process to understand if this has changed in the intervening period.
Inclement weather during the works	Delay to works, additional costs	Works undertaken during milder months. Allowance of float within contractors' programme.
Resilience of existing surface against the introduction of chlorine		Budget is available within the existing team to carry out patch repairs. The Council are advised that

Additional maintenance costs,
potential for capital
replacement costs in the future

the introduction of chlorine will
accelerate the degradation of the
surface and reduce the design life
from 6-7 years to 3-4 years.

PROCUREMENT PATHWAY

11. The works are proposed to be delivered via two separate works contracts.
12. The first contract will be awarded to the specialist pool company via the Council's Informal Qualified Procedure which can be used for contracts with a value of less than £25,000. This is due to the bespoke nature of the procurement and that the requirements have been developed with the companies input. The Council do not have the expertise in-house to specify the requirements of the recirculatory system.
13. The second contract will be procured via the Council's Repairs and Maintenance Framework and will be for the groundworks and electricals element of the project. The two contracts will be coordinated and monitored on site by the Council's Engineering team.

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

14. It is proposed that the new paddling pool plant system will be managed and maintained jointly with the Splash facility by the Council's Parks and Coastal Service. Running both pool plant systems jointly, will provide operational economy of scale benefits and service flexibility. The SPLASH facility is open 7 days per week during the summer period.
15. The current SPLASH facility is managed by 2 qualified seasonal attendants, reporting directly to the Senior Coast and Conservation Officer, throughout the summer period. Duties include opening and closing the facility, managing the booking system, checking the chlorine levels, undertaking safety inspections, providing customer care and general supervision of the facility, to ensure safe usage.
16. To allow the same level of service to the new Paddling Pool facility, it is proposed to increase the number of seasonal attendants to three, to allow the safe management of both facilities 7 days per week during the summer period, under the same management systems and processes. Although SPLASH requires full time monitoring, due to the booking system, it must be noted that the Paddling Pool facility will not have a booking system and therefore will not require full time monitoring. This facility will be monitored by regular visits by a SPLASH attendant throughout the day, who will be covered by a colleague.
17. Both facilities may occasionally require temporary, ad hoc closures to undertake necessary repairs, emergency cleansing operations or if inclement weather conditions prevent use. Social media updates will be provided in these instances.
18. The ongoing maintenance requirements for both facilities will be similar and include seasonal commission and decommission; pool plant switch on and facility opening; chemical administration and checks; frequent back washes; system failure and breakdown response; facility infrastructure inspections and cleansing; monitoring of public use, dealing with any issues of antisocial behaviour; reacting to hygiene incidents; and undertaking emergency closures when required.
19. There will be additional revenue costs for the operation of the new paddling pool plant system, which are estimated below: It is envisaged that there will be a saving on the use of water, due to the new recirculatory system, but this will not be known until the system is functional.

Revenue Item	Cost	Notes
1 x staff attendant	£10,500	Additional seasonal staff will be required to operate the new pool plant system and undertake pool maintenance duties from April - September.
Chemicals	£700	This is an estimated figure.
Commission/ decommission	£1,500	This is an estimated figure.
Electricity	£1,000	This is an estimated figure.
TOTAL	£13,700	

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	Council is requested to approve a fully funded addition to the Councils Capital Programme in 2022/23 in the sum of £53,400 to the 'St Annes Paddling Pool: Water Quality Improvements' scheme, to be met from the Capital Investment Reserve, and subject to approval by Council, is requested to note that a retrospective item containing a drawdown expenditure report will be brought to a future meeting of the committee. Council is also requested to approve an ongoing unfunded addition to the base revenue budget in the sum of £13,700 from 2023/24 onwards as set out in the report.
Legal	None arising directly from this report.
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising directly from this report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	The installation of the recirculatory system will significantly reduce current water usage.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from this report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
N/A		