

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	25 APRIL 2024	16
KIRKHAM POOL – SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

RELEVANT LEAD MEMBER

This item is within the remit of Lead Member for Tourism, Leisure, and Culture (Councillor Jayne Nixon)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to summarise a report that was presented at Community Focus Scrutiny Committee, entitled Swimming Provision on 22nd April 2024. Any subsequent recommendations and feedback from the Scrutiny Committee being presented to Executive Committee will follow prior to the meeting.

RECOVERABILITY

This decision is recoverable under section 7 of part 3 of the constitution.

RECOMMENDATION

1. To consider appropriate recommendations collated from the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee.
2. To comment on any feedback or questions arising from the information provided within the same report presented at Community Focus Scrutiny Committee.

REPORT

PREVIOUS DECISIONS/BACKGROUND

1. On 22 April, the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee considered a report presenting the agreed Disposal Plan for Kirkham Pool, the outputs of the work commissioned from Active Lancashire to consult with key local stakeholders and existing swimming providers, the feasibility, and costs of making the existing Kirkham Pool fit for purpose/building of a new fit for purpose swimming pool on another site. The report also set out potential workstreams over the next few months to secure swimming in line with the resolution of Council dated 5th December 2023. The report and its appendices are included as appendix 1 to this report.
2. The Scrutiny Committee was asked to make appropriate recommendations arising from the information in the report that would look to determine the next steps for swimming provision. The Scrutiny Committee’s recommendations will be reported to members of the Executive Committee as soon as they are available.

THE DISPOSAL PLAN

3. In accordance with the 2009 agreement the YMCA announced a Closure Event in relation to Kirkham Pool on 10 August 2023, and submitted a Disposal Plan to Fylde Council. The Closure Event notification stated that

YMCA was unable to continue operating the pool and had no use for the asset in delivering the objects of the trust.

4. The Disposal Plan sets out a period in which community or voluntary groups can submit expressions of interest in acquiring and operating Kirkham Pool. The period began on 12th April 2024, and will run until Friday 24th May 2024. Fylde Council is facilitating the expression of interest process with the permission of YMCA Fylde Coast.
5. If any expressions of interest are received, there will be a further period for any expression of interest that has been received to be worked up to a business plan. This period would end on 14 September. If any business plans are submitted, there would then be a further period until 18 October for the council to evaluate the plans.
6. During these periods, the pool may not be disposed of by the YMCA except to such a voluntary or community group, or to the council. If there are no expressions of interest during the period allowed for them, or if no expressions are supported by a business plan during the period allowed, the YMCA would (unless the council wished to purchase the premises) be able to sell the premises on the open market. In the case of either scenario, a report will be prepared to Scrutiny and the Executive Committee to report the outcome.

SWIMMING POOLS PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

7. Active Lancashire were commissioned from December 2023 to undertake a public consultation to ascertain stakeholder perceptions of swimming provision in the Fylde area.
8. The consultation took place between January and March 2024 and involved a public survey, key stakeholder discussions with schools, swimming pool providers and a series of public consultation events based on responses to the survey.
9. The public survey attracted 2,556 responses over a 3-week period in January 2024. As a result of undertaking this consultation exercise Active Lancashire have developed four considerations designed to support the council in its own next steps. These themes can be summarised as:
 - Communication.
 - Being clear on role and responsibilities.
 - Aspirations and plans.
 - Provision and facility sustainability.
10. The full report, Fylde Borough Council Swimming Pools Public and Stakeholder Consultation Report – April 2024, produced by Active Lancashire is attached within the body of the report at appendix 1 from pages 15 - 56.

FEASIBILITY AND COSTS OF MAKING THE EXISTING KIRKHAM POOL FIT FOR PURPOSE

11. Consultants were appointed in January 2024 to assess the feasibility and costings of recommissioning/enhancing the existing Kirkham Pool or constructing a new build facility to assist in facilitating any expressions of interest in order that any interested parties have a broad idea of scope and costs. The feasibility and costings looked at four design concepts:
 - Design concept 1 – Minimum Level Proposal to re-commission existing facilities at Kirkham Pool. £1,853,163
 - Design concept 2 – Refurbishment of existing pool hall area with a new adjoining two storey building to provide modern facilities for the pool with complimentary multifunctional spaces including gym, café and viewing gallery. £4,450,060
 - Design concept 3 – Re-develop the Station Road site to provide a new 4 lane 25m pool with complementary modern facilities including reception area, changing village, multifunctional activity spaces, spectator areas, gymnasium, and café. £6,627,696
 - Design concept 4 - A new 4 lane, 25m pool with multifunctional use based upon Sport England's design guidance notes on a notional site to be determined/acquired. £8,531,075
12. The documents attached at appendix 1 from pages 57 – 175 includes a mechanical and electrical condition report, an options appraisal along with sketches/plans and estimated costs of each design concept.

THE TIMELINE OF FUTURE STEPS TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION

13. A dedicated webpage entitled Swimming in Fylde has been launched to provide information on the steps being taken to support the council resolution on swimming. The webpage provides a direct source of information aimed to improve the council's communication surrounding swimming and leisure in Fylde. Here you will find documents, design plans and surveys referred to in this report and the supporting documents found within appendix 1. Additionally, and with the permission of the YMCA, the webpage facilitates the process to allow a voluntary or community body to submit an expression of interest in owning and operating Kirkham Pool. The webpage incorporates an in-depth timeline with details of all actions taken to date and will be regularly updated to reflect progress.
14. Any recommendations arising from Scrutiny Committee, which will be issued ahead of Executive Committee, and if taken forward will also form part of the councils next steps in supporting the resolution.

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	✓

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no direct financial implications arising from the report as currently presented. Any recommendations arising from Scrutiny Committee, which will be issued ahead of the Executive Committee meeting, if taken forward will form part of the council's next steps in supporting the resolution from Council regarding swimming provision in the Borough. Any financial implications will be detailed in future reports on swimming provision as these are brought before members in due course.
Legal	The procedure for the submission of expressions of interest to be followed by business plans is intended to optimise the opportunity for community or voluntary groups to work up sustainable proposals to operate the facility.
Community Safety	There are no community safety implications arising from the report.
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no human rights or equalities implications arising from the report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no sustainability or environmental impact implications arising from the report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	Whilst St Annes pool is not directly associated with this report, it does encompass swimming provision within the Borough. The condition of the building at St Annes pool and the pool management system presents a current risk to the on-going operation of the facility. This is identified as a strategic risk facing the council and a part of the control measures in place is keeping lead members informed of the associated challenges related to this.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council 2 October 2023

It was therefore RESOLVED as follows:

“In the corporate and local plan this Council seeks to maintain or encourage public swim provision. I propose that this Council as a matter of urgency, supports that position and in light of the recent announcement by the YMCA to permanently close Kirkham Baths looks at all practicable options to work with partners and stakeholders to support that provision, and such options to be considered by the external Scrutiny Committee.”

Executive Committee 5 December 2023

It was unanimously RESOLVED:

1. The council does not approve the Disposal Plan submitted by YMCA as they are dissatisfied with:
 - The length of time allowed to express and work up expressions of interest
 - The provision made for the involvement of the council in deciding whether an expression of interest is acceptable
2. To approve the expenditure of £25,900 fully funded from the UKSPF (£16,601) and unallocated Covid Support Grant (£9,299) held by the council, for Active Lancashire to deliver the works listed under recommendation 3 of their report (Appendix 3), that is to consult with key local stakeholders and existing swimming providers in Fylde to understand the existing position, potential challenges and opportunities for the short, medium and long term.
3. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader and Lead Member for Tourism, Leisure and Culture to:
 - (i) commission any further work that may be required to address the Notice of Motion regarding swimming provision. Such further work is to be funded from the unallocated Covid Support Grant funding to a maximum of £30,000 including the expenditure to date from the budget of £9,299, any expenditure to be reported to this committee.
 - (ii) draft and submit to the YMCA suggested changes to the Disposal Plan that would satisfy the Council.

BACKGROUND PAPERS RELEVANT TO THIS ITEM

Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Council report and minutes – Notice of Motion rural swim provision	2 October 2023	CMIS > Meetings Calendar
Executive Committee report and minutes - YMCA Disposal Plan & Notice of Motion – Kirkham Pool	5 December 2023	CMIS > Meetings Calendar
Community Focus Scrutiny Committee report and minutes – Swimming Provision	18 January 2024	CMIS Meetings Calendar

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Gemma Broadley	Gemma.broadley@fylde.gov.uk & Tel 01253 658513	15.04.2024

Please see link below for the reports and appendices that are included in the agenda for the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee meeting.

[Community Focus Scrutiny Committee meeting 22/04/2024 – Covering Report Swimming Provision](#)