

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	5 MARCH 2024	6
SWIMMING POOL SUPPORT FUND – ST ANNES POOL			

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

To obtain approval to accept a £220,000 grant from Phase II of the Swimming Pool Support Fund operated through Sport England.

RECOVERABILITY

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Executive Committee approve the receipt of £220,000 from the Swimming Pool Support Fund for the installation of solar panels and a replacement boiler system with the commitment that the asset will have at least a 10-year life in accordance with the grant offer.
2. That a new scheme to the value of £220,000 is included in the capital programme for 2024/25 entitled "Swimming Pool Support Fund – St Anne's Pool", fully funded from the grant.

REPORT

THE SWIMMING POOL SUPPORT FUND (SPSF)

1. On 30th June 2023 the Government announced a Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) of £60 million to support public leisure facilities with swimming pools, it was split into two phases.
 - Phase I – Revenue £20m was made available to support facilities with swimming pools with increased cost pressures.
 - Phase II – Capital £40m was made available for capital investment to improve energy efficiency of public facilities with pools in the medium to long term.
2. Fylde Council applied for both Phase I and II and have been successfully awarded funds from both schemes. The funding has been awarded to St Annes Pool because it was the only council owned facility that was operational at the time grant was available. An additional one-off subsidy request from the YMCA was

considered and granted by the committee on 19 September 2023. This cost was subsequently offset by an award from the SPSF Phase 1 Revenue Support Fund as detailed in the report to committee at the time.

3. Fylde’s SPSF grants are:
 - Phase I – Revenue – an application for £59,189 was submitted and awarded in full in September 2023.
 - Phase II – Capital – an application for £ 665,500 was submitted and £220,000 awarded in February 2024.
4. The Phase II application was assessed against the criteria and objectives of the fund. The application included energy efficient interventions totalling £665,500 as detailed in Appendix 1.
5. A grant of £220,000 has been awarded for two interventions: the photo voltaic (PV) panels (solar panels) for £110,000, and the replacement of the boiler system for £110,000.
6. The Chief Executive is required to sign the Award Agreement by March 13th, 2024, to accept the grant. The agreement includes obligations within the terms for the capital grant that apply for a 10-year period. The council should not accept the award if the facility does not have at least a 10-year operational life, a summary of the terms and obligations is included in Appendix 2 to the report.
7. There is a requirement to invest in the asset which was a primary driver to bid for the grant, officers are currently carrying out a building condition survey to assess the extent of any works required and to support the development of a plan for the longer-term maintenance and management of the asset.
8. A report will be put before the Executive Committee at the earliest opportunity once the building condition survey has been completed. This will include details of any works required in relation to plant and equipment and the infrastructure of the building. The plans will include any works associated with the installation of the solar panels and the replacement of the boiler system that the SPSF grant will fund.
9. Evidence from the condition or operation of the pool facility at St Annes indicates that it will have at least a 10-year operational life and the council is committed to investment in the asset, the development of a new maintenance and works plan as well as the award of a new 10-year operating agreement from August 2025.
10. Members are asked to consider approval of the £220,000 grant after considering the obligations included in Appendix 2 and to include the award in the capital programme for 2024/25.

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	This report seeks approval for acceptance of the Swimming Pool Support Fund grant in the sum of £220,000, and the approval of a fully funded addition to the capital programme in the same sum funded from the grant.
Legal	The council is required to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant funding for a 10-year period.
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

YMCA Operations Report – Additional Subsidy Request – Executive Committee 19 September 2023.

BACKGROUND PAPERS REVELANT TO THIS ITEM

Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Swimming Pool Support Funding from Sports England.	June 2023	https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/swimming-pool-support-fund

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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[Appendix 1](#) – Energy Efficiency Interventions Swimming Pool Support Fund Phase II application to Sport England.

[Appendix 2](#) – Summary of the obligations in the terms of the agreement.