

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title: Swimming Pool Support Fund: Phase 2
Capital

Name of Committee: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 11 March 2024

Report Director: Chief Officer – Leisure and Wellbeing

Portfolio: Leisure and Wellbeing

Ward Relevance: All

Prior Consultation: Leadership Team, Financial and Procurement Services, GLL

Contact Officer: Tom Allen - Sport and Recreation Team Leader

Public or Private: Public

Report Subject to Call-In: No

Report En-Bloc: No

Forward Plan: Yes

Corporate Priorities: This report relates to the following priority(ies):
 Rugby is an environmentally sustainable place, where we work together to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. (C)
 Rugby has a diverse and resilient economy that benefits and enables opportunities for all residents. (E)
 Residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected. (HC)
 Rugby Borough Council is a responsible, effective and efficient organisation. (O)
[Corporate Strategy 2021-2024](#)
 This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but

Summary: This report seeks to gain approval for the acceptance of £185,421 funding from Sport England’s Swimming Pool Support Fund for financial year 2023/24, and to distribute this to the Council’s swimming pool operator (GLL), as per the grant conditions.

Financial Implications:

This report seeks approval to accept the grant funding and immediately transfer the amount directly to GLL to support capital improvement works to the Council owned Leisure Centre. There are no direct financial implications to the Council with regards accepting the grant.

GLL will be required to sign a Sport England Grant Adherence form to ensure compliance of funding expenditure.

Risk Management/Health and Safety Implications:

Risk management implications include

- The potential non delivery of capital improvements to the Council owned Leisure Centre should the recommendation not be approved, and the grant utilised.
- The potential the risk of none compliance with funding requirements and loss of the grant. GLL will be required to sign a Sport England Grant Adherence form to ensure compliance.

Environmental Implications:

Installation of Photo Voltaic (PV) panels and replacement of the remaining fluorescent lighting at the site with LED lighting will significantly reduce energy consumption at the site, while also increasing the usage of renewable energy through the introduction of PV panels. A climate change and environmental impact assessment is attached at Appendix 1.

Legal Implications:

Sport England Fund Grant Agreement to be signed by Rugby Borough Council, agreeing to abide by the conditions of the funding agreement.

Equality and Diversity:

Equality and Diversity considerations have been considered and the proposed recommendations have a positive impact in terms of accessibility for all communities and supports the health and wellbeing of all communities in the area. An equality impact assessment is attached at Appendix 2.

Options:

1) Approve the acceptance of Sport England funding for 2023/24 and enable distribution of this funding to the Council's leisure operator (GLL), as per the grant conditions

2) Reject the funding for financial year 2023/24

Recommendation:

IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT a supplementary capital budget of £185,420 be approved, as detailed in the report, and added to the capital programme for 2023/24. Funded by Sport England Swimming Pool Support Funding which will be transferred to the Council's leisure operator (GLL), as per the grant conditions.

Reasons for Recommendation:

To secure capital funding to improve the energy efficiency of the Council's Leisure Centre to significantly reduce energy consumption and operating costs, supporting the centres sustainability, thereby protecting the wider health outcomes, economic and lifesaving water safety benefits public swimming provides.

Cabinet - 11 March 2024

Swimming Pool Support Fund: Phase 2 Capital

Public Report of the Chief Officer – Leisure and Wellbeing

Recommendation

IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT a supplementary capital budget of £185,420 be approved as detailed in the report, and added to the capital programme for 2023/24. Funded by Sport England Swimming Pool Support Funding which will be transferred to the Council's leisure operator (GLL), as per the grant conditions.

Executive Summary

In the 2023 Spring Budget, the Chancellor announced the Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF), making available £60 million support for public swimming pool providers in England.

Phase 2 of the SPSF required Local Authorities to complete a pre-populated template to identify capital projects that would enable public swimming pool operators to reduce ongoing operating costs associated with their venues.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre was the only public swimming pool eligible for funding as identified by Sport England's Active Places Database.

Rugby Borough Council submitted the phase 2 application in October 2023 following support from GLL as the operator.

Rugby Borough Council has been successful in securing £185,421 of SPSF funding for 2 capital interventions to be delivered at The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre. This includes £128,748 to fund the installation of Photo Voltaic (PV) panels, with £56,673 to be used to replace the remaining fluorescent lighting at the site with LED lighting. These interventions will significantly reduce energy consumption and operating costs for the operator, supporting the centres sustainability. Combined, the two interventions will provide a **reduction in consumption of approximately 131,084Kwh per year** to the centre, whilst using renewable energy.

The report seeks approval to accept the funding allocation and to transfer to the operator as per the national guidelines.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In the 2023 Spring Budget, the Chancellor announced the Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF), making available £60 million support for public swimming pool providers.

- 1.2 The funding is being distributed in two phases: Phase 2, to which this report relates, will allocate £40 million in capital investment to enhance the energy efficiency of facilities and help secure their financial stability for the future.

2. Capital Investment

- 2.1 The purpose of the SPSF is to support the survival of public swimming pools facing increased operating costs and thereby protect the wider health outcomes, economic and lifesaving water safety benefits they provide.
- 2.2 This SPSF funding is specifically to be used as capital investment for swimming pool operators and cannot be retained by the council or used for other purposes, it must be passed on to the Council's swimming pool operator (GLL).
- 2.3 All local authorities in England with at least one public swimming pool were eligible to apply on behalf of the pool operator for their locality with applications to be submitted by local authorities on behalf of the public swimming pools in their area.
- 2.4 Local authorities were instructed to coordinate a **single** submission to the fund on behalf of all publicly accessible swimming pools in their area using a pre-populated form using Active Places data to identify eligible facilities. Local authorities were asked to prioritise the facilities they include in their application based on those that are most at risk of closure or significant service reduction, and/or most important to the local leisure offer. For Rugby, The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre was pre-populated as the only eligible facility for the local authority.
- 2.5 The SPSF will fund eligible costs relating to capital investments that reduce swimming pool facilities' energy consumption levels and wherever possible, a reduction in carbon output. Eligible costs include: Material costs, installation costs associated with the intervention and professional and technical project fees directly associated with the on-site construction/installation of the capital intervention
- 2.6 The capital interventions include costs of £128,748 to fund the installation of Photo Voltaic (PV) panels, with £56,673 to be used to replace the remaining fluorescent lighting at the site with LED lighting. These interventions will significantly reduce energy consumption and operating costs for the operator, supporting the centres sustainability. Combined, the two interventions will provide a **reduction in consumption of approximately 131,084Kwh per year** to the centre, whilst using renewable energy.
- 2.7 SPSF funding **must be passed on to the operators of public swimming pools** to deliver capital investment that will reduce energy consumption levels. Funding cannot be used in whole or in part towards ongoing repairs or maintenance costs.

3. The Queens Diamond Jubilee Leisure Centre

- 3.1 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre has provided vital community access to its pools since opening in 2013 and has seen in excess of 61,500 swim visits in 2023. The centre is home to Rugby Swimming club, Rugby Synchro club, Rugby Dive club & the Rugby Sports for Disabled Association, all of which rely on these facilities.
- 3.2 Over the past 18 months, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre has seen increased costs related to pool chemicals and utility costs. As the only public swimming pool in the borough, it serves as an important facility for promoting health, fitness, and water safety.
- 3.3 SPSF funding would be used as per the grant guidance to deliver capital investment into the centre in the form of 2 capital interventions (installation of PV panels and additional LED lighting), significantly reducing energy consumption and operating costs, supporting the maintenance of the centre's current levels of provision without necessitating reductions to programming and opening hours.
- 3.4 Locally the centre is due to deliver curriculum swimming lessons to 50 schools in 2023, delivering to over 1,859 pupils. The centre offers 3 specialised SEND swimming lessons per week, in addition to its Swim School which currently delivers to over 2,000 swimming school pupils per week, made up of adult, children & babies.
- 3.5 Within the provisions of the Leisure Contract, a baseline of utility consumption is built into the profile of the contract. The contractor is responsible for all payments of utilities consumed on the premises up to and including a base cost. The base cost of the utilities will be subject to further re-basing throughout the contract period after any material changes to the building.
- 3.6 The contract sets out a provision that the council will pay the cost of 50% of any increase in the cost of each utility above the base cost, but not in the cost occasioned by actual consumption. The contract also includes provision for the contractor to reimburse the Council for any decrease in the cost of utilities below the base cost.
- 3.7 Therefore the capital schemes to improve the efficiency of the centre supports the risk mitigation of utility cost increases versus reducing consumption as a balance of the base cost.
- 3.8 The Council's Sport and Recreation Team Leader will be responsible for monitoring and reporting of expenditure as per the grant conditions.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 This report seeks approval to accept £185,421 grant funding from the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund for financial year 2023/24, and to transfer to the Council's leisure operator (GLL), as per the grant conditions.

- 4.2 SPSF funding is specifically to be used as capital investment for swimming pool operators and cannot be retained by the council or used for other purposes, it must be passed on to the Council's swimming pool operator (GLL). Rejection of the request would result in the funding being retained by Sport England.
- 4.3 The Council's Sport and Recreation Team Leader will be responsible for monitoring and reporting of expenditure as per the grant conditions.

Name of Meeting: Cabinet
Date of Meeting: 11 March 2024
Subject Matter: Swimming Pool Support Fund: Phase 2
Originating Department: Leisure and Wellbeing

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY YES NO

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

The background papers relating to reports on planning applications and which are open to public inspection under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, consist of the planning applications, referred to in the reports, and all written responses to consultations made by the Local Planning Authority, in connection with those applications.

Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

Doc No	Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A

Rugby Borough Council

Climate Change and Environmental Impact Assessment

CONTEXT

In 2019 the UK Parliament set a commitment in law to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Achieving this target will require considerable effort with public bodies, private sector organisations, the third sector and individuals working together to take action. Rugby Borough Council declared a climate emergency in 2019, in doing so committed to:

- To move the Council's operations towards Carbon Neutrality by 2030.
- To establish action to tackle climate change as a key driver of all decision-making.
- To provide community leadership in reducing the impact of Climate Change.
- To take action to mitigate the impact of climate change on a Borough wide basis and beyond, through adaptation.

The Council's Corporate Strategy (2021-24) [link](#) sets ambitious outcomes in relation to Climate Change. These ambitions must now be progressed through the decisions which the Council makes.

It is therefore important that Rugby Borough Council gives due regard to climate change when making decisions. In the context of the Council's business, Climate Change includes carbon emissions, biodiversity, habitat loss and environmental destruction. When putting forward recommendations for decision, officers must assess how these recommendations are likely to influence our climate change commitments by completing the following Climate Change and Environmental Impact Assessment.

A copy of this Climate Change and Environmental Impact Assessment, including relevant data and information should be forwarded to the Deputy Chief Executive.

If you require help, advice and support to complete the forms, please contact Dan Green, Deputy Chief Executive.

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

Portfolio and Service Area	Leisure and Wellbeing – Sport and Recreation and Leisure Facilities
Policy/Service/Change being assessed	Swimming Pool Support Fund Phase 2
Is this a new or existing Policy/Service/Change?	New
If existing policy/service please state date of last assessment	
Ward Specific Impacts	All
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy/service/change and potential impacts.	To gain approval for the acceptance of £185,421 funding from Sport England's Swimming Pool Support Fund for financial year 2023/24, and to distribute this to the Council's swimming pool operator (GLL), as per the grant conditions.
Completed By	Tom Allen
Authorised By	
Date of Assessment	10/02/2024

SECTION 2: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Climate Change and Environmental Impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner	Timescales
Energy usage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delivery of capital interventions at The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre, including the installation of Photo Voltaic (PV) panels and replacement of the remaining fluorescent lighting at the site with LED lighting. These interventions will significantly reduce energy consumption.		RBC Project Officer	April 2024
Fleet usage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sustainable Transport/Travel (customers and staff)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Community leadership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Biodiversity and habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Adaptation/Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If required, mitigation measures to be put in place to reduce noise disturbances during construction and operation.		RBC Project Officer	If required
Impact on other providers/partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reducing energy usage will reduce operating costs for the centre operator, supporting sustainability and accessibility of the centre for public use.		RBC Project Officer	April 2024

SECTION 3: REVIEW

Where a negative impact is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review date	
Key points to be considered through review	
Person responsible for review	
Authorised by	

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)

Context

1. The Public Sector Equality Duty as set out under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires Rugby Borough Council when making decisions to have due regard to the following:
 - eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and other conduct prohibited by the Act,
 - advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not,
 - fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
2. The characteristics protected by the Equality Act are:
 - age
 - disability
 - gender reassignment
 - marriage/civil partnership
 - pregnancy/maternity
 - race
 - religion/belief
 - sex/gender
 - sexual orientation
3. In addition to the above-protected characteristics, you should consider the crosscutting elements of the proposed policy, such as impact on social inequalities and impact on carers who look after older people or people with disabilities as part of this assessment.
4. The Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) document is a tool that enables RBC to test and analyse the nature and impact of what it is currently doing or is planning to do in the future. It can be used flexibly for reviewing existing arrangements but in particular should enable identification where further consultation, engagement and data is required.
5. The questions will enable you to record your findings.
6. Where the EqIA relates to a continuing project, it must be reviewed and updated at each stage of the decision.
7. Once completed and signed off the EqIA will be published online.
8. An EqIA must accompany all **Key Decisions** and **Cabinet Reports**.
9. For further information, refer to the EqIA guidance for staff.
10. For advice and support, contact:
Aftab Razzaq, Chief Officer – Legal and Governance
Aftab.razzaq@rugby.gov.uk

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area	Sport and Recreation
Policy/Service being assessed	Swimming Pool Support Fund Phase 2
Is this is a new or existing policy/service? If existing policy/service please state date of last assessment	New
EqIA Review team – List of members	Tom Allen
Date of this assessment	10/02/2024
Signature of responsible officer (to be signed after the EqIA has been completed)	Tom Allen

A copy of this Equality Impact Assessment report, including relevant data and information to be forwarded to the Corporate Equality and Diversity Advisor.

If you require help, advice and support to complete the forms, please contact Aftab Razzaq, Chief Officer – Legal and Governance: Aftab.razzaq@rugby.gov.uk

Details of Strategy/ Service/ Policy to be analysed

<u>Stage 1 – Scoping and Defining</u>	
(1) Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the Strategy/Service/Policy (or decision)?	To gain approval for the acceptance of £185,421 funding from Sport England’s Swimming Pool Support Fund for financial year 2023/24, and to distribute this to the Council’s swimming pool operator (GLL), as per the grant conditions.
(2) How does it fit with Rugby Borough Council’s Corporate priorities and your service area priorities?	Residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected. Rugby Borough Council is a responsible, effective and efficient organisation.
(3) What are the expected outcomes you are hoping to achieve?	Delivery of capital interventions at The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Centre, including the installation of Photo Voltaic (PV) panels and replacement of the remaining fluorescent lighting at the site with LED lighting. These interventions will significantly reduce energy consumption and operating costs for the operator.
(4) Does or will the policy or decision affect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customers • Employees • Wider community or groups 	Users of The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Centre Employees Public
<u>Stage 2 - Information Gathering</u>	As a minimum you must consider what is known about the population likely to be affected which will support your understanding of the impact of the policy, e.g. service uptake/usage, customer satisfaction surveys, staffing data, performance data, research information (national, regional and local data sources).

Appendix 2

<p>(1) What does the information tell you about those groups identified?</p>	<p>Feedback from GLL, the centre’s operator, has identified capital interventions at the centre that could improve the energy efficiency at the centre and deliver savings to GLL and the Council in reduced energy costs. These savings would support the centres sustainability, thereby protecting the wider health outcomes, economic and lifesaving water safety benefits public swimming provides for all members of the community.</p> <p>Over the past 18 months, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre has seen increased costs related to pool chemicals and utility costs. As the only public swimming pool in the borough, it serves as an important facility for promoting health, fitness, and water safety. Delivering these capital interventions will support the centre’s sustainability and availability to all members of the community, reducing the likelihood of reduced operating hours or closure.</p>		
<p>(2) Have you consulted or involved those groups that are likely to be affected by the strategy/ service/policy you want to implement? If yes, what were their views and how have their views influenced your decision?</p>	<p>Consultation has been undertaken with staff members and centre users at The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Centre and all responders were supportive of the potential energy saving efficiencies that could be delivered via these capital interventions and the benefits associated with carrying out these works. The capital interventions would have no impact to staff or centre users in terms of accessibility of the venue.</p>		
<p>(3) If you have not consulted or engaged with communities that are likely to be affected by the policy or decision, give details about when you intend to carry out consultation or provide reasons for why you feel this is not necessary.</p>			
<p><u>Stage 3 – Analysis of impact</u></p>			
<p><u>(1) Protected Characteristics</u> From your data and consultations is there any positive, adverse or negative impact</p>	<p>RACE Positive impact</p>	<p>DISABILITY Positive impact</p>	<p>GENDER Positive impact</p>

Appendix 2

<p>identified for any particular group, which could amount to discrimination?</p>	<p>MARRIAGE/CIVIL PARTNERSHIP Positive impact</p>	<p>AGE Positive impact</p>	<p>GENDER REASSIGNMENT Positive impact</p>
<p>If yes, identify the groups and how they are affected.</p>	<p>RELIGION/BELIEF Positive impact</p>	<p>PREGNANCY MATERNITY Positive impact</p>	<p>SEXUAL ORIENTATION Positive impact</p>
<p><u>(2) Cross cutting themes</u> (a) Are your proposals likely to impact on social inequalities e.g. child poverty, geographically disadvantaged communities? If yes, please explain how? (b) Are your proposals likely to impact on a carer who looks after older people or people with disabilities? If yes, please explain how?</p>	<p>The proposed capital works would support sustainability of access to high quality provision for all residents and users.</p>		
<p>(3) If there is an adverse impact, can this be justified?</p>	<p>N/A</p>		
<p>(4) What actions are going to be taken to reduce or eliminate negative or adverse impact? (this should form part of your action plan under Stage 4.)</p>	<p>N/A</p>		
<p>(5) How does the strategy/service/policy contribute to the promotion of equality? If not what can be done?</p>	<p>N/A</p>		
<p>(6) How does the strategy/service/policy promote good relations between groups? If not what can be done?</p>	<p>N/A</p>		

(7) Are there any obvious barriers to accessing the service? If yes how can they be overcome?	None identified at present.
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<u>Stage 4 – Action Planning, Review and Monitoring</u>																														
<p>If No Further Action is required then go to – Review & Monitoring</p> <p>(1) Action Planning – Specify any changes or improvements that can be made to the service or policy to mitigate or eradicate negative or adverse impact on specific groups, including resource implications.</p>	<p>EqlA Action Plan</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="875 687 2116 916"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="875 687 1122 762">Action</th> <th data-bbox="1122 687 1364 762">Lead Officer</th> <th data-bbox="1364 687 1615 762">Date for completion</th> <th data-bbox="1615 687 1865 762">Resource requirements</th> <th data-bbox="1865 687 2116 762">Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Action	Lead Officer	Date for completion	Resource requirements	Comments																				
Action	Lead Officer	Date for completion	Resource requirements	Comments																										
(2) Review and Monitoring State how and when you will monitor policy and Action Plan	Following confirmed designs, consultation with centre users will be taken forward to direct the implementation of the capital project at The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Leisure Centre.																													

Please annotate your policy with the following statement:

‘An Equality Impact Assessment on this policy was undertaken on 10.2.24 and will be reviewed after further centre user consultation.’