

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference

E2939

Warm Water Swimming Provision within the refurbishment plans for Bath Sports and Leisure Centre and Keynsham Leisure Centre

Decision maker/s	Cllr Martin Veal, Cabinet Member for Community Services
The Issue	<p>The Warm Water Inclusive Swimming and Exercise (WWISE) group have campaigned for a number of years for warm water pools (at least 32 degrees centigrade) at a depth of 1.2/1.3 metres deep to be included within B&NES leisure centres to provide exercise opportunities for those with disabilities that restrict their movement so that standard pool temperatures feel too cold. Proposals were submitted by WWISE to provide examples of what they would like to see at Bath Leisure Centre.</p> <p>This report reviewed the technical and practical considerations of including warm water pools within the leisure centre refurbishments and considered what reasonable adjustments could be made to accommodate the needs identified by the WWISE group as part of the works.</p>
Decision Date	31 March 2017
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That the Council provide teaching pools at both facilities, with warmer water (30-32 °c), than the main pool at a depth of 0.9 – 1m which is the standard depth and temperature for a pool of this type. These pools to be designed in partnership with Sport England to ensure they meet the accessibility guidelines as far as reasonably practical within the constraints of a refurbishment.• That the provision of these facilities constitutes a reasonable adjustment based upon the respective needs of the core user and the needs identified by the WWISE group while maximising the use for all users and minimising the risks to safety of users, capital and revenue impacts and deterioration of premises that operating a permanent dedicated warm water facility would entail.
Rationale for decision	<p>The Council has carefully considered what reasonable adjustments it can make to accommodate the needs (and proposed schemes) identified by the WWISE group. In considering what adjustments are reasonable for the Council to make, officers have considered the users of the facility and how many would require warmer water and a</p>

	<p>greater depth, the impact this would have on current and potential users, the costs and practicality of providing these facilities and have concluded that they are not a reasonable adjustment. The technical, practical and financial challenges of providing this type of facility within a refurbishment project make it unviable.</p>
<p>Financial and budget implications</p>	<p>A number of options proposed by WWISE were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 - This option would cost in the region of £970k and would incur the loss of Sport England's £1.5 million funding. This is not considered to be a viable option or a reasonable adjustment. • Option 2 – This option would likely cost in the region of £1.6m including the cost of a movable floor to allow for other uses. This is not considered to be a viable option or a reasonable adjustment. • Option 3 – This option considered increasing the temperature of the proposed teaching pool and other warm water pools. Based on practical constraints and guidance from the ASA and the Pool Water Treatment Advisory group this is not considered to be a viable option or a reasonable adjustment. • Option 4 - This would likely cost in the region of £1.9m including the cost of a movable floor to allow for other uses within the pool. It would require planning permission and landlord's permission from the Recreation Ground Trust and Bath Rugby as it would be on their land or leased land. This is not considered to be a viable solution or a reasonable adjustment. • Current capital budgets are not sufficient to accommodate the additional costs referred to in the options considered. Any capital budget uplift would require funding through borrowing, which would add revenue cost to the Leisure service in addition to increased running costs. Further likely decreases in user numbers would reduce the ability of our Leisure partner to generate income, which would result in further increase to the revenue budgets. There is currently no budget to accommodate the additional costs / lost income and this would therefore represent a growth requirement. • None of the options outlined were considered to be financially viable from a capital, revenue or cost per visit subsidy perspective.
<p>Issues considered (these are covered in more detail in the report)</p>	<p>Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Property; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Human Rights; Corporate; Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations</p>
<p>Consultation undertaken</p>	<p>Cabinet colleagues; Overview & Scrutiny Panel; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer; Sport England; the Amateur Swimming Association; the Council's leisure provider - GLL</p>
<p>How consultation was carried out</p>	<p>The WWISE group have presented at a range of Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny Panel meetings. Their suggestions were reviewed and costed</p>

	<p>by an independent cost consultant. WWISE met with officers and the Cabinet Member. Consultation was also carried out with key partners including; Sport England (funding partners), Amateur Swimming Association, Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL – the Council’s leisure provider), Health and Social Care Services, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), formal guidance issued by the Pool Water Treatment Advisory group was also considered.</p>
<p>Other options considered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including warm water pools in Bath Sports Centre as the WWISE proposals with movable floors to allow for children’s swimming lessons • Division of main pool in Bath Sports Centre into 2 smaller pools one of which would be warm water with a movable floor • Converting the leisure pool to 2 warm water pools, one of which is 1.5m (5ft) deep with a movable floor to allow for other uses within the pool. • Adding an extension to the proposed teaching pool to create additional warm water space at a depth of 1.38m (4’6”) including a movable floor to allow for other uses within the pool. • Making the teaching pool at Keynsham 1.3m deep and including a movable floor to allow for children’s swimming lessons. • The cabinet member also considered a further suggestion from WWISE submitted on 08.03.17. Option 2 (2) would likely cost in the region of £667K with a further significant risk in disturbing the pool tank estimated to be in excess of £150K. In addition there were revenue implications in terms of reduced income, additional staffing etc. This was not considered to be a viable option or a reasonable adjustment. • These options were not taken forward for the reasons described in the report
<p>Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision, including any dispensation granted:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:</p>	<p>None</p>

Signatures of Decision Makers	
Date of Signature	31 March 2017
Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision	