

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

14 October 2009

Joint Report of the Director of Finance, Chief Leisure Officer and the Cabinet Members for Finance and Leisure, Youth and Arts

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Council

1 TONBRIDGE SWIMMING POOL – CAPITAL WORKS

Summary

This report highlights Capital Works at Tonbridge Swimming Pool which need to be progressed to address health and safety concerns following a risk assessment review. The report seeks approval of Capital expenditure associated with the works.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The Council is committed to preventing and managing health and safety risk in all its premises and the leisure facilities across the borough are particularly important in this regard.
- 1.1.2 The Council puts procedures in place to control and minimise risk and regularly reviews risk assessments. Following the latest risk assessment review two issues have arisen at Tonbridge Swimming Pool, namely the configuration of the cubicles within the changing village, and the effectiveness of the poolside tiles surrounding the learner and toddler pool area.

1.2 Changing Village

- 1.2.1 Members may recall that in late 2007 the changing village at Larkfield Leisure Centre was reconfigured as part of the Capital Development Works at the facility. The reconfiguration involved the grouping of the changing cubicles into male, female and family only zones. The reconfiguration has successfully addressed previous problems at the facility and has been well received by customers. It is now timely to progress a similar reconfiguration at Tonbridge Swimming Pool in order to ensure the appropriate use and management of the changing facilities at the pool and respond positively to customer demand. Due to the existing layout of the changing village, a redesign will be relatively straightforward and cost effective, involving new colour coded doors and other minor works. The overall cost of the proposed works is £30,000. Subject to confirmation with the supplier it

is planned to progress these works over the forthcoming Christmas closure period, in order to minimise any disruption to customers at the pool.

1.3 Poolside Tiles

1.3.1 Monitoring of slips, trips and falls has identified an above average number of accidents, particularly by young children in the floor area between the toddler and learner pools. The provision of matting to address this issue has been considered, however, the matting can create a trip hazard in its own right, can also become unsightly and suggests a less than comprehensive approach to safety. An alternative product has been identified, involving the laying of a rubber crumb safety surface directly on to the tiled floor. The safety surface has been used in other public sector pools and would appear to offer an ideal solution to the problem. The cost of laying the new surface is £10,000 and it would be the intention to progress the works during the forthcoming Christmas closure period, thus avoiding any disruption to customers, and minimising loss of income.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 The Council has a legal duty to meet the requirements of Health and Safety Legislation and reduce any potential risk to the health and safety of customers and staff.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 The overall cost of the proposed works is £40,000. Although no provision currently exists within the Capital Plan Management Team has considered the proposals and feel that they constitute a priority investment for the reasons highlighted in the report. Within the existing Capital Plan Members may be aware that provision exists for the installation of a new disabled change area at Tonbridge Swimming Pool. This project has been successfully completed, and an underspend of £9,000 has been achieved. It is proposed that due to the health and safety nature of the works proposed at Tonbridge Swimming Pool, the projects be fast tracked, the underspend be vired and the remaining costs be met through an appropriate amendment to the Capital Plan. A capital plan project proforma is attached at **[Annex 1]**.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 Tonbridge Swimming Pool is managed in accordance with the Indoor Leisure Operational Risk Register 2009/10. The key objective of the register is to “operate the facility in a safe manner and conform to all health and safety legislation and other relevant codes of practice”. This is achieved by undertaking risk assessments and identifying potential health and safety hazards. The proposed works will reduce risk of future accidents/incidents.

1.7 Policy Considerations

1.7.1 Asset Management, Safeguarding Children Framework, Young People, Health and Safety.

1.8 Recommendations

1.8.1 It is **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that:

- 1) the proposed works to the changing village and pool surrounds at Tonbridge Swimming Pool be approved, and
- 2) that the Capital Plan be amended in accordance with sub-section 1.5 of the report.

Background papers:

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Nil

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