



Report to: Cabinet Meeting: 4 June 2024

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Susan Crosby, Health, Wellbeing & Leisure

Director Lead: Suzanne Shead – Director - Housing, Health & Wellbeing

Lead Officer: Cara Clarkson – Business Manager – Regeneration & Housing Strategy, Ext. 5293

<b>Report Summary</b>	
<b>Type of Report</b>	Open report, non-key decision
<b>Report Title</b>	Swimming Pool Support Fund Capital Grant Award
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To secure Cabinet approval to utilise the capital grant awarded to the District Council through the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) Phase 2 Programme to enable the energy efficiency improvements works planned for Newark Sports & Fitness Centre to be implemented.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Cabinet: a) agree to utilise the capital grant of £61,356 awarded to progress the implementation of LED lighting upgrades and new pool covers at Newark Sports & Fitness Centre, and b) add a budget of up to £71,356 to the Council’s Capital programme, financed by the SPSF grant of £61,356 and up to £10,000 from Repairs & Renewals in order that the works can proceed.
<b>Alternative Options Considered</b>	The grant secured will enable the proposed works to be delivered in a timely manner, will reduce the leisure centres operating costs and reduce its carbon emissions accordingly.
<b>Reason for Recommendations</b>	To proposal will make a positive contribution to the Council’s Community Plan 2023 – 2027 - Object 6 – ‘Reduce the Impact of Climate Change’.

## **1.0 Background**

1.1 Members will be aware that the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund was initiated to provide financial support to swimming pool operators in England to mitigate against the cost impacts of increasing energy costs. The programme had two strands a ‘Revenue’ support grant, Phase 1 and a ‘Capital’ support grant Phase 2. In October 2023 the District Council was successful in securing a revenue grant of £187,539 towards utility costs over the three years 2021/22 to 2023/24 for its three swimming pool locations, and subsequently has been awarded a capital grant of £61,356 under Phase 2 towards the costs of replacement pool covers and LED lighting at Newark Sports and Fitness Centre.

## **2.0 Proposal/Details of Options Considered**

- 2.1 In order to progress the works, the grant award of £61,356 will need to be added to the Council's Capital Programme 2024-25 in order to implement the planned works and to draw down the grant from Sport England which will be paid retrospectively on satisfactory completion of the works identified in the original grant submission. The delivery of the planned works will contribute to the Council's Community Plan 2023-2027 Objective 6 - 'Reduce the Impact of Climate Change' primarily by reducing carbon emissions.

## **3.0 Implications**

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

### **Financial Implications (FIN24-25/2016)**

- 3.1 The budget of £61,356 will be added to the Capital Programme, financed by the recently awarded capital grant.
- 3.2 The works are fully funded, and the grant will be drawn down in arrears.
- 3.3 The works will need to go through a procurement process, which may result in the works costing more than the grant awarded. If this is the case, a transfer of up to £10,000 can be made from R&R.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.