



Report to: Councillor Paul Peacock - Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance & Finance

Decision Date: 25 July 2025

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Peacock - Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance & Finance

Director Lead: Suzanne Shead – Director, Housing Health and Wellbeing

Lead Officer: Cara Clarkson – Business Manager – Regeneration and Housing strategy – Ext. 5293

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open report non-key decision
Report Title	Swimming Pool Support Fund Capital Grant Award – Dukeries Pool Cover
Purpose of Report	To secure Portfolio Holder approval to utilise an additional capital grant awarded to the District Council through the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) Phase 2 Programme to enable the installation of pool cover at Dukeries Lesiure Centre to deliver energy and cost efficiency savings.
Recommendations	<p>That the Portfolio Holder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) agrees to utilise the capital grant of £32,203 awarded to progress the implementation of a pool cover at Dukeries Leisure Centre, Ollerton, and b) add a budget of up to £37,500 to the Council’s Capital programme, financed by the SPSF grant of £32,203 and £5,497 from Repairs & Renewals in order that the works can proceed. <p>The recommendations will contribute to the Council’s Community Plan 2023 – 2027 Ambition 6 – ‘Reduce the impact of climate change’.</p>
Alternative Options Considered	The request for SPSF orinally included this project but due to available funding was not successful in the original approval announcement. However, due to underspends elsewhere in the programme this request has now been included as an approved project. The SPSF grant will enable the project to now be delivered in a timely manner. If the grant is not utilised the project would not be delivered.

Reason for Recommendation	A significant proportion of the cost to deliver the project will be covered by external grant funding and the proposal will make a positive contribution to the Council's Community Plan 2023 – 2027 - Object 6 – 'Reduce the Impact of Climate Change'.
Decision Taken	<i>Detail the final decision agreed by the Portfolio Holder (which could state 'as per the recommendations'. Complete at the time of decision.</i>

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) was initiated to provide financial support to swimming pool operators in England to mitigate against the 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 was 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 which were duly installed.
- 1.2 A new pool cover for the Dukeries pool was also submitted to the SPSF but was originally not approved, however, due to underspends elsewhere through the SPSF programme the Council has now been awarded a further grant award of £32,203 to deliver the pool cover as a further energy reduction and cost efficiency intervention project.

2.0 Proposal/Details of Options Considered

- 2.1 In order to progress the works at pace, which have to be completed by 31st August 2025, the grant award of £32,203 will need to be added to the capital programme in order that the works can proceed. Given the passage of time from the original submission it will also be necessary to add an additional contribution of £5,497, to mitigate against inflationary factors, from Repairs & Renewals to increase the available budget to £37,500 to ensure the project can be delivered.
- 2.2 Accordingly the scheme will need to be added to the Council's Capital Programme 2025-26 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. 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 (FIN25-26/9230)

- 3.1 The proposed budget of £37,500 will be added to the Capital Programme, financed by the recently awarded capital grant of £32,203 and an additional £5,497 from Repairs & Renewals (R&R) Fund, should this be necessary.
- 3.2 The works are primarily grant funded, and the grant will be drawn down in arrears.

Legal Implications LEG2425/7289

- 3.3 Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance and Finance is the appropriate person to consider the contents of this report.

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.