

## RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

### \*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted *n/a*

#### SERVICE DIRECTORATE: PLACE

#### 1. DECISION TAKEN

- 1.1 To enter into a contract with Pool Plant Engineering Limited (PPE) for the replacement of the pool water circulation pipework at the North Herts Leisure Centre, Baldock Road, Baldock, SG6 2ER.

#### 2. DECISION TAKER

Vaughan Watson, Service Director - Place

#### 3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

7 May 2020

#### 4. REASON FOR DECISION

- 4.1 The 2020/21 Capital programme includes a £50k project to replace the pool water circulation pipework at NHLC. The existing pipework is brittle and fragile which has resulted in several failures in the past. This replacement works was currently programmed to take place in December 2020. For the reasons below, this work now has to be undertaken and the contract awarded accordingly.
- 4.2 The leisure contractor, Stevenage Leisure Limited (SLL), reported a new leak located in a critical area of the pipework on 29 April 2020. PPE attended site to provide an adequate temporary repair, however due to the location of the leak the pool needs to be drained to fully repair the pipework. This temporary repair was not guaranteed. If this failed due to the volume of water involved and it happens at any time it could empty the content of the leisure pool into the plant room circa 500 cubic metres, half a million litres. In this event the plant room would be completely flooded and would take the leisure centre out of action for many months, whilst the plant room was repaired.
- 4.3 PPE have produced an acceptable specification and price of £58,000 to replace all the pipework and adequate isolation valves and can start works as soon as a purchase order is raised.
- 4.4 PPE have also undertaken most of the Council's major plant engineering works within its pools over the past few decades and also manages the plants room associated with all of the Council's splash pads. PPE therefore have the necessary and appropriate expertise to undertake the work and it is in the Council's best interest to engage them to undertake this work.
- 4.5 It was our intention to have the works specified and tendered with works completed during a two week closure of the pool. Unfortunately, lockdown relating to COVID as resulted in not being able to get the design company (B3 base in Manchester to visit the site and specify the works). Consideration was being given to delay the work for a further year until a recent fracture in the pipework occurred that prevented the pipe being properly repaired due to the need for the pool to be drained.

- 4.6 Due to the urgency of the work, this it is the reason why a contract has been awarded – so the work can be completed before the end of June and with the pool being drained within one week of commencement.

## **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 The Capital project is delayed until after the Covid-19 lockdown and the earliest date being considered was a Christmas closure and possibly being deferred for a further year. However, the risk of further failures in other areas of the circulation pipework is high and repair works may require the pool to be drained again resulting in additional closures of the leisure pool.

## **6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)**

- 6.1 The Executive Member – Environment and Leisure, Councillor Steve Jarvis, the Chief Executive, David Scholes, Leadership Team 4 May 2020 and PLB 5 May 2020 have been consulted and support the Capital project being brought forward.

## **7. FORWARD PLAN**

- 7.1 This decision is not an Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

## **8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 Officers applied for Capital funds after a major leak occurred in the plant room in summer of 2014 which resulted in a 15 day pool closure whilst PPE replaced the split pipework preventing significant damage to boilers and electrical equipment. Whilst the works were carried out it became apparent that the existing pipework was brittle and fragile and required replacement. This replacement works was therefore programmed to take place in December 2020 in any event.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 A Single Tender has been approved by the Service Director – Place, Service Director – Legal & Community and Service Director – Resources in accordance with Section 14 of the Contract Procurement Rules because of the urgency of the requirement for the works.
- 9.2 The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 (No. 2095) require officers undertaking non-executive decisions to record (amongst other things) an award of a contract that materially affects the Council's position in a written delegated decision. At NHDC this is any award of a contract or financial decision, that is or is likely to be above £50,000. This contract award is above £50K and therefore has to be confirmed by the relevant officer taking the decision.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. There are no revenue implications.
- 10.2. The 2020/21 Capital programme includes a budget of £50,000 to fully replace the pool circulation pipework. Pool Plant Engineering have provided a quote to carry out the works for £58,000 which is within the Capital tolerance limit
- 10.3 The replacement of the pool circulation pipework is essential for the continued operation of the leisure pool and there are greater financial risks in delaying the project than making this decision.

**11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

If the replacement works are not carried out there is a risk of further failure occurring in other areas of the pipework which may result in further unplanned emergency closures and potential serious damages to plant and equipment.

**12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.2 There are no additional equality implications associated with this proposal.

**13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this decision.

**14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 There will be no impact to human resources. SLL employ the staff at the leisure centre and they are currently furloughed.

**15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Quotation [“Subject to Part 2 exemption under Schedule 12A paragraph 3 of the Local Government Act 1972.”]

**NOTIFICATION DATE**

22 May 2020

*Date sent to all Members, put on website and appears in MIS – Committee, Member & Scrutiny Services can confirm this with you,*



Signature of Executive Member Consulted .....  .....

Date .....15/05/2020.....

Signature of Decision Taker . 

**This is a non-executive decision.**

**Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**