



**RECOMMENDED that:**

- a) a virement of £7,000 from the 2020/21 revenue contingency budget be approved; and
- b) an exception to the Council's contract standing orders due to the specialist and emergency nature of these works be approved

**Purpose**

To expedite the emergency repair of pool heating pipework at the Laura Trott Leisure Centre due to a leak that will need to be resolved before the centre can re-open.

**The Project**

A leak has been found on the heating pipework at Laura Trott Leisure Centre that feeds directly into the pool and needs to be urgently resolved.

The leak is from an eight inch diameter pipe that carries thirty degree heated water to the pool at between four and six bars of pressure. It is suspected that the fibreglass weld on the pipe has failed and is now allowing water to escape. Over time this will continue to deteriorate further due to the chlorinated water and high pressure.

In order to repair the pipework it will need to be completely replaced along with the valves and fittings as a temporary fix is not possible. As the pipework is also eight inches in diameter this is not standard stock and will need to be made to order.

A total failure would result in mass flooding of the plant room and significant damage to all plant equipment. The maintenance team are monitoring the leak and if the volume of water lost continues to increase or further leaks appear the heating to the pool will need to be shut down and the pumps stopped.

This presents another issue as the pool is designed to have a constant flow of water to enable the temperature to be maintained at thirty degrees. By shutting this off the water would start to cool and there is a further risk that this would cause the tiles in the pool to come loose as a tiled pool of this age is not designed to withstand major fluctuations in temperature.

An exception to the contract standing orders is requested due to the specialist and emergency nature of the work. Two contractors have been approached for estimated quotes, JC Leisure and Wrightfield Pools. They are both experienced with pool repairs and able to carry out the work. One quote has already been received from JC Leisure with a further quote from Wrightfield Pools expected by 12 March.

A final decision will be made based on best value and the speed the work can be completed as time is a major factor. The current government guidance shows leisure sites re-opening from 12 April and an order will need to be placed in advance to allow the ordering of parts. There is the risk that it may take several weeks for parts to arrive after an order is placed due to some pipe fittings being made to order.

Capital expenditure to complete this project is estimated at £7,000 which includes a 10% contingency of £600 and it is proposed to fund the works from the 2020/21 revenue contingency budget which currently has a balance of £141,820.

## **Works Programme**

To carry out the emergency repair and replacement of heating pipework to allow the pool to be opened.

## **Financial, Legal and Risk Management Implications**

A total failure would result in mass flooding of the plant room and significant damage to all plant equipment. The maintenance team are monitoring the leak and if the volume of water lost continues to increase or further leaks appear the heating to the pool will need to be shut down and the pumps stopped. There is the further risk that this would cause the tiles in the pool to come loose as a tiled pool of this age is not designed to withstand major fluctuations in temperature.

The works, costing £7,000, have not been forecast in the current 2020/21 financial year and funding is required from revenue contingency which currently has a budget of £141,820.

## **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

The Council could chose not to carry out the repairs. However, this will create the risk that the pool cannot re-open which would result in a loss of income.

## **Contribution to the Council's Objectives**

Maintain a stable financial position.

Help residents to lead a healthy lifestyle.

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Date: 05/03/2021

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Action reported to the Cabinet on:

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