

Report sponsor: Alison Parkin, Director of
Financial Services
Report author: Toni Nash, Head of Finance

Compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules

Purpose

- 1.1
 - Bid for and acceptance of funding from Sports England for swimming pool operators in the city up to the value of £2m and associated delegated approvals to award the funding
 - allocation of £0.050m from the Budget Risk Reserve to fund Stage1 costs of strategic development partner procurement costs

Recommendation

- 2.1 To approve a bid for and acceptance of funding from Sport England on behalf of swimming pool operators in the city up to the value of £2million as outlined in section 4.1.
- 2.2 To delegate approval to the Cabinet Member for City Centre, Regeneration, Culture and Tourism and the Strategic Director for Communities and Place to agree the terms and the award of the funding allocations to the relevant swimming pool operators in the city as outlined in section 4.1.
- 2.3 To approve the allocation of £0.050m from the Budget Risk Reserve to fund Stage 1 of strategic development partner procurement costs as outlined in section 4.2

Reasons

- 3.1 To comply with the Council's Financial and Contract Procedure Rules.

Supporting information

4.1 Bid for and acceptance of funding from Sports England of up to £2m

- 4.1.1 As part of the Spring Budget, 15 March 2023, the Government announced a £63m support fund for swimming pool facilities. The fund will be managed by Sport England and will allow local authorities to apply for funding for swimming pools to assist meet the urgent challenges they are facing.
- 4.1.2 Circa £20m is available in revenue grants to support facilities with swimming pools with increased cost pressures leaving them most vulnerable to closure or service reduction. An additional £40m will be made available for capital investment to improve the energy efficiency of these public facilities in the medium to long term.

- 4.1.3 Sport England has issued its "Pool Factfinder" questionnaire which will be used to support the formal application process. The Council, on behalf of public swimming pool operators in the city, submitted the questionnaire. The next stage will be formal application process to Sport England for funding, which the Council will need to submit on behalf of swimming pool operators in the city.
- 4.1.4 The total amount is not yet known, as this will be based on the final criteria and funding offer made by Sport England. However, based on the information provided by city swimming pool operators for the "Pool Factfinder" questionnaire the indicative amount could be in excess of £1.5million. This excludes any possible revenue support for Moorways Sports Village, as there is no comparable costs pre-price increase.
- 4.1.5 The indicative costs are:
Revenue support £0.142m
Capital investment £1.432m

The Council are seeking permission to submit a funding application to and accept the funding offer from Sport England on behalf of swimming pool operators in the city up to the value of £2million.

- 4.1.6 If the funding bid is successful delegated approval is sought for expedience to distribute the funding. Delegate approval will be to the Cabinet Member for City Centre, Regeneration, Culture and Tourism and the Strategic Director for Communities and Place to agree the terms and the award of the funding allocations to the relevant swimming pool operators in the city.
- 4.1.7 It is recommended to approve a bid for and acceptance of funding from Sport England on behalf of swimming pool operators in the city up to the value of £2million.
- 4.1.8 It is recommended to approve delegated approval to the Cabinet Member for City Centre, Regeneration, Culture and Tourism and the Strategic Director for Communities and Place to agree the terms and the award of the funding allocations to the relevant swimming pool operators in the city.

4.2 Funding for Strategic Development Partner Procurement costs

In February 2023, Cabinet approved the procurement of a strategic developer partner to bring forward regeneration on key city centre sites and at that point funding sources were being explored. The Council require commercial and legal advice to effectively conduct this procurement, supplied through our retained advisors Avison Young and a legal firm procured through the EM Lawshare Framework. The expected costs of advice across both these services during Stage 1 of the procurement is £0.050m.

- 4.2.1 Approval is sought to fund these costs by an allocation from the Budget Risk Reserve. Following a review of current commitments against previous allocations from the Budget Risk Reserve for Becketwell Regeneration associated feasibility/revenue project costs, the amount required for Becketwell Regeneration can now be reduced and this will release £0.050m of the Budget Risk Reserve.

- 4.2.2 It is recommended to approve the allocation of £0.050m from the Budget Risk Reserve to fund Stage 1 of strategic development partner procurement costs

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Sports England Bid for Funding – Engagement will take place with swimming pool operators as part of the full application process.
- 5.2 **Strategic Development Partner** - None directly arising.

Other options

- 6.1 **Sports England Bid for Funding** – None.
- 6.2 **Strategic Development Partner** - To retain the £0.050m in the Budget Risk Reserve which would then necessitate the identification of an alternative funding source for these costs, if possible, which could delay the procurement process.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 **Sports England Bid for Funding** – Should the funding bid be successful; the funding will support swimming pool operators management current energy and pool chemical price rises and allow them to invest in energy saving measures reducing there operating costs. This will help them to become more sustainable.
- 7.2 **Strategic Development Partner** - As outlined in the report.

Legal implications

- 8.1 **Sports England Bid for Funding** – There will be implication in relation to the acceptance of the funding. These will not be known until the funding criteria is known and the award made. There will be a requirement for the Council to oversee the management of the funding and comply with any monitoring and reporting requirements. The swimming pool operators who receive the funding will be required to provide this information as part of the award.
- 8.2 **Strategic Development Partner** - None directly arising.

Climate implications

- 9.1 **Sports England Bid for Funding** – The investment in improved energy management measures at swimming pools will have a positive impact energy management and climate impact.
- 9.2 **Strategic Development Partner** - None directly arising.

Socio-Economic implications

- 10.1 **Sports England Bid for Funding** – The investment both revenue and capital funding will improve the sustainability of swimming pools in the city. These facilities provide a range of water-based activities to children and young people, older adults, disabled people, individuals with mobility issues.
- 10.2 **Strategic Development Partner** - None directly arising.

Other significant implications

- 11.1 **Sports England Bid for Funding** - None directly arising
- 11.2 None directly arising.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu, Head of Legal Services	Not yet
Finance	Toni Nash, Head of Finance	25/05/2023
Service Director(s)	Alison Parkin, Director of Financial Services	Not yet
Report sponsor		
Other(s)	Carolyn Wright, Principal Accountant, Major Projects	25/05/2023
	Wayne Sills, Area Manager – Leisure Centres	25/05/2023
Background papers:	N/A	
List of appendices:	N/A	