

Report of the Director of Environment & Sport to the meeting of Executive to be held on 10th January 2017.

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Subject:

Petition referred from Council on 13th December 2016 – Save Queensbury Swimming Pool from closure

Summary statement:

A petition has been presented to the Council to overturn a proposal to close Queensbury Pool when the new pool at Sedbergh is completed unless a community managed solution for the pool can be found.

Council has referred the matter to Executive for further consideration.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:



1. SUMMARY:

- 1.1 A petition has been presented to the Council to overturn a proposal to close Queensbury Pool when the new pool at Sedbergh is completed unless a community managed solution for the pool can be found.

Council has referred the matter to Executive for further consideration.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The revised proposals for sports facilities in Bradford now includes the construction of two new sports facilities instead of the four new facilities agreed at Executive in 2015. No new pool is now planned at Clayton Heights as a replacement for Queensbury. The proposal is now for the Council to withdraw from directly managing Queensbury Pool when the new pool at Sedbergh opens and to offer the pool as a community managed model. If the offer of the community managed model is not successful then Queensbury Pool will close.
- 2.2 Queensbury Pool dates from 1887 and is now a very old swimming facility. The pool is small and the building is not practical for adaptation to secure DDA compliance. Although the building has recently had some work completed to ensure compliance with fire safety under the Regulatory Reform Act, there is still a great deal of work outstanding on the site. Backlog maintenance is estimated at £250,000 - £300,000. Replacement of the hot water system is now considered an essential item, if the hot water system is not replaced within the next few months it is likely that the pool will be unable to operate.
- 2.3 Due to the age and condition, attendances at Queensbury Pool are very low. Public swimming at Queensbury Pool is 9,204 per year. Swimming development lessons are 8087 per year.
- 2.4 School swimming lessons at Queensbury are 22,646 per year. The new sports facilities will offer enhanced opportunities for swimming lessons and all schools in Queensbury that use the current facilities will be offered alternative swimming lessons at nearby Council pools.
- 2.5 In accordance with national guidance we aim to ensure that people are within a 20 minute drive time of a swimming pool. Calculating alternative pools within the travel time from Queensbury Pool there are six alternative pools within a 20 minute drive time. When the new pool is completed at Sedbergh it will be approximately 4.0 miles away from Queensbury.
- 2.6 Further to the Council proposal to change the provision of new swimming facilities a petition for Queensbury Pool was presented to Council on the 13th December and referred to Executive for further consideration.



4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 Withdrawal from Queensbury Pool will save significant capital expenditure including re wiring and the replacement of mechanical and electrical services estimated at £230,000.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 A decision not to proceed with community management or closure of Queensbury may increase community opposition at Bingley to the community management or closure of pool currently under consideration.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 The Executive are asked to consider this petition as exceptional business due to its potential impact upon future year's revenue budgets.
- 6.2 The options set out in the report are within the existing powers of the Council under section 1 Localism Act 2011 i.e local authorities' general powers of competency to act.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

An initial Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed in relation to the closure of Queensbury Pool. The low numbers of public swimmers and the accessibility issues associated with the site means that the equality impacts for protected characteristics are nil to very low..

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The introduction of community managed swimming facilities or the closure of certain outdated facilities will allow a more sustainable network of swimming provision within the finances of the service.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

No issues anticipated.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

No issues anticipated.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

No issues anticipated.

7.6 TRADE UNION



The impact of community management or closure of swimming facilities will be discussed with trade unions.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Queensbury Ward.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

- 9.1 Option 1: Confirm the intention that when the new pool at Sedbergh opens, Queensbury Pool will be offered for community management and if no solution can be found the pool will close.
- 9.2 Option 2: Continue to operate Queensbury Pool and commit to replace boilers and mechanical and electrical services through planned maintenance.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Executive agree, Option 1: confirm the intention that when the new pool at Sedbergh opens, Queensbury Pool will be offered for community management and if no solution can be found the pool will close.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1: Extract of Petition presented to Council on 13th December – To Save Queensbury Pool from Closure.
- 11.2 Appendix 2: Speech to Council from petitioners 13th December 2016

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 12.1 Full Petition containing 966 signatures and other correspondences.

