

Subject:	Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) and Marl Pits Air Handling Unit	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	18 th September 2024
Report of:	Climate Change Officer	Lead Member:	Economic Development
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To note the award of Sport England’s SPSF capital funding of £290,000 to support energy saving interventions at Marl Pits Leisure Centre.
- 1.2 Approve the spend in accordance with the grant application and agree the procurement route for the award of a contract for the installation of an air handling unit.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) declared a Climate Change Emergency in September 2019
- In line with our Climate Change Strategy, the Council has prioritised improving energy efficiency and decarbonising council-owned buildings.
- The government has made funding available to local authorities in England as a support package for public leisure facilities with swimming pools
- The Council’s bid to the Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) Phase 2 capital fund was successful and we were awarded the maximum that Sport England was able to allocate to the authority.
- The energy saving measures the fund will support include the installation of swimming pool covers and an air handling unit to a value of £290,000 at Marl Pits Leisure Centre

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council acknowledges that climate change is a key issue. RBC declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and published a Climate Change Strategy in 2020.
- 3.2 In line with our Climate Change Strategy, the Council has prioritised improving energy efficiency and decarbonising council-owned buildings.
- 3.3 The government’s SPSF provided funding to local authorities in England as a support package for public leisure facilities with swimming pools.
- 3.4 Phase 2 of the funding was made available to support capital investment to improve the energy efficiency of public facilities with pools in the medium to long term. In winter 2023, we bid for Phase 2 capital funding for energy saving measures at Marl Pits Leisure Centre.
- 3.5 The bid to the SPSF Phase 2 capital fund was successful and we were awarded the maximum that Sport England was able to allocate to the authority. The energy saving measures the fund will support include the installation of swimming pool covers and an air handling unit to a value of £290,000 at Marl Pits Leisure Centre. A tight turnaround was required in order to receive

the funding and a grant agreement has been signed in order to comply with central government requirements.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1 In 2023, the government approved £40m of Exchequer funding and Sport England committed an additional £20m of lottery funding to be distributed through competitive process of formal application via the SPSF.
- 4.2 The funding is designed to support swimming pool operators to undertake capital interventions that reduce the cost of energy through more economical use of self-generation systems such as, Photo Voltaic (PV) panels, LED lighting systems and high-performance boilers.
- 4.3 As part of RBC's ongoing building decarbonisation programme, an application was made to SPSF to support our programme and to install systems that would reduce energy consumption at Marl Pits Leisure Centre, enabling a reduction in utility costs as well as contributing to our carbon reduction.
- 4.4 Marl Pits Leisure Centre was awarded grant monies of £290,000 that will specifically fund the installation of swimming pool covers and replacement of the air handling unit
- 4.5 In accordance with the Capital grant agreement, all works need to be completed by March 31st 2025

5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- As with any major project, full risk register and strategy will be developed prior to the onset of the program of works. Through this process, the following key risk will be considered in more detail.
- Build costs increase following onset of construction resulting in budget pressures to the program. Contingencies will be built into the costings and tight management will be undertaken to manage to avoid the need of value engineering to maintain financial envelope
- In the unlikely event that the project requires additional funding beyond the contingency, any overspend will be funded from the carbon reduction fund.

6. FINANCE

It is important that spend on the project is closely monitored. There is no budget within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to support any overspend.

7. LEGAL

As the procurement of the air handling unit will be over £100k, Cabinet is required to authorise the tender under the terms of the Constitution. The procurement of the unit will be carried out in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules and Sport England grant requirements.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy or equalities implications.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 Agreement to proceed with procurement requirements will help Marl Pits Leisure Centre reduce its carbon footprint, become more energy efficient and enable the Council to progress towards meeting its carbon reduction targets.