

Subject:	Haslingden Pool	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	15 th July 2015
Report of:	Head of Health, Housing & Regeneration	Portfolio Holder:	Leader of the Council
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes	Attached: Yes
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
Contact Officer:	Steve Jackson	Telephone:	01706 252404
Email:	stephenjackson@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	It is recommended that members support the proposal to grant the Haslingden All People's Pool Initiative (HAPPI) Group, an appropriate licence to manage and operate Haslingden Pool for a period of 12 months subject to review, extension and/or conversion to lease on terms to be agreed.
1.2	That the Council makes available a grant of £25,000 to assist with the essential repair and redecoration of the premises and a further £25,000 temporary support for cash flow purposes in the early months of operation.
1.3	All future minor amendments be delegated to The Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 This report aims to update members on the work undertaken with the Haslingden All People's Pool Initiative (HAPPI) to develop a proposal to re-open Haslingden Pool as a community swimming pool initiative.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:

Priority 1: Regenerating Rossendale: This priority focuses on regeneration in its broadest sense, so it means supporting communities that get on well together, attracting investment, promoting Rossendale, as well as working as an enabler to promote the physical regeneration of Rossendale.

Priority 2: Responsive Value for Money Services: This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.

Priority 3: Clean Green Rossendale: This priority focuses on clean streets and town centres and well managed open spaces, whilst recognising that the Council has to work with communities and as a partner to deliver this ambition.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

- The HAPPI Group have developed a strong group of volunteers with appropriate skills to support both the operation of the pool and ancillary services. However, there is a risk that support from volunteers may reduce and affect the ability of the group to retain the

necessary skills to maintain the pool as a going concern.

- The re-opening of Haslingden Pool is likely to have an effect upon the number of customers using Marl Pits. The precise implications are unknown at this stage but it is estimated that this could result in a loss of potential income to Marl Pits in the region of £50,000 per annum.
- The Council had previously advertised the site on the open market for sale and had received interest from potential developers who made a conditional offer for the site with a proposal to develop the site for housing. Members should be aware that in supporting the proposal from HAPPI potential income from the sale of the site would be lost.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Haslingden All People's Pool Initiative (HAPPI) group were formed to explore the opportunity to develop a local social enterprise to re-open, operate and manage Haslingden Pool.
- 5.2 The group requested that the pool be identified as an Asset of Community Value in September 2014 and in accordance with the Councils policy the HAPPI group were given 6 months to put together a business plan to support the transfer of the asset to the group.
- 5.3 Members of HAPPI and council officers met in March 2015 to discuss their progress to date and whilst some progress had been made it was agreed to extend their timescale for a further three months in order to provide them with the opportunity to finalise their business plan proposal.
- 5.4 The business plan has now been completed and provided to the Council for consideration. The bid proposes to re-open the swimming pool in September 2015 focussing on use by swimming clubs and some schools with around 30 hours of open public access outside of these uses. Staffing is provided through a bank of suitably qualified volunteers although the business plan does support some paid staff positions. Clubs using the pool will bring with them their own safety staffing although HAPPI would still provide the role of Duty Manager.
- 5.5 The proposal is to enter into a licence for the first 12 months (with no licence fee) and then to review the position and report back to members with the option to either enter into lease for the premises on terms to be agreed, extend the licence until a lease can be agreed, or end the arrangement .
- 5.6 The group are requesting that the Council provide a start-up grant of £25,000 to support the essential repairs and re-decoration required to open the pool and a further £25,000 temporary support for cash flow purposes in the early months.
- 5.7 Amongst the group of volunteers are a number of local qualified tradespeople who have offered to undertake works free of labour costs.
- 5.8 It is proposed that the Council will continue to provide Buildings Insurance cover. However, HAPPI will be responsible for securing Public Liability Insurance and relevant professional indemnity cover prior to opening the pool.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1 In considering this request members should realise that the full costs should include the £50k capital and temporary support for cash flow purposes being requested by HAPPI now, any potential adverse impact on Rossendale Leisure Trust income, plus the opportunity cost of the sale income being forgone as noted in sections 5.6 and 4.1 above.

6.2 Members are reminded of the challenges facing the Council as explained in the Medium Term Financial Strategy update presented at Council back in February.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 Heads of terms for the funding, occupation and management of the premises will need to be agreed with the Group and subsequent legal agreements entered into once the CIC has been formed. All relevant insurances must be in place upon occupation of the building. A schedule of works will need to be agreed and suitable indemnities given in order to protect this Council asset

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

8.1 No HR implications.

8.2 This has been done in line with Asset of Community Value procedures.

8.3 An EIA initial assessment has been undertaken and it has been identified there is positive impact on some of the equality groups and a full EIA is not required.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 Whilst the Council took the reluctant decision to close Haslingden Pool it has always been prepared to work with the community to look at alternative options for its operation and management. The HAPPI group's proposal follows many months of hard work by the group to garner interest, a volunteer workforce and future customers for the pool to support their business plan.

No background papers

INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Name of Policy, Decision, Strategy, Service or Function, Other: (please indicate)	Provision of a licence to Haslingden All Peoples Poll Initiative to re-open, operate and manage Haslingden Pool	
Lead Officer Name(s) & Job Title(s) :	Steve Jackson Head of Health Housing & Regeneration	
Department/Service Area:	Health Housing & Regeneration	
Telephone & E-mail Contact:	01706 252404 stephenjackson@rossendalebc.gov.uk	
Date Assessment:	Commenced: 6 th July 2015	Completed: 6 th July 2015

We carry out Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) to analyse the effects of our decisions, policies or practices. The EIA should be undertaken/started at the beginning of the policy development process – before any decisions are made.

1. Overview

The main aims/objectives of this policy¹ are:
To provide a licence to re-open, operate and manage Haslingden pool to HAPPI a new voluntary group in the process of becoming a Community Interest Company.

(Refer to **EIA Guidance** for details)

Is the policy or decision under review (please tick)

New/proposed

Modified/adapted

Existing

INTERNAL ONLY

MANAGEMENT ACTION REQUIRED (to be completed by the relevant Head of Service following review by Management Team / Programme Board)

- Outcome of EIA agreed/approved by Management Team / Programme Board:
Yes No
- Is a full EIA required Yes No
- Referred back to Assessor for amendment : (date)
- Published/made publicly available on: (date)

Signed:..... (Head of Service / Director) Date:

Date of Review²:

[To be completed by Lead Officer]

¹ Policy refers to any policy, strategy, project, procedure, function, decision or delivery of service.

² This date will be set on an annual basis as default for review unless otherwise specified by you.

Responsible Section/Team		Version	
Responsible Author		Due for review	
Date last amended		Page 1 of 3	

2. Equality Impact

Using the table below please indicate whether the policy/strategy/decision has a positive, negative or no impact **from an equalities perspective** on any of the protected equality groups listed below. **Please also give consideration to wider equality of opportunity and community cohesion impacts within and between the groups identified. If you have identified any negative impact and mitigating actions are not sufficient, you will need to complete a Full Equality Impact Assessment.**

Equality		Positive Impact (It could benefit)	Negative Impact (It could disadvantage)	Reason and any mitigating actions already in place (to reduce any adverse /negative impacts or reasons why it will be of positive benefit or contribution)	No Impact
Age	Older people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Re-opening of Haslingden pool will provide a further opportunity for all people to benefit from swimming. The former older persons group who used Haslingden pool are currently using a pool in Ramsbottom so this will provide a facility closer to home.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Younger people and children	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The pool will cater for younger people and children and provide the opportunity for localised swimming lessons which cater for the local community	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	Physical/learning/mental health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	An additional swimming facility enhances the opportunity for this equality group to benefit from physical activity.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	Transsexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and Maternity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race (Ethnicity or Nationality)	Asian or Asian British people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	It is proposed to reserve some pool sessions to cater exclusively for Asian women	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Black or black British people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Irish people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	White British	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Chinese people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gypsies & Travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other minority communities not listed above (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Belief or Religion		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responsible Section/Team		Version	
Responsible Author		Due for review	
Date last amended		Page 2 of 3	

Equality		Positive Impact (It could benefit)	Negative Impact (It could disadvantage)	Reason and any mitigating actions already in place (to reduce any adverse /negative impacts <u>or</u> reasons why it will be of positive benefit or contribution)	No Impact
Sexual Orientation	Gay men, gay women / lesbians and bisexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and Civil Partnership (employment only)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contribution to equality of opportunity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contribution to fostering good relations between different groups (people getting on well together – valuing one another, respect and understanding)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights http://intranet/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=86&documentID=251		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responsible Section/Team		Version	
Responsible Author		Due for review	
Date last amended		Page 3 of 3	