

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 23 AUGUST 2016  
title: THE RE-DEVELOPMENT OF RIBBLESDALE POOL CHANGING ROOMS  
AND RECEPTION  
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
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## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To outline the work planned for Ribblesdale Pool which will require a closure to complete.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
  - Council Ambitions – Ensure access to services is available to all.
  - Community Objectives – The areas identified in the Community Strategy include; Health and older people, Facilities, Education and Economy, and Community Safety. Projects supported through Arts Development may contribute in partnership towards these core areas.
  - Corporate Priorities – To help make people's lives safer and healthier.
  - Other Considerations – To ensure the building stock is maintained in a suitable manner for the users of the facility.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Ribblesdale Pool was first opened in 29 April 1972 and, since that time, has had various improvements and renovations carried out (the last being in 2000, which saw a refurbishment of the changing rooms - cubicles, lockers, and tiling). However, these areas are now dated. The fabric itself, such as the tiles, has reached the point where cleaning alone cannot restore its original brightness.
- 2.2 The Council applied for, and has been granted, £150,000 from Sport England, to which the Council is adding £59,000 to give an overall budget of £209k. This will enable a comprehensive refurbishment of the changing rooms and foyer area to be completed.
- 2.3 The tiled floor in both changing rooms will be replaced with a vinyl-type surface, and lockers and cubicles will be changed. As a new £1 coin is imminent, the locks will be adaptable to the new coinage. A suspended ceiling and new lighting will also be installed.
- 2.4 In addition, the facilities for disabled people will be significantly improved, with two new changing rooms created. These will accommodate carers, if needed, with direct access to the poolside.
- 2.5 The location of the reception desk will also be changed, and the vending area increased.
- 2.6 The work will be designed, planned, and overseen, by the Council's own Engineering Services team. Tenders for the work are being sought from suitable contractors.

### 3 ISSUES

- 3.1 To carry out this extensive work will require a closure of approximately three months, starting on 5 December 2016. Apart from the pool hall and staff room, the building will be out of bounds to everyone, bar the contractor.
- 3.2 Options for providing alternative changing accommodation to maintain general public access to the pool have been explored, including: building a temporary walkway from the pool to the football changing rooms; hiring-in temporary changing rooms and linking them to the pool hall. Whilst all are viable, the cost of doing this work would be in excess of £25k; this would then reduce by an equivalent amount the scope of the work which can be carried out in the building. Consequently, they have not been deemed viable within the budget provision.
- 3.3 The clubs which use the pool have been contacted, and it is planned to give them limited access on the basis that they will have no changing accommodation, and only portable toilets to use. Because the clubs are preparing for competitions in the period following Christmas, they need to keep training, and are prepared to accept the limitations of the service in order to keep training. An adjustment on their normal hire fee will be considered, to reflect the reduced service standards available.
- 3.4 All staff unable to work at the pool because of the refurbishment will be fully utilised elsewhere in the Council.

### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – There is £209k available for the project which will make cost control critical to ensure the work is brought in on-budget. The primary risk is, once refurbishment work commences, problems arise which will have to be addressed. Although a small contingency is allowed for in the budget, the capital sum available does not allow for significant extras.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The material removed will be recycled in accordance with recommended guidelines.
- Political – none
- Reputation – This is the Council's primary leisure facility, therefore, if the project runs over time, it will lead to dissatisfaction from users, and impact on the reputation of the Council. The closure itself will be problematical for users; however, the work is so extensive a partial closure would not work for the general public.

### 5 CONCLUSION

Ribblesdale Pool is a popular and well-used facility that is showing signs of wear and tear. Its original layout does not provide for 21<sup>st</sup> century requirements regarding provision for people with disabilities. The Council's investment, along with the 3:1 contribution from Sport England, should secure the continued provision of high-quality facilities for years to come.

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