

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No. 8

meeting date: 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 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 the closure of the facility to complete and consider the offer of funding from Sport England.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Council Ambitions – Ensure access to services is available to all.
- 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 This Committee received a report at the last meeting in August, outlining the scope of the work required at Ribblesdale Pool (Minute 168; 23/8/16).

2.2. The scheme is progressing as planned with designs completed and preparations being made for the closure.

2.3 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 Closure and loss of service for a period will undoubtedly impact on a range of people who use the pool. The project plan aims to keep the closure to an absolute minimum but currently envisages the facility potentially closing from the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and re-opening at the beginning of March 2017. Tenders are being sought to provide options with a shorter closure period. Officers have investigated the possibility of temporary accommodation to retain access to the pool for clubs and general public. However it has been determined that the practicalities of joining a temporary structure to the pool hall would not allow a quality and safe level of service to be provided to swimmers.

3.2 The air temperature in the pool hall is kept around 29c, this ensure a positive air pressure in the pool hall to reduce the chances of drafts from cooler parts of the building, to maintain that with a link corridor into a portable structure would be difficult to achieve without running the heating 24 hours per day. Due to the time of the year, the outside air temperature can be expected to fall to below freezing for part of the period when the building work will be carried out. This would make the temperature differential between pool hall and temporary building greater, risking excessive condensation on the inside of the portable structure, with associated risks due to slipping increasing as a result.

- 3.3 In addition the noise and impact of the building works would have on both the quality of the swimming experience and the ability of the lifeguards to focus safely on their work would make opening the pool during the building work a high risk proposal.
- 3.4 Council officers have been in touch with the clubs to let them know about the proposed work and the impact on their sessions as well as informing the public of the forthcoming closure period.
- 3.5 To help the clubs, Council Officers are trying to source some training time at Stonyhurst College for them to use and are having discussions with local pools in neighbouring authorities, where some time may also be available.
- 3.6 Capital funding for the scheme comprises, £150k from Sport England and £59k from RVBC, with a potential revenue cost of approximately £70k, depending upon the length of closure. The Sport England offer is linked to a number of performance indicators being achieved related to increasing participation.

#### **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 revenue implications of closure have previously reported to P&F (minute 218; 06/09/16).
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The material removed will be recycled in accordance with recommended guidelines. The Council has to sign a separate agreement for the acceptance of the grant from Sport England which has been considered by the Council's legal section and forms part of a standard agreement Sport England ask every recipient to enter into.
- 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 which focused on one changing room at a time would not work for the general public. Every effort is being made to help the clubs find alternative training provision.

#### **5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Committee notes the progress being made on the refurbishment and approves the facility closure to allow the work to be completed.
- 5.2 Committee accepts the offer of £150k from Sport England and authorises the Director of Community Services on behalf of the Council to enter into and execute the deed with the associated conditions to ensure receipt of the funding.

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