

Report Template for DLT/CLT/Leadership/Executive Panel

Meeting	Tick if Applicable	Date Scheduled
DLT	x	July 2023
CLT		
Leadership		
Executive Panel		

Item Name: Victoria Embankment Water Play Experience (Paddling Pool)

Corporate Director and Lead Officer: Ita O'Donovan, Interim Corporate Director CERS;
Head of Green Space and Natural Environment: Eddie Curry

Lead Portfolio Holder: Councillor Corall Jenkins - Portfolio Holder for Energy, Environment and Waste Services and Parks

Required Length of Time for Discussion: 10 mins

1. Purpose:

This report provides details of the confirmation of National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) grant funding (previously mentioned in DD4785 29,11,22 report) towards the Victoria Embankment Water Play Experience (paddling pool and surrounding area) improvement project.

2. Recommendations:

- To approve acceptance of the NLHF Community Fund grant of £200,000 for capital improvements to Victoria Embankment Paddling Pool.
- To approve acceptance of the NLHF Community Fund grant of £50,000 for revenue funds towards an activity plan for the site post opening.
- To approve an in year externally funded extension to the capital programme.
- To delegate authority to the Director of Residents Services to procure the design and build and enter into contracts relating to project.

3. Governance Interdependencies

Local consultation was carried out during the summer 2022. The consultation confirmed overwhelming support for a replacement paddling pool facility. This evidence of need has been used to help secure additional funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund as per table 1 below.

The ongoing future maintenance of the new facility is a key consideration for the design and procurement of the project. Consideration have been given to water recycling and the designing out of features within the facility in order to ensure that operational maintenance can be reduced and managed within the existing facility maintenance budget.

4. Proposal or Issue:

4.1 Paddling Pool Improvement Project Phase two

A bid was submitted to the NLHF to help with the restoration of the paddling pool and has now been successful which means the second phase of works can now be addressed. In addition children's water play facilities and toilets have been identified as a key priority within the consultation and are identified as a second phase of work. The NLHF bid will be used to deliver the restoration works and it will include a five-year summer activation programme. The programme will help support families and help attract a wider audience to the facility. The bid to the NLHF was submitted on the 21st December 2022 and has just been approved in full.

Table 1 provides details of the NLHF bid.

Table 1			
Additional Funding from the NLHF			
Additional Works will include;			
Item No	Item	Capital £	Revenue £
1	Paddling Pool Repair and Restoration, Surveys, Planning, Building Control Professional Fees	£162,844.40	
2	Contingency	£33,000	
3	Project Management	£4,155.60	
4	5-year activation programme		£47,000
5	Project Evaluation		£3,000
Total C&R		£200,000	£50,000
Total Costs		£250,000	

Table 2 Revised total project costs including the NLHF grant funding.

Whole projects Funding

Funding	Amount
DDM 4785	£543,971
NLHF Capital Grant	£200,000
Total Capital Funding	£743,971

Table 3 Whole project capital costs

Capital Costs	Amount
Quantity Survey Fee	£6,160
CDM Fee	£4,620
Project Management Fee	£12,592
Preconstruction (to include design, surveys, planning application)	£57,120
Construction	£598,479
Contingency	£65,000

5. Financial Comments:

The proposed decision raises no financial issues, will be grant funding of £200k and £50k of Budget spread over 5 years. As it is grant funding, service area need to ensure spending is in adherence to grant regulations.

Advice provided by Sohaib Chaudhry (Senior Commercial Business Partner)

Following approval of this decision the £50k grant will be recognised within revenue while the £200k capital grant from the NLHF will be added to the current approved scheme within the capital programme. This amendment to the capital programme has been endorsed by the capital board.

Due to current financial pressures within the Capital Programme should the amended project budget of £744k be insufficient the scheme is required to be value engineered and / or additional third party funding to be identified to cover any funding pressures.

The project manager is required to ensure that the grant condition for the revenue and capital elements of the grant are complied with to reduce the risk of grant clawback.

Advice provided by Tom Straw - Senior Accountant (Capital Programmes), 29th June 2023

The purpose of the decision is to make improvements towards the Victoria embankment playing paddling pool area and activity plan for the site opening. This is an ongoing decision with additional funding from a previous decision (DDM 4785) already approved taking this to phase 2.

The value of the decision is £250k, split between £200k of grant funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to be spent on capital works, and £50k from revenue spread over 5 years across Parks & Open Spaces, against cost centre "13223 – Victoria Embankment HLF", which will be used to cover the 5-year activation plan. Phase one of the bid has been accepted, recognising funding of £543,971.

However, the additional amount of £200k is yet to be agreed which would be the only risk regarding phase 2 works as this project has been removed from the 2023/24 Capital Prioritisation Programme.

There are currently no MTFP implications for this decision, but ongoing costs need to be monitored and if costs are exceeded beyond decision value, these shortfalls would need to be mitigated by the service area.

As there is both grant funding and capital works involved with this decision, it is important to ensure all spending is in accordance with the NLHF grant policies and works recognised as capital are in line with the council's capital strategy.

Advice provided by: Sohaib Chaudhry, Senior Commercial Business Partner
26th May 2023

6. Legal Comments

This report seeks approval to accept £200,000 NHLF capital funding, £50,000 NHLF Revenue funding and to continue relevant procurement processes required by the project.

In using the NLHF funding, the Council must comply with any terms and conditions imposed by NLHF, spend capital and revenue funding appropriately and ensure funds are spent in accordance with the bid details.

The delegations must be in accordance with the Council's constitution. Any procurement process needs to comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's own constitution.

Prior to entering into contracts, the Council should ensure appropriate legal advice is provided either by Legal Services or sourced through Legal Services at cost where Legal Services is unable to provide the specific support required due to the specialist nature of the work.

Anthony Heath, Senior Solicitor, Contracts and Commercial, 16th May 2023

Advice provided by Anthony Heath (Senior Solicitor) on 16/05/2023.

7. Risk Management Considerations:

Risk management considerations: At this point in the projects conception the risks remain focused on the project's financial deliverability and the potential risk of raising expectations regarding the anticipated project delivery. Interest in the paddling pool has generated a considerable amount of public interest in the form of an online petition that has already had over 3000 signatures. Given the high number of people who have raised concerns about the restoration of the facility, there is also a risk that non-delivery will create reputational damage for the council.

8. HR Comments and EDI Considerations:

An EDI has not been completed as the proposal is at an early stage of development. However early considerations are already being considered regarding the potential design of the new facility, how it can be fully accessible to all children, including those with disabilities and how the facility can be used to maximise the opportunity enhance the learning experience.

A full EDI will be completed when the funding and proposal reaches the next formal decision stage.

9. Other Comments:

The additional funding from the NLHF will enable the paddling pool project to move forward with greater resource and confidence in our ability to deliver the project inline with both the expectations of the funders and the quality of design expected by the community. The project will help to deliver the objectives of the emerging Greener, Healthier, Happier Strategy and it will help to further regenerate and improve the facilities located at Victoria Embankment. Advice provided by Eddie Curry (Head of GreenSpace & Natural Environment) on 28/06/2023.

10. Next Steps

- *Develop the scheme using a design and build contractor and enter into contracts relating to the projects.*