

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	16 February 2017
Subject:	Sport England Grant	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Report of:	Director of Public Health		
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes	Is it included in the Forward Plan?	No – Rule 27 form submitted and agreed
Exempt/Confidential	No		

Purpose/Summary

To provide Cabinet with information on a recent funding application made to Sport England designed to improve swimming facilities and programmes in Sefton and to seek approval to accept a grant, if awarded.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Cabinet agrees:-

- 1) To accept the grant if awarded, subject to satisfactory grant conditions;
- 2) To commence a procurement exercise without commitment pending the grant award;
- 3) For the project to be included in the 2017/18 capital programme that will be considered by Council on 2 March 2017 subject to the grant being awarded; and
- 4) It be noted that the proposal was a Key Decision but had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Consequently, the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) had been consulted under Rule 27 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution, to the decision being made by the Cabinet as a matter of urgency on the basis that it was impracticable to defer the decision until the commencement of the next Forward Plan because of timescales associated with the initial bid submission, expected project delivery and procurement process.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
3	Environmental Sustainability		√	
4	Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Children and Young People	√		

6	Creating Safe Communities	√		
7	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	√		

Reasons for the Recommendation:

In March 2016 the Director of Health & Social Care and Cabinet Member (Health & Wellbeing) approved Sefton’s involvement in a national swimming pilot, which included the submission of a funding bid to Sport England.

The total requested from Sport England is £531,582. Confirmation is expected by the end of February 2017. If agreed the funding will include capital resources to enable the renovation of two swimming pool changing facilities which will be fully DDA compliant and as such permission to proceed is required urgently to comply with the funding timescales. It is not possible to defer this decision to the Cabinet meeting in March, hence the request for approval in advance of the award being made.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The changing facilities at Dunes Splash World and Bootle Leisure Centre are outdated, in poor condition and in need of refurbishment. If Members elect not to accept the grant, alternative funding options will need to be identified.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

SMBC have requested the following from Sport England:-

(A) Revenue Costs

£182,200 to support project development.

(B) Capital Costs

£349,382 to enable the renovation of the changing facilities at Bootle Leisure Centre and Dunes Splashworld.

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Financial	All costs associated with the developments proposed will be met by the grant. There are no financial implications to the council. In the event that the grant is not awarded, the procurement process will be stopped. There will therefore be no financial implications on the Councils current budget
Legal	None

Human Resources None		
Equality		
1.	No Equality Implication	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.	Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact of the Proposals on Service Delivery:

If approved, the grant will improve both Sefton’s leisure facilities and the services provided within them utilising external resources. The project will also contribute significantly to the Councils Health & Wellbeing priorities.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

A public consultation exercise was approved and supported by the Consultation and Engagement Panel in July 2016. Over 3000 responses were received which resulted in the development of the planned initiatives.

The Head of Corporate Resources has been consulted and has no comments on the report (FD 4474/17)

Head Regulation and Compliance has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report (LD 3757/17)

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Background Papers:

None

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Sefton MBC is one of 12 Local Authorities to have been selected to be part of a national Sport England swimming pilot designed to reverse the current decline in public swimming.
- 1.2 Sefton were approached by Sport England in February 2016 and were asked to submit a funding application to provide both revenue and capital funding to improve the existing swimming facilities and programmes in order to increase participation and income.

2. Application Process & Timescales

- 2.1 Following the consultation exercise a full insight report was submitted to Sport England in September 2016. Insight gathered was subsequently used to formulate an 'Improvement Package' (outlined below) which was detailed in a presentation delivered to the Sport England national team on 8th December.
- 2.3 The Council will be informed of the outcome of the bid and amount of grant awarded by the end of February 2017.
- 2.3 Due to timescales associated with the report submission and required project delivery, approval is sought to progress with the procurement process pending the final grant award. In the event that the funding is not awarded, the procurement process will stop with no financial implications for the Council. Cabinet will be informed of the final grant decision when known.

3. Improvement Package and Implementation

- 3.1 Our vision is to sustainably increase swimming participation by ensuring it is financially viable and socially relevant.
- 3.2 It was imperative that the 'Improvement Package' reflected the insight gathered and as such, if funded, a number of key initiatives will be implemented. These include;
 - New and increased branding and marketing to ensure borough wide visibility and relevance
 - Workforce Development – including the appointment of 'Aquavators'
 - Refurbished changing rooms at Bootle Leisure Centre and Dunes Splashworld
 - The development of new tailored sessions that meet the needs of different groups (specifically focussing on health, fitness and family activities) and the production of revised timetables
- 3.3 The implementation of initiatives will have a direct impact on the Councils Health & Wellbeing objectives. The swim pilot will;
 - Ensure children have a positive start in life

- Support people early to prevent and treat avoidable illnesses and reduce inequalities in health
- Support older people and those with long term conditions and disabilities to remain independent and in their own homes
- Promote positive mental health & wellbeing
- Seek to address the wider social , environmental and economic issues that contribute to poor health and wellbeing
- Build capacity and resilience to empower and strengthen communities

3.4 In accordance with the terms of the potential grant allocation project implementation will take place over a 12 month period starting February/March 2017, hence the need to commence the procurement process at the earliest opportunity.

4.0 Procurement Process

4.1 Approval is sought to undertake a procurement exercise, without commitment, whilst waiting for the outcome of the bid.

4.2 Due to the tight timescales expected by Sport England for project implementation, it is necessary for the procurement process to commence as soon as possible to enable the Council to be in a position to appoint a contractor to commence works as soon as funding has been confirmed.

4.3 Draft tender documents have been prepared and approved by SMBC procurement and Sport Englands Facilities team.

5. Financial implications

5.1 Sport England has allocated £3.0m nationally and invited 12 Local Authorities to bid. Due to being based on local consultation there were no parameters in place for minimum/maximum grants available. Sefton's grant application was £531,582 based upon need.

5.2 £80,728 match funding was included in the application which included "in-kind" project management by Officers from within the Sport and Recreation and Corporate Communication Teams.

5.3 In keeping with normal processes, if successful a number of conditions will be attached to the grant which will be considered by the Head of Corporate Resources before the grant is accepted.