

## Record of Officer Decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Decision to accept a capital grant of £82,600 from the government Swimming Pool Support Fund to improve pool facilities at Hereford Leisure Pool and Ross Swimming Pool.
<b>Date of decision:</b>	26 March 2024
<b>Decision maker:</b>	<b>Director of Resources and Assurance</b>
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	Government grant conditions state that all funding must be approved and signed off by the Section 151 Officer at the relevant local authority.
<b>Wards:</b>	All wards
<b>Consultation:</b>	Consultation with the Corporate Director Community Wellbeing, Service Director for Communities, Corporate Grants team, Sustainability and Climate Change Managers, in addition to Halo Leisure Ltd.
<b>Decision made:</b>	To accept a capital grant of £82,600 from the government Swimming Pool Support Fund and to use this funding to improve pool facilities at Hereford Leisure Pool and Ross Swimming Pool.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>The Government's Swimming Pool Support Fund (administered by Sport England) has agreed to make a grant of £82,600 to Herefordshire Council for capital investment to improve the energy efficiency of public facilities with pools in the medium to long term.</p> <p>The objectives of the fund are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to reduce the energy consumption level of facilities in receipt of funding;</li> <li>• to support the leisure sector to transition to a position of environmental and financial sustainability;</li> <li>• to minimise the closure of swimming pool provision;</li> <li>• to reduce the carbon output of facilities in receipt of funding in line with the government's Net Zero by 2050 objectives; and</li> <li>• to prioritise support in those areas of greatest socio-economic need (as evidenced by IMD level).</li> </ul> <p>The allocated funding will directly contribute to pool covers at Hereford Leisure Pool, and triple glazing to pool hall windows and variable speed pumps at Ross Swimming Pool. No match funding is required.</p> <p>The Swimming Pool Support Fund fits with the following ambitions set out in Herefordshire's County Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise waste and increase reuse, repair and recycling</li> <li>• Invest in low carbon projects</li> <li>• Identify climate change action in all aspects of council operation</li> </ul> <p>The project also meets the Carbon Management Plan pathway to carbon neutral 2030, identifying retro-fit opportunities in council assets to improve overall operational sustainability and support Halo Leisure in its provision of public swimming provision for the county.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks / finance / legal /</b>	<p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p>The grant is for <b>£82,600</b> and is fully funded by the Government Swimming Pool</p>

<p><b>equality considerations:</b></p>	<p>Support Fund. No match funding is required.</p> <p><b>£24,500</b> – Pool Covers at Hereford Leisure Pool  <b>£51,500</b> - Upgrade pool hall windows to triple glazing at Ross Swimming Pool  <b>£6,600</b> – Variable speed pumps at Ross Swimming Pool</p> <p><b><u>Legal</u></b></p> <p>A legal agreement has been drawn up between DCMS and Herefordshire Council setting out the parameters of the funding. The funding is for 2024/25 only. The legal agreement sets out that any underspend from the current financial year cannot be carried into 2025/26 and must be spent by 31 March 2025.</p> <p>Funds will be released based on evidence of spend on site for the capital intervention. This is in the form of an invoice for works completed or quotes for new interventions.</p> <p><b><u>Project Management</u></b></p> <p>The project will be managed by Halo Leisure Services Ltd at the respective leisure centres. The Community Wellbeing service will administer the grant on behalf of Herefordshire Council.</p>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<p>Not to accept the funding. This option has been rejected on the basis of the benefits that this funding will have for improving the operational sustainability of swimming pools in Herefordshire with minimal risk.</p>
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	<p>None.</p>

I am an officer delegated to make the decision.

Signed: 