

### Record of Officer Decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Decision to accept a capital grant of £60,090 from the government Swimming Pool Support Fund to improve pool facilities at Hereford Leisure Pool.
<b>Date of decision:</b>	14 April 2025
<b>Decision maker:</b>	<b>Director of Finance (S151 Officer)</b>
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	The S151 Officer has delegated authority under the Corporate Services Scheme of Delegation at 172 to accept terms and conditions attached to any Government grants and complete grant returns. Under the Chief Executive Scheme of Delegation at CS-16 the S151 Officer is responsible for Corporate Grants and income development. Government grant conditions state that all funding must be approved and signed off by the S151 Officer at the relevant local authority.
<b>Wards:</b>	Widemarsh
<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 £60,090 from the government Swimming Pool Support Fund and to use this funding to improve pool facilities at Hereford Leisure Pool.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>The Government's Swimming Pool Support Fund (administered by Sport England) has agreed to make an additional grant of £60,090 to Herefordshire Council for capital investment to improve the energy efficiency of public facilities with pools in the medium to long term. Herefordshire Council was previously awarded £82,600 in 2024-2025 to improve facilities at Hereford Leisure Pool and Ross on Wye Pool.</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 a backwashing filtration project at Hereford Leisure 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>

<p><b>Highlight any associated risks / finance / legal / equality considerations:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p>The grant is for <b>£60,090</b> and is fully funded by the Government Swimming Pool Support Fund for the backwashing filtration project at Hereford Leisure Pool. No match funding is required.</p> <p><b><u>Legal</u></b></p> <p>A grant variation agreement has been drawn up between DCMS and Herefordshire Council setting out the parameters of the funding. The funding is for 2025/26 only. The legal agreement sets out that any underspend from the current financial year cannot be carried forward and must be spent by 31 March 2026. 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 council has applied for the funding on behalf of Halo Leisure Services Ltd and the entirety of the project is to be delivered by Halo Leisure Services Ltd at the respective leisure centre. The council is only responsible for transporting the funding. 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>