

## **POLICY, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday, 30 January 2023

**Title:** Splash Pad - Large Scale Repairs

**Contact Officer:** Operations Manager - Angus Whitburn

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### **Background**

The servicing of The Leys splash pad has been a demanding, time-consuming process for the last few years. The existing servicing contractors are difficult to reach and over the last two years, it has been the responsibility of the works team to source and fix broken parts to keep the splash pad running.

During the commissioning of the splash pad in 2022 it was identified that all the flow pipes had expanded and had put high pressure on the solenoid joints and pipework. The solenoids control the flow of water to each water jet. The Town Councils' maintenance team managed to make temporary repairs that would only be expected to be in place for a few weeks while contractors quoted for works.

The temporary repairs had to last the entire 2022 season and during that season the sump pump which carries the drained water from the splash pad to a holding tank also failed. Again, the contractors were called out for this as well but didn't attend and the splash pad had to be closed early.

### **Current Situation**

In order to get the splash pad operable for the second week of April 2023, all the above-mentioned repairs need to be completed. It is not currently clear if the existing contractors are still operating but it is clear they are not capable of achieving this. For this reason, the Operations Manager has been sourcing a new contractor to take over the splash pad. Due to the nature of the installation being so specialised, this has been a challenging task. Fortunately, a local contractor has recently been sourced and has quoted on all the repairs and is also able to take over the commissioning and decommissioning of the splash pad each year.

The new contractors have quoted on 2 options, the first option is the immediate repairs that need completing as a matter of urgency. The second option is a series of works to re engineer the splash pads systems.

### **Option 1:**

The works listed below are the repair works required.

- Remove and repair the sump pump
- Remove and replace all damaged expanded pipes
- Replace damaged solenoids

### **Option 2:**

- Supply and installation of a refurbished prebuilt electrical panel
  - Enables easy on/off function.
  - Better control of water jets
- Deactivate the pressure sensors and install new activator pads on stainless steel poles.
  - The jump-on pads regularly fail and are repaired by the maintenance team several times a season
- Installation of 3 new control pumps
  - Easier to clean, service, repair and helpful for fault finding
- Replace all solenoids with ball valves
  - Reduced servicing requirements and easier to maintain

The splash pads engineering is complex, making it hard to service and keep running throughout the season. The listed works in option 2 would help to extend the serviceable life of the splash pad and make it much easier to operate.

### **Environmental impact**

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

The splash pad is due for renewal in 2025 however the negative environmental impact of removing a large amount of concrete and other material is considered wasteful. The council should be maintaining its installations in good working order to prolong their serviceable life to avoid this.

### **Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

If the current system isn't renewed the splash pad would be expected to be closed for periods for each year of its operation.

### **Financial implications**

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- There are sufficient funds in the splash pad EMR (361 Splash Park) to cover the cost of both proposed options. The current balance being £167,000
- Option 1: £6,300.00 excluding vat
- Option 2: £13,800.00 excluding vat

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Whether to choose either of the two options identified in the report.