

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 4 March 2024

Title: Splash Pad Renovation Works – Brief and Timeline

Contact Officer: Head of Estates & Operations

Background

The report submitted for the 15 January committee meeting provided detail regarding the options to renovate the splash park at the Leys.

Resolved - Officers were asked to;

1. Proceed with Option 4 to cap all splash pad inlets and remove the 10,000 litre tank and,
2. That, the splashpad be closed for the 2024 season and,
3. That, Officers investigate alternatives to play while the splashpad is closed and,
4. That, Officers prepare a timeline for the splashpad replacement along with a draft project design for the meeting on 4 March 2024.

Current Situation

Offices have made progress albeit less than would have been accomplished considering its Project Officer has been away from the office.

Appendix 1. provides an indicative project timeline (as an internal operational document, this is shared with Members only for information).

Note the stage to explore funding opportunities is an important task that could have an impact on the project plan timeline.

In alignment with the project timeline, Officers have looked at how the Splash Park could be made operational before the Contractor would start. Officers are working to cost the alterations required linked to the repositioning of the holding tank from Courtsides hub to enable the Splash Park to be used in summer 2024. The level of work proposed with this option wouldn't include all the repairs the splash pad requires as previously reported and would focus on the alterations to the system in order for it to be operational for the summer 2024.

Officers are researching the cost of Splash Parks to determine what the council's budget will provide, that can be used for the consultation accounting for size, features, etc.

Examples below of some initial findings.

£300,000 - Riverside Park in Wallingford has been totally upgraded and opened in July 2023.



£150,000 - Wisbech Splash Pad near Peterborough opened in April 2023.



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 current splash pad system sends all the water to waste. Due to contaminants in the water, body fat, sun cream etc. it cannot be reutilised for any of the councils' operations. For the council to meet its climate objectives the installation of a recycling system will be a priority.

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.

Officers understand the disappointment that will be caused within the community with the closure of the Splash Park during the Spring/Summer season. To mitigate this risk, they are looking at ways to enable this to be open until the regeneration works commence whilst minimising associated costs.

Financial implications

There is a £172,500.00 earmarked reserve for the renovation of the splash pad that can be used for the completion of these works.

Costs to enable the Splash Park to be operational from April until the renovation construction starts are expected to be in the region of £10,000 (TBC).

Recommendations

To note the contents of the report.