

## Halls and Green Spaces Committee

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**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Title:** Play Areas - Leys Recreation Ground - Splash Park

**Contact Officer:** Operations and Estates Officer John Hickman

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### **Background**

This report has been prepared in order to inform the Councillors of a complaint received from a member of the public regarding the Council's current policy on closing of the splash pad at the end of the season.

### **Splash Pad Complaint**

Members are referred to the attached correspondence from a member of the public.

The Council's current policy is that the Splash Pad opens for the start of the School Easter Holidays and closes on the Monday of the week Witney Feast arrives. Once the splash pad is shut down it is not viable to open and close for odd days due to the water standing in the system and the amount of work and treatment required preparing the splash pad to be switched on. If the splash pad is left on even if it is not used during the day it still continues to run a cycle every 20 minutes in order to keep the system operational and all the regular maintenance has to continue being performed in order to ensure it is safe to use.

### **Financial Implications**

If Members decide to extend the operating hours of the Splash Pad for a further 10 weeks there will be an additional cost for the water consumption as well as the labour and treatment costs for its preparation and operation.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Recommendations**

Member are invited to note the report and consider whether to change Council Policy relating to the operating times of the Splash Pad at the Leys Recreation Ground.