



## Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities	Councillor David Henderson, Resources Portfolio Holder	9 February 2023

### Procurement of new swimming pool covers

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To approve the procurement of new swimming pool covers funded from the Leisure Management Reserve and to seek approval for an exemption from the contract procedure rules.

#### 2. Outcomes

- 2.1 We will deliver cost effective, quality services.
- 2.2 We will improve the health and wellbeing of our communities.
- 2.3 We will work towards reducing the council's and wider borough's emissions by at least 78% by 2035.

#### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That approval is given to fund new swimming pool covers from the Leisure Management Reserve costing £55,184.
- 3.2 That approval is given by the Resources Portfolio Holder to allow the procurement under exemptions to contract procedures, contained within the Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules on the grounds that: "the goods, works or services are of a specialised nature carried out by only one or a limited number of firms with no reasonably satisfactory alternatives available."

## **4. Background**

- 4.1** The council is focussed on reducing the carbon footprint of its operations and estate. This report is intended to make the district's swimming pools more energy efficient and reduce costs during the current period of high energy prices. It also contributes to the council's target to reduce carbon emissions by 78 per cent by 2035 and its aspiration to become net zero by 2050.
- 4.2** The council is working closely with Fylde Coast YMCA, our leisure centre operators, with the aim of reducing the operational subsidy. It is vital that we are able to support Fylde Coast YMCA to maintain their operations in order to reduce costs, reduce carbon generation, to improve customer satisfaction and ultimately increase income generation.
- 4.3** Energy efficiency across the leisure centre estate has been reviewed recently in light of increasing energy costs and the Council's carbon saving agenda. The provision of new swimming pool covers is seen as a priority and will help reduce the carbon footprint of swimming pool operations by helping to retain the heat in the pools when they are not in use.

## **5. Key issues and proposals**

- 5.1** Over recent years the council and Fylde Coast YMCA have carried out a considerable amount of work to reduce energy consumption within the leisure centres and swimming pools. The provision of new swimming pool covers are seen as the next priority.
- 5.2** Swimming pool covers can result in considerable cost savings by retaining heat in pools when they are not in use. None of the pools have effective pool covers currently and the fitting of pool covers is considered a priority given the carbon savings that will result and the short payback periods given recent increases in energy costs. The return on investment is expected to be realised within two years.
- 5.3** The cost of installing pool covers based on the preferred quote obtained by the YMCA, is £55,184. All costs exclude VAT and include fitting costs and the removal of any redundant covers. 8mm thickness covers have been selected as they are the most robust and will have the greatest longevity, they also have a slightly improved energy insulation quality. If 5mm covers were installed instead, the cost would be £53,153.
- 5.4** The Fylde Coast YMCA's procurement process is to contact three suppliers to secure best value. Occasionally they reduce from three suppliers to two when there is a particular reason such as the ability to source three specialist quotes. In the case of pool covers for commercial operations these are specialised products with limited suppliers in the market. The YMCA contacted three suppliers asking for prices and just two responded. Forge Leisure (UK) being chosen by the YMCA as the successful contractor.

## 6. Delegated functions

- 6.1** The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution): "To consider the management, repair, maintenance and use of the Council's land and buildings".
- 6.2** They also come under the following Executive Function delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3.03 of the Council's Constitution): "To consider departures from the Rules relating to financial and contractual matters if appropriate".

<b>Financial and legal implications</b>	
Finance	The cost of the installation of pool covers totalling £55,184 should reduce energy consumption and energy bills. Returns on investment should be realised within two years. This will help to mitigate the impact of energy price rises over recent months and assist in reducing the subsidy to Fylde Coast YMCA. The Leisure Management Reserve will fund the investment. As reported to Cabinet in October 2022, the forecast closing balance on this reserve as at 31/03/2023 is £410,778. This expenditure will reduce that balance to an estimated £355,594.
Legal	The procurement complies with the Council's Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules on Contract Procedures. A contract with the supplier will be entered into.

### **Other risks/implications: checklist**

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>	
community safety	X	
equality and diversity	X	
sustainability	X	
health and safety	X	

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
asset management	✓
climate change	✓
ICT	X
data protection	X

## Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

### List of appendices

None