



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, Director of Communities	Councillor Lesley McKay, Resources Portfolio Holder and Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	5 December 2024

Tiling/Grouting Repairs for Fleetwood and Poulton Swimming Pools

Key decision: No

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To seek approval to carry out emergency repairs to the swimming pools at Fleetwood and Poulton at a cost of £62,326 to be funded from the Leisure Management Reserve.

2. Council priorities

2.1 We will improve our leisure facilities ensuring they meet the needs of our residents and visitors.

2.2 We will provide opportunities for people to lead healthy and active lifestyles.

2.3 We will use our land and buildings wisely, managing them to appropriate standards, reducing their environmental impact and maximising income to reinvest in improving services.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That approval is given to allocate £62,326 for the repairs and associated professional fees to make repairs to the tiling and grouting at Fleetwood and Poulton swimming pools funded by the Leisure Management Reserve.

- 3.2 That approval be given to award Lancashire Tiling Company the contract to carry out swimming pool works at Fleetwood and Poulton swimming pools to a value of £50,036.
- 3.3 That approval is given to waive the Council's Financial Regulations and Financial Procedural Rules; Part 4.06.07 Financial Procedural Rules for the contract award to Lancashire Tiling Company; owing to the procurement falling into the following category: "the goods, works or services constitute an extension or variation of an existing contract or are required urgently".

4. Background

- 4.1 The swimming pool at Poulton Leisure Centre is well used with 73,774 visits to the pool in 2023/24 from its 1,349 members and non-members. From earlier this year onwards, there has been a significant increase in the reporting of cut feet due to cracked tiles being made by both customers and staff. The pool was last re-tiled and re-grouted over 10 years ago.
- 4.2 The learner pool at Fleetwood Leisure Centre is very well used, in particular by the learn to swim and the school swimming lessons programmes. In October 2024, there were 1,117 children attending school swimming lessons and 4,720 children attending the learn to swim sessions. The learner pool has not been re-tiled or re-grouted since it was built in 1974. There has been an increasing report of people with cut feet and cracked tiles during 2024 from staff and customers attending the swimming pool.
- 4.3 There have also been health and safety issues reported by staff and customers regarding the surrounding areas/walkways of the main swimming pool at Fleetwood.
- 4.4 The work is required urgently to ensure the safety of customers swimming at the sites, to help retain members and non-members and enable a more positive experience for everyone.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1 Following the reporting of these urgent issues at both leisure centre sites, quotes have been sourced from local companies who attended the sites and inspected the swimming pools and pool surround.
- 5.2 At Poulton Leisure Centre, they concluded that the grout is in poor condition and there are a number of both cracked and broken tiles. The pool therefore needs completely re-tiling and re-grouting for health and safety reasons. The cost of the Poulton works is £14,207.
- 5.3 At Fleetwood Leisure Centre learner pool, they concluded that the learner pool needs re-tiling as well as re-grouting for health and safety reasons and owing to the excessive amount of failed tiles. Water is leaking from the

broken tiles and lack of grout into the under croft of the pool, as a result of these issues.

5.4 At Fleetwood Leisure Centre main swimming pool, the repairs needed are as follows:

- The bull nose tiles surrounding the pool where the pool walls meet the promenade floor need regrouting.
- Tiles need regrouting where the lane ropes attach with metal loop fixings
- Some tiles need replacing on the walkways around the main pool

The cost of the Fleetwood works is £35,829.

5.5 Subject to approval, the emergency works would be completed between 16 December 2024 and 20 January 2025. Owing to capacity issues within the building maintenance team and due to the timescales involved, James Scott Associates would help us to deliver the project. To reduce the impact on shut down periods, the aim is to start work on both sites on Monday 16 December. Both Poulton swimming pool and Fleetwood learner pool need to be drained prior to the work commencing. The work needs to be completed over the Christmas holidays, followed by a period of drying out and the pools then need to be re-filled and re-heated. The proposed re-opening of both pools is w/c 20 January. This will have an impact on the YMCA's income, but it is felt that this solution minimised that by carrying out the works over the Christmas period. Also, Fleetwood main pool will be able to open as normal after the Christmas close down period. The YMCA will inform customers of the proposed shut down of the pools and the likely timescales involved at both sites. They will do this via their existing mailing lists and social media channels.

5.6 The proposed repairs provide for the safe operation of the swimming pools as well as preventing leakage from the pools. The total cost of the works is £62,326 (inclusive of fees and contingency). A preferred contractor has been selected who can deliver the works to the required timescales. The repairs programme must be delivered within the above dates to minimise the financial impact on the YMCA Leisure contract.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

6.1 Do Nothing – This option has been rejected owing to the health and safety concerns to the public due to the number of sharp edges on the bottom of the pools. If the works are not progressed, then there would be continued leakage from the pools, and this could result in further long-term damage to the structure of the pools.

6.2 Close the Swimming Pools for major repairs – This option was rejected as closing the three pools would result in significant disruption to our residents and visitors. Fleetwood main pool will remain operational.

7. Delegated functions

7.1 The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Leisure, Health and Communities Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution): "To consider matters relating to sport and recreation, including sports facilities" and the executive functions delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder "To consider arrangements for a strategic approach for the Council's procurement of goods and services" and "To consider the management, repair, maintenance and use of the Council's land and buildings".

7.2 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 3.03 of the Council's Constitution): "To consider departures from the Rules relating to financial and contractual matters if appropriate".

Financial, Legal/MO and Climate Change implications	
Finance	The total cost of the works is estimated to be £62,326 (including fees and contingency). This will be funded by the Leisure Management Reserve.
Legal/MO	The procurement complies with the Council's Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules on Contract Procedures.
Climate Change	There are no climate change implications from this report.

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.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	✓

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	✓
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 'Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)' 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 DPIA will need to be completed with advice provided by the Data Protection Officer or Deputy Data Protection Officer.

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