

**Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy &
Scrutiny Committee (Pre-Decision Calling – In)**

31 January 2017

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Customer and
Corporate Services

Called-in Item Pre-Decision: Yearsley Pool Review

Summary

1. The Yearsley Swimming Pool review, (the Review) has been ongoing since October 2015 and is still in progress. It is due to be complete in February and to be reported in full to the 16 March Executive.
2. The Council proposed to use the Review process to consider the most appropriate future means of operation of Yearsley Swimming Pool following the opening of the New Stadium Leisure Complex (NSLC) at Monks Cross. As part of this appraisal all options could be comprehensively examined, ensuring a cost effective solution is identified, without disruption to service delivery.
3. At the point of this call in work is still ongoing, but this report aims to describe the methodology of the Review and what is expected to be brought forward in detail within the March Executive full report.

Background

4. At the 2015/16 Budget Council Members approved the use of up to £0.3m New Homes Bonus per annum funding to maintain the operation of Yearsley Swimming Pool for up to five years. This allows Yearsley Swimming Pool to remain funded through to 2023/24.
5. In August 2015 the Executive agreed that this Review would commence in October 2015 and report back to the Executive when concluded.
6. The Review process has examined different potential operating models for the future management of the pool. This comprehensive assessment has sought to ensure a cost effective solution is identified with minimal disruption to service delivery.

7. The operation of Yearsley Swimming Pool was part of the original Stadium and city wide leisure procurement process and is already included in the Design, Build, Operate and Maintain (DBOM) Contract for the first two years up until the point that the stadium new leisure centre is operational with GLL.
8. Prior to the Review commencing, the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee (CSMPSC) agreed in January 2015 that an ad hoc scrutiny review be carried out on Yearsley Swimming Pool to investigate ways to reduce the subsidy given to Yearsley Swimming Pool, whilst securing its long term future. However, CSMPSC took the decision on 13 July 2015, to discontinue the scrutiny review on funding arrangements for Yearsley Swimming Pool.
9. The work of the scrutiny review and relevant reports are listed at the end of this paper. The progress made by the scrutiny review has been built upon to support this Review.

Consultation

10. Over the past 2 years considerable consultation with a wide range of stakeholders has taken place in relation to the leisure procurement and the future of Yearsley Swimming Pool.
11. Consultation has focused on seeking alternative management arrangements for the pool, which has involved discussions with a number of organisations by senior officers.
12. Sharing of information has been a key part of the review, offering a transparent and open process to allow interested parties access to the data they need to be able to engage fully.
13. The sharing of data has allowed detailed reviews of income, expenditure, user figures, pool programming, building lifecycle and maintenance plans. This has been successful and led to financial efficiencies being identified.
14. The Yearsley Pool Action Group as the key community/user representative has been involved in the Review from the start with opportunities to influence and challenge the Review process.

Options considered for Yearsley Swimming Pool

15. There are 3 main options that have been considered. These are:
 - a) Option A - GLL to continue to operate Yearsley Pool under the proposed DBOM Contract

- b) Option B – Seek a new community led organisation
- c) Option C – Working with an existing organisation to take on the management and operation

Analysis of Options

Option A

- 16. GLL has engaged with Council Officers and the Yearsley Pool Action Group during the review to discuss a number of different operational scenarios to continue to operate Yearsley Swimming Pool under the proposed DBOM contract.
- 17. The analysis of these scenarios has involved detailed financial modelling by GLL to determine not only the impact on the running cost of Yearsley Pool but the impact to the financial performance of Energise and the NSLC.
- 18. The report to the Executive will provide the detail of a number of scenarios for members' consideration, from continuing to operate the pool as it is run now, through to scenarios involving a reduction in opening hours.
- 19. The Yearsley Pool Action Group have been involved in the Review of these scenarios with GLL and influenced the development and detail of the final scenarios which will be presented. The impact to both the general public and aquatic clubs has remained at the forefront of the review and consultation with aquatic clubs has been carried out to test and understand the reality of any proposed changes.

Option B & C

- 20. The Review has investigated a number of lines of enquiry, which has involved detailed discussions with organisations about taking on the management and operation of Yearsley Swimming Pool. Unfortunately the Council has not been able to develop any of the discussions into valid options for consideration; therefore Options B and C can not be taken forward.
- 21. The Yearsley Pool Action Group remains of the view that Yearlsey Swimming Pool should be managed by a professional organisation, rather than setting up a new community led group.

Conclusion of the Analysis of Options

22. As it has not been possible to bring forward another operator for Yearsley Swimming Pool, the Review concludes Option A will be the only option available to Members.
23. Therefore, the implications noted below are with reference to the continued operation of Yearsley Pool by GLL.

Implications

24. **Finance:** In February 2015 Members approved the use of up to £0.3m New Homes Bonus per annum funding to maintain the operation of Yearsley Swimming Pool for up to five years. The funding is required from the opening of the new leisure centre at the stadium, which will allow Yearsley Swimming Pool to remain funded through to 2023/24.
25. Funding from 2024/25 will need to be considered in the full context and affordability of the stadium and leisure DBOM contract which will be presented to the Executive later this year.
26. The financial analysis of the GLL scenarios for operating Yearsley Swimming Pool are still being worked on and will be detailed in the Executive report in March.
27. **HR:** The operational staff at Yearsley Pool will not be impacted by this Review as the staff will have already transferred to GLL on the commencement of the DBOM Contract.
28. **Legal and procurement:** Legal advice around Yearsley Swimming Pool has been sought throughout the development of the wider stadium and leisure procurement process. Expert legal advice is being taken and will ensure that the final outcome of the review is legally sound.
29. There are no known ITT, property or equality implications associated with the Review.

Risk Management.

30. The main risk associated with the Yearsley Swimming Pool Review is that it is reliant on the DBOM contract to be implemented which is still subject to further Member approval.

Recommendations

31. Members are asked to note the content of this report in relation to the call in submitted.

Contact Details

Authors:	Chief Officer responsible for the report:	
Andy Laslett Strategic Services Manager (CANS) (01904) 553370	Ian Floyd Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Corporate Services	
Report Approved ✓	Date: 23 January 2017	
Specialist Implications Officer: Patrick Looker, Finance Manager		
Wards Affected:	All	✓

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Item 133 - Community Stadium and Leisure Facilities Report

(Executive 17 March 2016)

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=8847>

Item 5 - Community Stadium & Leisure Facilities Procurement

Update (Executive 27 August 2015)

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=9018>

Item 7 - Yearsley Pool Update Report on the Work of the former Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee (Corporate & Scrutiny Management & Policy Scrutiny Committee 13 July 2015)

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=8900>