

Report of: David Tucker, Leisure & Parks Interim Business Manager

To: Executive Board

Date: 30th January 2006 **Item No:**

Title: Virement of Capital funding to Barton Pool

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To seek approval for the virement of £51,975 in total from the Alexandra Courts, Northway Centre, Cutteslowe Lower Pavilion & Peers Sport Centre capital schemes to fund necessary additional expenditure at Barton Pool.

Key Decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mary Clarkson

Scrutiny Responsibility: Environment

Wards Affected: Barton & Sandhills

Report Approved By: Cllr Mary Clarkson
Sharon Cosgrove
David Tucker
Jeremy Thomas
John Bellenger
Emma Burson (Proviso – that if there are any additional comments, these will be raised at the meeting)

Policy Framework: Improving environments where we live and work.
Providing more and improved affordable leisure activities.
Making Oxford a safer city.
Supports the evolving Leisure Strategy

Recommendation:	Members are recommended to approve that the schemes identified in paragraph 2.6 of the report be deleted from the capital programme and that the sum of £51,975 be vired to Barton Pool to fund the necessary works.
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Introduction / Background

- 1.1 On the 6th September 2004, Executive Board gave Major Project Approval for the construction of a new swimming pool in Barton. The capital cost of the project was £2,744,986 with £1,050,000 contribution from Oxford City Council and £1,694,986 from Sport England.
- 1.2 An additional £121,270 capital contribution was approved at the Executive Board meeting on the 28th February 2005. This was needed to meet the additional Sport England design requirements. Making the total cost for the project of £2,866,256.
- 1.3 The extra £121,270 in capital was vired from the Temple Cowley Pools capital scheme, with the premise that any future under spends on the Ferry scheme, or any other Leisure Capital schemes, be re-instated to the original budget for Temple Cowley. The £35,000 underspend from the Ferry project has now been returned to the Temple Cowley scheme.
- 1.4 In September 2005 Sport England confirmed that they required the Council to now meet their as yet unpublished guidance. The first requisite was to provide more space between the lockers in the changing rooms, which meant expanding the building. This was projected at an additional cost of £17k. The second requisite was to provide underwater CCTV, which was projected at an additional cost of £35,000. Total cost being £52,000.
- 1.5 In respect of the additional unbudgeted costs above, the capital budget for the project is now projecting an over spend of £15,000. This is also using up the entire contingency for the project.
- 1.6 Contingency funds in general are predominantly used as a last resort for any operational construction issues that arise rather than major design changes. If we do not replenish the fund then it is likely that we would be asking Executive Board further down the line for additional funding.
- 1.7 Agreement for this virement to take place can be at the authorisation of SMB or a Strategic Director as it is below the de minimus level. However the Leisure Capital Steering group advised that it should still go to Executive Board.

Options

- 2.1 Sport England will not supply any further funding even though the need for additional funds is due to their new unpublished design requirements.
- 2.2 There are no underspends within the capital program that can be used towards the Barton project.
- 2.3 There is also insufficient time to seek further external grant funding.
- 2.4 Sport England insists that the improvements are made. By doing nothing we would be subject to Sport England “clawing” back their grant funding.
- 2.5 The £52,000 needed for the additional spend could be raised by virement from existing capital schemes. The advantages of this would be
- Meet Sport England requirements in respect of grant funding.
 - By incorporating under water CCTV we are meeting industry best practice.
 - Opportunity for the Council to ‘piggy back’ on the national media campaign for the safety aspects related to CCTV and gain some positive promotion.
 - The necessary capital is in the capital program, negating the need for additional Council funding.
- 2.6 Discussions with Built Environment identified four suitable schemes shown below three of which were unlikely to go ahead and one with an underspend from an existing project.

Budget Code	Project	Budget Amount
B8370	Alexandra Courts DDA Works	£18,875
B8322	Northway Centre DDA Works	£11,400
B8310	Cotteslowe Lower Pavilion DDA Works	£12,700
B9077	Peers Sport Centre roof repairs (Underspend from project)	£9,000
TOTAL		£51,975

- 2.7 The Alexandra Court tennis courts were identified, with the budget relating to DDA works. The site is leased to the local Tennis club and it is their responsibility rather than the City Council’s to ensure that the works are completed.
- 2.8 Northway Centre was identified as a suitable option as the budget related to DDA works mainly to the old housing office, which is now the Leisure & Cultural services reception. Work has been completed to make it accessible. The buildings future function is also under review
- 2.9 Cotteslowe Lower Pavilion was identified as another site where the DDA works have been reviewed and identified, as being no longer required.

2.10 The project to repair the roof at Peers Sports Centre has been completed with an underspend of £9,000 which could be vired to Barton Pool.

Conclusion

3.1 The suitable options available are extremely limited at this stage of the project. The Sport England requirements of widening the building and providing underwater CCTV must take place otherwise their grant funding would be subject to claw back.

3.2 The project to repair the roof at Peers Sports Centre has now been completed, with an underspend of £9,000 that can be used towards Barton Pool. However, there is no other underspend from any of the other capital projects on the capital programme. The next logical option would be to vire capital funding from capital schemes that are no longer required or are unlikely to happen.

3.3 The most suitable projects that have been put forward for this purpose are Alexandra Courts DDA works, Northway Centre DDA works, & Cutteslowe Lower Pavilion DDA works.

3.4 The combined total of £51,975 from these projects would enable the necessary works to be completed within program, replenish the contingency fund and fully satisfy Sport England's requirements.

3.5 By choosing this option the Council would gain all the advantages shown in 2.5 with no major disadvantages for the Council as a whole.

Recommendation

4.1 Members are recommended to approve that the schemes identified in paragraph 2.6 of the report be deleted from the capital programme and that the sum of £51,975 be vired to Barton Pool to fund the necessary works.

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Background papers: None