
Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date:	8 August 2017
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report	PR/19/17/MM
Contact Officer:	Martin McNab	Contact No:	4246
Subject:	Extension of Opening of Gourock Outdoor Pool		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Committee to support extended opening of Gourock Outdoor Pool through to the end of September and to seek Committee approval to fund this on a one year trial basis.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Inverclyde Leisure has been approached by Gourock Community Council with a four hundred signature petition requesting that Gourock Outdoor Pool should remain open through September. At present the pool is due to close on 4th September 2017. The petition was considered at the Inverclyde Leisure Board meeting on 24 July however Inverclyde Leisure was unable to accede to the request owing to the projected cost of keeping the pool open.
- 2.2 If the pool opening is to be extended, Inverclyde Leisure has informed officers it will require a decision by the week ending 11th August in order to facilitate this. It is not therefore practical to wait to address this matter through either the appropriate service committee, Education & Communities, or Inverclyde Council's petitions process.
- 2.3 Officers have identified a likely underspend owing to circumstances beyond the Council's control in an earmarked reserve for 2017-18 which could be used to fund the opening of the pool for the month of September in 2017 on a one-off trial basis.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee:

- Approves the deficit funding of the opening of Gourock Outdoor Pool for the month of September on a one-off trial basis.
- Approves the use of a proportion of the earmarked reserve for activities at Rankin Park to fund the extension.

**Martin McNab,
Acting Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities**

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Gourrock Outdoor Pool traditionally opens for the season between the end of May and the beginning of September. The reasons for this relatively restricted season are fairly self-evident. Numbers of swimmers at the pool are pretty much weather dependent therefore as the weather becomes less reliable swimmers are more likely to displace to the Waterfront. Swimmer numbers will also clearly be at their peak during the school holidays. Other factors influencing the season include the availability of seasonal staff, particularly lifeguards and the increased utility costs of heating an outdoor pool as the ambient temperature drops.
- 4.2 Inverclyde Leisure considered a request from Gourrock Community Council to extend the opening of the pool, supported by a petition with 400 signatures, to the end of September at its Board Meeting on 24 July. The Inverclyde Leisure Board decided not to implement this owing to the projected costs.
- 4.3 Inverclyde Leisure projects the cost of putting on a single shift at the outdoor pool for the month of September at between £12 and £15K. The majority of the costs are attributable to staffing although there are also obviously utility and other costs. In terms of income generation, a large proportion of the swims at Gourrock Outdoor Pool are attributable to either over 60s or under 16s free swims. There will also be a proportion of the swims made by IL members who might swim at the Waterfront as an alternative if the Gourrock Pool was not available. If Inverclyde Council were to agree to deficit fund the opening of the pool in September, then obviously this would be done in arrears and would require detailed consideration of the costs including the number and nature of the swims at the site together with any displacement from the Waterfront.
- 4.4 Inverclyde Leisure staff consider that they would be very unlikely to be able to staff at short notice the two shifts which are run through the summer. A large proportion of their lifeguards and other staff are seasonal, many being students. They are however of the opinion that it might be feasible to staff a single shift, provided that a decision is made on this by the 11th August. Obviously staffing a single shift will be cheaper but it is likely to be the only option. If a single shift opening is to be commissioned consideration will also be required on the best opening hours to enable maximum participation.
- 4.5 The very short timescale available to make a decision on this matter precludes reporting this to the Education & Communities Committee or using the Council's formal petitions procedure.
- 4.6 In terms of financing the extension, the Education & Communities Committee has an earmarked reserve for School Use of Rankin Park Mountain Bike Trail which is unlikely to be fully utilised in 2017-18. This is due to a number of factors one of which is the availability of qualified instructors through Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park over the coming months. This will limit the scale of the programme which can be delivered in 2017-18. Obviously this funding will only be available as a one-off however it will give an idea of what the real demand is for extended opening of the pool.

5.0 PROPOSAL

- 5.1 It is proposed that Inverclyde Council, taking the views of the local community into consideration, agrees to deficit fund the opening of Gourrock Outdoor Pool for the month of September. Although funding for this is only currently available on a one-off basis, as stated above, this will at least give a realistic idea of both the demand for this and the actual costs. These costs will be reported to Members in due course to allow consideration of any extension as part of the budget process.
- 5.2 The exact hours of operation will be agreed following discussion with Inverclyde Leisure, however to maximise opportunities for all to take advantage of this it is likely to be of the nature of 12 – 7pm.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
Sport & Leisure Management	Inverclyde Leisure Basic contract	2017-18	£12-15	EMR – Rankin Park Bike Trail – School use	

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

6.2 None

Human Resources

6.3 None

Equalities

6.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

YES (see attached appendix)

NO - This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

6.5 None.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted on this report.

7.2 There are no direct staffing implications in respect of the report and as such the Head of Organisational Development, HR and Communications has not been consulted.

7.3 The Corporate Management Team has been consulted on this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.