

URGENT ACTION - NO SPECIFIC POWERS

ACTION FOR WHICH CHIEF EXECUTIVE HAS DELEGATED
POWERS SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION WITH CHAIRMAN

SERIAL NO.....

SUBJECT MATTER:

Hadleigh Swimming Pool – Application for funding

COMMITTEE TO WHICH MATTER RELATES: **STRATEGY**

REASON FOR ACTION BEING TAKEN OUT OF MEETING:

Short deadline for bid submission

BACKGROUND:

In August, Strategy Committee agreed further feasibility work on a possible refurbishment of Hadleigh Pool, and possible additional facilities. A process and timetable has been agreed for gathering evidence of need, stakeholder consultation and further deliberation of the community facilities. The results of both pieces of work (subject to satisfactory results of a structural assessment of the pool tank) will go back to Members next summer.

In mid September Officers became aware of a newly launched fund – Community Assets. The fund provided by the Office of the Third Sector is being delivered by the Big Lottery Fund (it is not lottery funding). There is one bidding round with a closing date of 15 November. The fund for this national scheme totals only £30m.

The fund will make grants of up to £1m where a local authority owned asset is transferred to a third sector organisation.

Having assessed the eligibility criteria and despite it being a tight schedule and not ideal timing, it was agreed Babergh should make a bid for £1m towards the refurbishment of Hadleigh Pool.

Bids need to have a strong partnership in place and the Community Assets programme will fund the refurbishment of local authority buildings so that they can be transferred as genuine assets to a specified third sector organisation (i.e. SSL) for community benefit.

The bid deadline was before the outcome of the study into the structural integrity of the pool tank, and the feasibility of refurbishing the pool is known. The outcome of the latter work is anticipated in April 2008. If the initial application for funding is successful, but then refurbishment proves to be unviable Babergh would then have to withdraw from progressing the bid. However if Babergh failed to apply then there would be no chance of securing £1m.

The bid is for support funding of a full refurbishment of the pool which will result in only the pool tank and steel frame of the pool hall remaining. Additional facilities would include a fitness suite and dance studio, the latter doubling up as a community space. The estimated cost is £3.6M. The bid had to indicate sources of funding and whether these were ‘secured’ or ‘yet to be secured’. For Babergh District Council funding of £1M was indicated as ‘secured’ with £1.6M ‘to be secured’. A contribution from Hadleigh Town Council was identified as ‘yet to be decided’ and ‘yet to be secured’.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (IF ANY):

None other than Officer time.

ACTION AUTHORISED:

To submit a bid to the Big Lottery Fund as detailed under background.

DATE ACTION AUTHORISED:

13 November 2007