

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

## AGENDA



Wednesday 29 July 2020

at 2.00 pm

in the Council Chamber,  
Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**PLEASE NOTE: this will be a 'remote meeting', a web-link to the public stream will be available on the Hartlepool Borough Council website at least 24 hours before the meeting.**

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Hamilton, Harrison, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Little, Moore, Smith.

Co-opted Members: Jo Heaton, C of E Diocese and Joanne Wilson, RC Diocese representatives.

School Heads Representatives: Mark Tilling (Secondary), David Turner (Primary), Zoe Westley (Special).

Six Young Peoples Representatives

Observer: Councillor Little, Chair of Adult and Community Based Services Committee

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

3. **MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2020 (*previously circulated and published*).



**4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS**

No items

**5. KEY DECISIONS**

No items

**6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

- 6.1 Replacement Hydrotherapy Pool and Remodelling – Springwell School –  
*Director of Children’s and Joint Commissioning Services (to follow)*

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

No items

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

FOR INFORMATION

Date of next meeting – to be confirmed.



# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

29 July 2020



**Report of:** Director of Children's & Joint Commissioning Services

**Subject:** REPLACEMENT HYDROTHERAPY POOL & REMODELLING – SPRINGWELL SCHOOL

## 1. TYPE OF DECISION

1.1 Non key

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for additional funding to replace the hydrotherapy pool at Springwell Special School as detailed in confidential **APPENDIX A**, in order to progress works during the summer holiday period. **This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).**

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following a condition survey of Springwell School in autumn 2019, the replacement of the hydrotherapy pool was highlighted as a priority item. 4.4 The pool is now over 10 years old and well beyond its expected use. It's not commercial specification but domestic Jacuzzi type pool.
- 3.2 In March 2020, Children's Services Committee approved £60,000 to replace the hydrotherapy pool and £22,400 to renew the flooring and showers. The estimated costs to replace the pool were for a like for like replacement.
- 3.3 During initial meetings the headteacher, asked if a feasibility and costing exercise could be undertaken to include a higher specification pool and confirmed the school would fund additional costs, depending on what this may be. The school has budgeted £73,240 contribution towards a revised project. This is made up of £8,240 (10% standard schools contribution to projects) and an additional £65,000. The contribution estimate was based on

costs for a similar pool replacement/refurbishment at a different school in Hartlepool.

- 3.4 The installation of a larger, higher specification, sunken hydrotherapy pool, within the limited existing floor area has its complexities. Removal of internal walls, significant potential structural underpinning of the foundations (there is also a manhole and drainage channels beneath the floor), installation of lintels, mechanical works; relocation of showers, changing area and electrical works are all required. The project is now a complete re-model.
- 3.5 The feasibility, design and costing exercise has now concluded, slightly behind schedule due to Covid-19 restrictions and specialist companies furloughing staff. Following a very recent mechanical engineering survey, it has also become apparent that the existing air handling unit (AHU) may not have sufficient functionality to serve a larger pool and area. This has also added to the shortfall in funding should the AHU replacement be required.

#### 4. HYDROTHERAPY

- 4.1 Springwell caters for children with a range of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) including those with profound and multiple learning difficulties. Due to their complex health needs, hydro-therapy is considered an essential component of their educational entitlement. It is recommended that children should access hydro-therapy at least twice per week. In order to fulfil this requirement our pupils access the pool at Springwell once a week and the pool at a local secondary school, the other session each week.
- 4.2 The current pool at Springwell is too small. Only 1 or 2 children are able to access it at one time with 1 or 2 adults supporting per child, this is why the school need to also access an alternative pool at another school for 2 classes. However, the alternative pool also requires a lot of maintenance; as a result, it was not available for most of the Autumn Term 2019. Springwell pool was also out of action for much of this time. The school has also tried to access a third pool but that pool is fully timetabled for their own pupils.
- 4.3 Springwell pupils have also accessed pool provision at a local retirement village but again their pool is only big enough for 1 or 2 pupils to access at one time.
- 4.4 Hydro-therapy has the following benefits for children with complex health needs:
- The warmth of the water has an effect on the individual neuro-muscular junctions which results in decreased muscle tone and decreased spasticity.
  - Buoyancy of the water is used to assist movement of joints - which is either more difficult or painful on dry land.
  - Movement in the water and water pressure helps to reduce residual lung capacity for children and young people with chest problems. This enables

more efficient lung function and reduces the risk of chest infections developing.

- Creating turbulence around an extremity (i.e. arm or leg) can increase their awareness of the limb and help with mobility - both in the water and later on dry land.
- Multi-sensory environment helps stimulate the senses whilst calming children with sensory and learning difficulties.
- Following a hydrotherapy session children are more comfortable and some are in less pain meaning that they are able to engage in increased learning activities back in the classroom

## **5. FUNDING**

- 5.1 Additional funding can be sourced from the Special Provision Capital Fund (SPCF). SPCF funding is to be used to create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) with an education, health and care (EHC) plan. All students at Springwell have an EHCP.

## **6. PROCUREMENT**

- 6.1 All in-house work that utilises subcontractors and suppliers or work of a specialist nature will be procured in accordance with the Council's procurement rules, including seeking exemptions where the circumstances are warranted and in the interests of project delivery.

## **7. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The report is concerned with the condition, protection and development of Council assets i.e. school buildings.
- 7.2 There would be a risk of pupils at the school not being provided with essential pool therapy which is identified in EHCPs if the project didn't proceed.

## **8. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 If the additional funding, as detailed in the attached confidential APPENDIX A is approved, funding can be met from schools' Special Provision Capital Fund.

## **9. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no legal considerations.

**10. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS**

10.1 There are no child and family poverty considerations.

**11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

11.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations.

**12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

12.1 There are no staff considerations.

**13. RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1 Members are recommended to:

Approve the additional funding for the replacement hydrotherapy pool and associated works as summarised in confidential **Appendix A (These items contain exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) subject to the school agreeing to increase their 10% standard schools contribution to 10% of the Local Authority funding .**

**14. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

14.1 Children's Services Committee – 17 March 2020

**15. CONTACT OFFICER**

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