

Record of Cabinet portfolio member decision

TRANSFER OF £200,000 FROM THE PROVISIONAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME TO THE APPROVED CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR ESSENTIAL CAPITAL WORKS AT THE LEISURE CENTRES IN 2014/15 2 APRIL 2014

- NB: The Head of Legal and Democratic Services must receive a request to call-in this decision by 5.00pm on Wednesday 9 April 2014.
- Subject to the call-in mechanism (which permits call-in by the chairman or any five members of the scrutiny committee, or any ten councillors¹), this decision will be implemented on expiry of the call-in period.
- The council's cabinet portfolio holder has taken the executive decision outlined below. This decision is published in accordance with the council's procedure rules.

DECISION TAKER	DETAILS OF DECISION
Mrs Ann Ducker	To transfer £200,000 from the provisional capital programme to the approved capital programme for essential capital works at the leisure centres in 2014/15.
	<p>Background</p> <p>To maintain the leisure centres at an appropriate level there is an ongoing requirement for essential capital works to be carried out.</p> <p>Work undertaken under the essential capital works programme involves investment in the fabric of the facilities, the benefits of which occur over many years and go beyond the scope of work undertaken under day to day repair and maintenance. The work programme for the joint-use centres is agreed annually with Oxfordshire County Council, following consultation with GLL/Nexus (the council's leisure management contractor) and the cost is allocated in accordance with the joint-use agreements and management contract. The cost of any other essential works at the joint-use centres and the council-owned centres is allocated in accordance with the management contract. In addition to any planned work, the budget is also used as a contingency for any urgent work that needs to be undertaken at the centres.</p> <p>The provision of well-maintained leisure facilities, that meet current regulations where necessary and are accessible for all, contributes towards the achievement of several of the council's strategic objectives. Without investment in their upkeep, the structure of the centres would deteriorate. This would ultimately result in a reduction in customer satisfaction and a reduction in people using the facilities.</p>

DECISION TAKER	DETAILS OF DECISION
	<p>The funds transferred to the approved programme for essential capital works for previous years and 2013/14 have all been either committed or spent. Consequently, the 2014/15 allocation of £200,000 in the provisional capital programme now needs to be transferred to the approved capital programme to allow planned and urgent capital works to take place in 2014/15.</p> <p>The planned work for 2014/15 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbey Sports Centre – subject to Oxfordshire County Council approval and joint funding, the existing swimming pool tank and tiled floor surround are worn, becoming dangerous and are beyond repair due to their age. Small holes and cracks have formed in the pool tank and many of the poolside tiles are coming loose. Carrying out major relining of the pool tank and re-tiling the pool surround will provide a much improved service and safer environment for the pool users, helping to improve customer satisfaction levels. • Thame Leisure Centre – subject to Oxfordshire County Council approval and joint funding, replacement sports hall floor. The existing floor is the original, which was installed in 1980. This is now worn and tired and beyond sectional repair. • Thame Leisure Centre – replacement windows to the dance studio. The existing windows are in a poor state of repair and are letting water in. They are the only wooden framed windows left on the building, and require yearly maintenance. • Thame Leisure Centre and Henley Leisure Centre – additional works to enhance changing room refurbishment projects • condition survey works associated with the new leisure contract.
	<p>Alternative option considered</p> <p>The allocation remains in the provisional budget, which would prevent any works of this nature being undertaken. This would increase the likelihood of reducing customer satisfaction, usage and income in these facilities, as well as increasing the risk of incurring additional costs to address additional health and safety issues.</p>

If you have any queries regarding this decision please contact the decision taker above or Chris Webb, 01235 540358, email chris.webb@southandvale.gov.uk

A copy of the report considered by the Cabinet member is available from Steve Culliford, Democratic Services Officer, Legal & Democratic Services, 01235 540307, steve.culliford@southandvale.gov.uk

ⁱ The procedures for call-in are set out in the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules and the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules in part 4 of the council's Constitution. Democratic Services (contact details above) can provide further guidance.