

JANUARY 2023

Report Title:	INSTALLATION OF SWIMMING POOL COVERS AT GUINEA GAP BATHS, LEASOWE LEISURE CENTRE, EUROPA POOLS, WEST KIRBY CONCOURSE AND THE OVAL
Report of:	SENIOR MANAGER (ASSET MANAGEMENT)

REPORT SUMMARY

This report requests that the Director of Regeneration and Place agrees to award a construction contract to H2O Servicing Limited. The contract allows for the supply and installation of swimming pool covers at Guinea Gap Baths, Leasowe Leisure Centre, Europa Pools, West Kirby Concourse and The Oval.

The decision supports the delivery of the Wirral Plan 2025 by providing a Sustainable Environment and will allow leisure services to make financial savings as well as energy reductions which contribute to Wirral Councils commitment to environmental responsibilities in supporting the “Cool Wirral” strategy.

This decision affects the Seacombe, Leasowe and Moreton East, Birkenhead and Tranmere, Bebington, West Kirby and Thurstaston Wards.

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION

The Director of Regeneration and Place is recommended to approve that H2O Servicing Limited be awarded the contract for the installation of swimming pool covers at Guinea Gap Baths, Leasowe Leisure Centre, Europa Pools, West Kirby Concourse and The Oval within approved budget and as the highest scoring tenderer in accordance with the lowest fixed price criteria.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 A request for a Capital allocation to support the installation of pool covers at the Council's leisure facilities was approved by Council as part of the Capital Monitoring process.
- 1.2 All efforts to reduce energy usage are significant not only due to the financial implications of running Council services but also due to the Council's commitments to a sustainable environment. Pool covers are an effective method of reducing energy consumption by up to 10-30% of total pool energy use.
- 1.3 A detailed specification of employers' requirements was issued in October 2022 and an open tender exercise undertaken. Three bids were received. The bids were scored on a fixed price basis with H₂O Servicing Limited meeting the necessary requirements and submitting the lowest priced and being only compliant tender.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Do nothing – benefits of the project would not be realised in terms of financial savings, avoidance of building fabric issues, and supporting the Council's net zero Carbon targets.
- 2.2 Reduce the number of sites for installation – economies of scale are achieved by undertaking all installations within one contract. All pools have the potential to save energy and thus achieve financial benefits.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 It is well established that pool covers save energy by preventing heat losses and evaporation. This is achieved by covering the water surface when pools are not being used during the day and overnight. All operational leisure centres with pools have been assessed as part of this initiative and are included within the proposed contract.
- 3.2 The reduction of energy within Council buildings is a key focus of both financial and environmental is detailed within the Councils' Environment and Climate Emergency Action Plan. The Council has energy targets to achieve 'net zero' carbon emissions associated with the Council's activities by 2030 and to promote wider action to help reach 'net zero' emissions for Wirral as a whole no later than 2041. This project supports these targets.
- 3.3 Whilst the original contract was signed in June 2020, this did not progress due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the ability of the contractors to undertake the work. The contract was also reviewed and amended to take account of required manual handling features of the installation.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of the project is being met from the Council's Capital Programme.
- 4.2 Industry reports written in 2022 state that for a pool measuring 25m x 10m, operators could save approximately £27,000 in energy costs by using the right pool cover; this

equates to 1500 kWh per year. Typical savings can be 10–30% of total pool energy use with a payback period of 18 months to three years. The installation of pool covers across all sites would therefore produce significant energy savings when used as directed by the manufacturer and robust local management arrangements in place. Insulated pool covers are regarded as one of the most cost-effective investments available.

- 4.3 A total of 3 companies were included within the tender process. Tenders were received on a fixed price basis. Fees associated with this project are £31,890.47 for professional fees, clerk of works, and Construction Design & Management Regulations.
- 4.4 Exempt financial details are contained within Appendix 1 of the report. Appendix 1 is not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The commission of the services detailed in this report has been undertaken in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
- 5.2 The award of this contract is being made on lowest tender basis. The Council's Contract Procedure rules set out how contracts are to be awarded by the Council in accordance with the Procurement Strategy requirements.
- 5.3 The award will be underpinned by a formal contract which will be drawn up by the Council's legal team.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no direct ICT implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 Staff will require appropriate training on the use of pool covers to ensure maximum energy savings. Health and safety training will also be required for staff and lifeguards.
- 6.3 Benefits for general maintenance within the assets will result from the installation of pool covers, due to reduced condensation.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Site safety risks associated with the installation and specification of the product were assessed prior to the tender process starting which in turn influenced the scope of the contract.
- 7.2 Financial risks due to the increase in energy costs would continue to be a major concern for leisure managers, the installation of pool covers reduces this specific risk.
- 7.3 Pool covers are inherently heavy which would give concerns to health and safety of staff due to manual handling risks. All covers specified are mechanically operated to reduce risks so far as is reasonably practicable.

7.4 The project will be managed in accordance with The Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Not applicable.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision, or activity.

9.2 There are no equality implications arising from this proposal.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Energy consumption will be reduced with reports of up to 10-30% of total pool energy use. Humidity levels will be easier to control during none use hours, this also has benefits in helping to protect the building fabric.

10.2 Installation of pool covers also helps to reduce water consumption due to reduced evaporation losses into the pool hall atmosphere.

10.3 The installations will give direct support of the Council's delivery of the Wirral Plan 2025 by proving a Sustainable Environment and contribute to Wirral Councils commitment to environmental responsibilities in supporting the "Cool Wirral" strategy and net zero carbon targets.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no community wealth building implications associated with this report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Exempt Financial details (not for Publication by virtue of by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (i) Tender Specification
- (ii) Submitted bids from the bidders (exempt from publication).
- (iii) Capital Investment Programme Business Case Submission June 2017

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet (as part of Q2 Financial Monitoring)	6.11.2017