

Hambleton District Council

Report To: Cabinet

Date: 8 September 2020

Subject: **Bedale – Leisure Improvements**

Portfolio Holder: Leisure
Councillor Mrs B S Fortune

Wards Affected: Bedale Ward

1.0 Purpose and Background

- 1.1 Within the Council Plan, 2019-23, community leisure facility improvements at Bedale are identified as a key project. This project is part of the Council's strategy to invest in leisure facilities across the district. This report seeks approval for delivery of a scheme of improvements at Bedale Leisure Centre.
- 1.2 The gym and fitness class offer is a major generator of income (£198,000 in 2019/20), representing 41% of the total income at the centre. There is no opportunity to expand the gym or fitness class studio externally due to land not being available. Therefore the proposal during 2020/21 is to refresh and refurbish the health & fitness areas including the replacement of equipment (or stations) and maximising the space available. This would provide a 30 station gym and space for 20 indoor cycling bikes as well as an up to date experience in line with the other Hambleton leisure centres. At present there are 25 stations.
- 1.3 The proposed improvements will also enhance the customer journey by refreshing and refurbishing the reception and foyer area and making it function more efficiently. The aim is to refurbish the reception area, improve the circulation space and maximise the use of the foyer space to meet its full potential.
- 1.4 Other ancillary building improvements will also take place in order to upgrade the facility.
- 1.5 Delivering these improvements will provide the following benefits:
 - An improved offer and increased customer satisfaction with the service and therefore customer retention rates;
 - An enhanced customer journey;
 - Opportunities for revenue growth and
 - Enable personal health tracking and support the delivery of health intervention programmes such as the Take that Step wellbeing scheme.

2.0 Link to Council Priorities

- 2.1 Whilst this project primarily impacts upon the Council's 'Enhancing Health and Wellbeing' priority, by providing an improved community facility it also enhances the vibrancy of Bedale and the attractiveness of the area to residents and visitors, 'Providing a Special Place to Live' and helping to 'Drive Economic Vitality'. The Council plays a major role in improving public health and wellbeing, particularly in terms of prevention, and the continued improvement of this facility will help to tackle the physical and mental activity needs of the local population.

3.0 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost to deliver the improvement and associated works is estimated to be £314,000. Costs at this time are approximate and a small contingency has been included. Whilst costs will be kept to a minimum, flexibility will be needed between cost headings and it is proposed that this flexibility is delegated to the Director of Leisure and Communities to ensure delivery of the full project within budget.
- 4.2 In order to undertake some of the improvements there will be a need for some short term closures in specific parts of the building, these closures will be managed and kept to a minimum. The works will be phased in order to offer as close to a full normal service as possible.
- 4.3 The capital costs are identified within the table below and will be allocated from the Community Infrastructure Levy. It is anticipated that the revenue impact will be positive, although marginal.

Element	Cost
Equipment	£208,000
Building works	£86,000
Ancillary costs	£8,900
Contingency	£11,100
TOTAL	£314,000

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 Equality/Diversity Issues

- 6.1 Equality and diversity issues have been considered however there are no major issues associated with this report. All facility and equipment improvements will look to improve accessibility to all sections of the community. Assurance is given that any approved development meets the Council's obligations with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

7.0 Health and Safety Issues

- 7.1 Full risk assessments and method statements will be obtained from providers of equipment and contractors who carry out the capital works.

8.0 Recommendations

- 8.1 That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council:
- a) the planned approach to investment at Bedale Leisure Centre for sports and physical activity improvements highlighted within this report;
 - b) that £314,000 is allocated from the Community Infrastructure Levy to fund the improvements, and
 - c) flexibility to deliver the elements of the project within budget is delegated to the Director of Leisure and Communities as highlighted within section 4.0 of the report.

Steven Lister
Director of Leisure and Communities

Background papers: None

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