

West Wiltshire District Council

Cabinet

30 June 2004

Swimming Pool Water Temperature

1 Purpose

To inform Cabinet of further investigations in relation to increasing the pool water temperature at Westbury Swimming Pool as requested by Cabinet at its meeting held on 11 February 2004.

2 Background

The issue of increasing the pool water temperature at one of the Council's swimming pools was discussed by Cabinet on 12 March 2003 and again on the 11 February 2004. (Copies of the respective Cabinet reports can be obtained from Trevor Savage.)

This issue was raised initially by a user of the Council's swimming pools who suffers from health problems. The request was that the Council increases the swimming pool water temperature by a few degrees from the present maximum of 30⁰c to approximately 34⁰c, a level that is above the recommended level for the operation of conventional swimming pools.

At the Cabinet meeting held on 12 March 2003 the Cabinet declined the request to increase the swimming pool water at the Council's five swimming pools.

At the Cabinet meeting held on 11 February 2004 the Cabinet resolved

- (a) That officers continue to play a positive role working with West Wiltshire Carers' Support Network and the possible provision of warm water hydrotherapy sessions at Larkrise School.
- (b) That a further report be brought back to Cabinet in June 2004.
- (c) In light of the findings identified within the report and the Cabinet report dated 12 March 2003, there is no change to the Council's current policy.

3 Key Issues

Following the Cabinet meeting in February of this year, discussions continued with the West Wiltshire Carers' Support Network. To date there has been no development with regards to identifying the need for specialist warm water hydrotherapy sessions, for the people supported by the Network.

Larkrise School in Trowbridge has a purpose built hydrotherapy tank situated within the school premises. As no progress has been made to access this facility via the Carer's Support Network, the Council's Leisure Manager approached the school directly, to ascertain if the hydrotherapy tank could be made available for general public use, out of school hours.

The Head Teacher confirmed that the School Governors made a decision a few years ago that the facility was not available for public use. The decision was based on a number of issues including insurance, staffing, public liability and the central location of the hydrotherapy tank within the school buildings, making independent access impossible. The Head Teacher agreed to keep the Council informed should the situation change.

Cabinet requested at the February meeting that a detailed investigation was carried out into the possibility of increasing the pool water temperature at one of the Council's swimming pools for one day a week. Westbury Swimming Pool was suggested by the Cabinet as it had the smallest volume of water and was generally considered to be the swimming pool where the pool temperature varied away from 30⁰c the least.

King Sturge International Property Consultants, Antony Boulton Associates, specialists in mechanical & electrical services and Ian Nicks, one of the countries leading swimming pool water treatment and health and safety advisers were asked to ascertain if the swimming pool water at Westbury Pool could be increased to the requested level of 34⁰c.

A detailed report focusing on the fabric of the building, the boiler and air handling equipment, health and safety, and the treatment of the pool water was prepared by the above experts.

The report concludes that it is not possible to increase the pool water temperature at Westbury Swimming pool to 34⁰c, without first renewing the boiler and air handling plant and making improvements to the main roof structure at costs in the order of £200k - £250k plus fees and VAT.

In addition to the above, there would be additional revenue costs associated with the extra energy consumed to raise the pool water temperature. There would be increased water costs due to the need to backwash the filters more often. Additional usage of chemicals to ensure that the water was correctly treated to avoid the increased risk of infection, which has health and safety implications. These additional costs are estimated to be approximately £3,860 per annum for one day per week. A copy of the full report can be obtained from Trevor Savage.

4 Options

Cabinet has already discussed this issue on two previous occasions and various options have been considered. The need for warm water hydrotherapy sessions for health reasons has not been identified as a Council responsibility and it is unlikely that the Leisure and Recreational Needs Assessment will identify this as a leisure and recreation issue.

The use of the hydrotherapy tank at Larkrise School is not an option. Increasing the pool water temperature at Westbury Swimming Pool is no longer a viable option following the independent investigation.

The only realistic option as concluded in the independent report is for Westbury Swimming Pool to continue to be run as a leisure facility maintaining the present swimming pool water temperatures as recommended by Sports England, the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group and the Health and Safety Commission.


5 List of Background Papers

- WWDC Cabinet Report 12 March 2003
- WWDC Cabinet Report 11 February 2004
- To explore the possibility of raising the Pool Water Temperature at Westbury Swimming Pool – produced by King Sturge, Antony Boulton and Ian Nicks

The above reports are located in room F30.

6 Recommendation

That there is no change to the Council's policy in relation to swimming pool water temperature.

 Plain English guidance given

7/6/04

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