



To: Executive Councillor for Community Wellbeing:
Councillor Sarah Brown

Report by: Debbie Kaye, Head of Arts and Recreation

Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee 13/3/2014

Wards affected: ALL

PROPOSAL FOR USE OF INDOOR SPORTS DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS: CITY OF CAMBRIDGE SWIMMING CLUB
Not a Key Decision

1. Executive summary

The report on the Sport and Physical Activity Plan 2014-17, elsewhere on this agenda, has recommended focussing the use of developer contributions for outdoor and indoor sports on capital projects to improve existing sports facilities in order to encourage greater participation in sports and physical activity. Whilst none of the proposals for sport facility improvements during recent consultations are ready for early consideration, the Council has recently received a fresh proposal for the provision of new starting blocks at Parkside Pool, which would fit the proposed new approach.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Executive Councillor for Community Wellbeing is recommended to allocate around £21,000 of city-wide developer contributions for indoor sports facilities for the provision of new starting blocks at Parkside Pool.

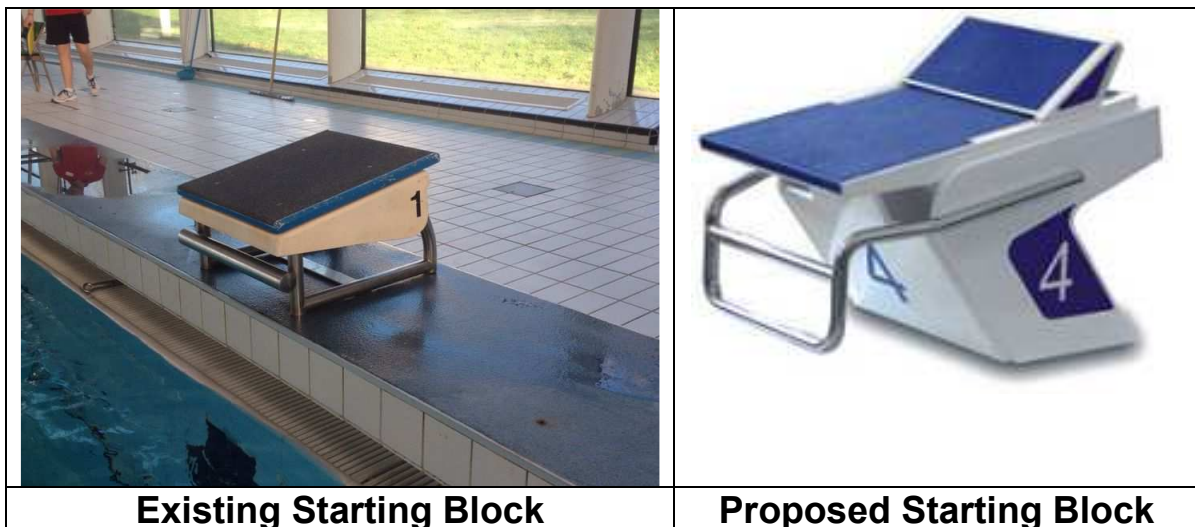
3. Background

3.1 Alongside the Council's approach to devolved decision-making for the use of certain categories of developer contributions, there is a city-wide fund for strategic projects that would benefit residents from more than one area of the city. More details can be found via the Council's Developer Contributions web page (www.cambridge.gov.uk/s106).

3.2 The City of Cambridge Swimming Club (CoCSC) has approached the Arts and Recreation service for funding for eight new starting blocks at Parkside Pool. The cases for new blocks is that:

- a. The current blocks were provided with the pool and are well over 10 years old and do not conform to the latest specifications, and ergonomic profiles, which puts local swimmers at a disadvantage when training for Local and National competitions.
- b. The current blocks have been welded several times over the years and if the current set of repairs fail, they would require an expensive series of stainless steel welding which would not be economical to carry out, nor guarantee the longevity of the blocks nor can the existing blocks be modified bring them up to modern standards.
- c. Providing new modern starting blocks (eg, with replay break detection technology, ergonomic design features and grips in the correct positions) is important so that Parkside Pool can continue to be used as a competition pool for County, Regional and Open meets. This formed part of the original Sport England ethos for funding and supporting the pool.

3.3 The swimming club has researched which sorts of competition blocks would provide a suitable technical specification for the next ten years (or more). The costs (including covers for the starting blocks when they are not in use) is estimated to be in the region of £20,000 - £21,000 for 8 competition standard blocks.



3.4 There is currently around £72,000 of developer contributions for indoor sports provision in the city-wide fund for strategic projects. If the Executive Councillor were to approve funding the full estimated costs, this would still leave over £50,000 in the fund for other strategic indoor sports facilities projects. Alternatively, the City of Cambridge Swimming Club has indicated that it could raise a total of £7,000 towards these costs.

4. Implications

(a) **Financial Implications**

Financial implications of day to day servicing and repairs would be retained by the City Council and an annual inspection added to the existing scoreboard maintenance contract.

(b) **Staffing Implications**

There are no staffing implications

(c) **Equal Opportunities Implications**

The new staffing blocks conform to new competition standards and are ambient disability inclusive and meet all ASA (Amateur Swimming Association) regulations for both able and disabled swimmers and competition regulations.

(d) **Environmental Implications**

Nil: This proposal has no climate change impact.

(e) **Procurement**

Procurement options are limited as the blocks need to integrate with the existing score board and time keeping system. The current system is an OMEGA Swiss Timing system and needs to be compatible to these elements otherwise new turning pads and computerised recording systems will also have to be purchased. The existing timing pads and recording system are fully serviceable and in full working order and maintained annually under an external service contract.

A waiver may be required to go to one or a range of limited suppliers for their provision.

(f) **Consultation and communication**

Consultation and research has been undertaken by the City of Cambridge swimming club on the type of diving blocks available and meet the standards for the levels of competitions held at Parkside pools.

This project has also been suggested as a project in the recent survey for Sport and Physical Activity Plan 2014-17, as a suggestion for Strategic Spending of indoor sports S106 Developer Contributions

(g) **Community Safety**
There is no impact on community safety

5. **Background papers:** None

6. **Appendices:** None

7. **Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name: Ian Ross
Author's Phone Number: 01223 457000
Author's Email: Ian.Ross@cambridge.gov.uk