

NOTICE

In accordance with paragraph 13.11 of the Council's Constitution, the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chief Executive is satisfied that a matter of urgency has arisen in connection with the work of the Cabinet and requires a decision before the next regular meeting of Cabinet. In such circumstances the Leader of the Council is authorised to take the Key Decision.

SPECIAL URGENCY PROVISION NOTICE

The Government's Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) provides a total of £60 million to local authorities in England as a support package for public leisure facilities with swimming pools and is split into two phases.

The bidding window for this Sport England grant was incredibly short, effectively a 3 week turnaround to identify, prepare and submit bids based on proposals for the Council's leisure centres. The Council engaged with a range of partners in the preparation of a bid that aligned to the Sports England Grant criteria.

In April 2024, the Council agreed to enter into an Agreement for the award of the Sports England grant and its capital contributions, totaling £442,655.08, for the installation of LED lighting, solar carpark canopy, and roof top solar panels at the Witham Leisure Centre.

Work commenced immediately in relation to preparation for the procurement process. Before the tender could be released confirmation of the structure ability of the Witham Leisure rooftop to support the solar array had to be sought and confirmation received that installation at the premises was safe. Unfortunately the quick grant submission timeline meant this could not be undertaken as part of the bid preparation. These surveys established that the anticipated footprint for the solar array on the foot top could be increased and would still be within the scope of the funding. The Tender specification therefore had to adjusted and prepared in accordance with these findings.

The procurement process was commenced as quickly as was possible and 5 submissions were recieved.

As part of the Grant Agreement, the Council is required to ensure that the construction is completed by the 31st March 2025. As a result, in order to ensure that the Council's approved contractor has sufficient time to complete the installation, with time to ensure the Council complies with all other funding criteria, the Council must award as soon as possible, and therefore the deicsion cannot be delayed until the next meeting of Cabient on 25 November 2024.

In accordance with paragraph 15.17 (Special Urgency relating to key Decisions), the Chairman of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, having considered the matter, is in agreement that the taking of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

Accordingly, Notice is given that, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Councillor Graham Butland, Leader of the Council, will be taking the Key Decision.

A report will be taken to the next available meeting of Council, namely 4th November 2024, setting out the particulars of the decisions taken, and a summary of the matters in respect of that decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Mayo', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kim Mayo
Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer
24 September 2024