



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Shankill Leisure Centre Swimming Pool Repairs
Date:	9 December 2010
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Adrian Walker, Leisure Operations Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The swimming pool at the Shankill Leisure Centre is in need of essential maintenance which will require closure for a period of 5 days and it is suggested that this takes place from Monday 20 December to Friday 24 December. The centre is to be closed as previously agreed for annual staff refresher training on Tuesday 21 December and therefore the request covers four days of operation.</p> <p>Centre Management have indicated that hairline fractures have been detected on a small number of tiles located within the pool tank.</p> <p>Furthermore the water balance (chemical content) has reached a level that will require a partial drain – down in order to rebalance the chemical levels. Total dissolved solids (TDS) have been recorded at 2000mg/l above source water level. This indicates a water imbalance and can lead to the pool surroundings becoming corroded if remedial action is not undertaken. In addition the ability to control the levels of combined chloramines becomes more difficult and can result in an unpleasant swimming experience due to the levels of ammonia within the water.</p> <p>A partial drain – down (2 – 3 feet) and subsequent refilling with fresh water will eliminate this issue.</p> <p>The partial drain down would also enable the tiling repairs to be undertaken within the pool tank and would permit adequate time for the remedial works to settle prior to re-commissioning.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>The lead up to Christmas is traditionally the time when leisure centres undertake such repairs and it is expected that, if the recommendations are accepted, the swimming pool will be re-commissioned and open for business on Wednesday 29 December prior to an escalation in business during January.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Human Resources</u> Appropriate staff will be afforded the option of using the closure as an opportunity to take annual leave. Alternatively additional training will be offered and deep cleaning around the wet side of the centre can be undertaken. No overtime is anticipated during this time.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Alternative swimming availability at Falls Leisure Centre & Grove Wellbeing Centre remains during this short closure and users of Shankill Leisure centre will be made aware of this</p>

4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5.	Recommendations
	It is recommended that Members approve the closure of the swimming pool at Shankill from 20 -24 December to allow for essential maintenance.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Leisure Operations manager to complete actions by end December 2010.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents Attached
	None.