



## Belfast City Council

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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                          |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Avoniel Swimming Pool                                |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 10 January 2013                                      |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure        |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Adele Faulkner, Leisure Improvement Manager ext 3607 |

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| <b>1</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>  |
|          | <p>The purpose of this report is to update members on the pool closure at Avoniel Leisure Centre. Avoniel Leisure Centre is 35 years old and whilst pool leakage has been an ongoing issue for the site it has been managed carefully by the centre management.</p> <p>In mid August 2012 leakage increased significantly and a decision was made to drain the pool and allow excavation works to be carried out to investigate the source of the leak.</p> |

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| <b>2</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>   |
|          | <p>The pool has been closed from Monday 20 August 2012. Numerous exploratory works have been conducted and a number of minor leaks have been identified. These leaks combined would not account for the volume of water loss experienced at Avoniel in August 2012. The pressure testing works which initiated in October were unfortunately suspended for a period because asbestos was discovered in the area surrounding the central pool channel. Specialist contractors were engaged to remove the asbestos under licence granted by the Health and Safety Executive. This unfortunately resulted in a delay in the investigations into the source of the leak.</p> <p>Works to remove the asbestos within the central pool channel have now been completed. The clearance certificate confirming the removal of the asbestos has been received by the Department. It should also be noted that tests of the pool water confirmed that it had not been contaminated. Officers from property and Projects Department have re-gained access to the pool area</p> |

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|  | <p>again to complete the investigative works and these works commenced on site again in December 2012.</p> <p>The investigatory work which will continue in January 2013 will pressure test all flow and return pipe work to test for any significant leaks. Then a series of dye tests will be carried out on the pool deck channels, pool central channel, and balance tank. A six week period is anticipated to complete these tests.</p> <p>On completion of these tests in February 2013 the plan will be to determine a repairs strategy and provide some more definitive information.</p> <p>Following the planned tests, facilities management will advise on a proposed course of action depending on the results obtained.</p> <p>Based on the advice from the Facilities Management section we are unable to predict an exact closure period until the investigation has been completed.</p> |
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| <b>3</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>   |
|          | <p><u>Financial</u><br/>It is not possible to estimate the costs until the investigation and tests are completed and options for action are presented. When this information is available a cost analysis of the options will be presented to Committee.</p> <p>The projection for lost income is £100,000 until end March 2013.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u><br/>The level of staff required at the centre has reduced with the pool being closed. A number of staff have been temporarily redeployed to other centres through consultation with staff and Human Resources.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u><br/>The full implications will not be known until the investigation has been completed.</p> |

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| <b>4</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>   |
|          | <p>A high proportion of older people use Avoniel pool and we are directing them to alternative swimming pools in the City. A number of additional activities have temporarily been put in place. Membership has been suspended temporarily where requested.</p> |

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| <b>5</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
|          | <p>Members are asked to note the contents of this report.</p> |

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| <b>6</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>   |
|          | <p>Adele Faulkner, Leisure Improvement Manager, will liaise with Facilities Management and report back to Committee in March 2013.</p> |

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| <b>7</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b> |
|          | <p>None</p>                 |