



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Officer Delegated Decision

11 September 2025


David Scott, Assistant Director of
Finance and Deputy S151 Officer

Allocation of Climate Change Reserve Funding

This Officer Delegated Decision (ODD) report seeks approval to upgrade the Main and Leisure Pools circulation pumps at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre.

Contact

Michael Chester, Team Leader – Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces

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Decision made by:	David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer
Decision:	That a contract is awarded to Leisure Energy to complete upgrades to the swimming pool circulation pumps at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre, as part of the wider decarbonisation project works.
Public or Exempt:	Public
Reasons for exemption:	This report is not exempt from publication.
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes
Details of delegation:	<p>The Council's Contract Procedure Rules allow for contracts with a total value of up to £200,000 to be approved by the Director.</p> <p>Part 3(c) of the Constitution, paragraph 28 allows the Assistant Director to accept tenders and award contracts to contractors on behalf of the Council in the following circumstances:</p>

- | | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Following a tender process strictly in accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations.b) For carrying out works and/or the provision of goods and/or services. |
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1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance

- 1.1 The value of work to upgrade the pool circulation pumps with a new correctly sized pumping system with variable speed drives is quoted at £98,000. These upgrades will complement the wider decarbonisation works currently being undertaken and once completed LeisureSK Ltd will benefit from a reduced electricity baseload and utility costs in running the facility.

Completed by: **David Scott, Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer**

Procurement

- 1.2 Leisure Energy are currently the Principal Contractor undertaking the decarbonisation works through Alliance Leisure and the UK Leisure Framework.
- 1.3 An opportunity has been identified throughout the project to implement further energy efficiency improvements, and this can be completed through a contract variation as part of the main contract already in place.

Completed by: **Helen Baldwin, Procurement Lead**

Legal and Governance

- 1.4 The Assistant Director of Finance has the necessary delegated authority to take this decision.

Completed by: **James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer**

Climate Change

- 1.5 The leisure centres within South Kesteven are included within the Council's boundary for carbon reporting. The project outlined to upgrade the pool circulation pumps will reduce the electrical baseload for the facility and therefore a reduction in carbon emissions reported in future years, helping to contribute to the Council's target of a least 30% by 2030.

Completed by: **Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager**

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 South Kesteven District Council is currently responsible for the maintenance of three leisure centres within the District. These centres are included within the Council's carbon reporting boundary.
- 2.2 Operation of leisure centre facilities is energy intensive and opportunities to implement improved energy efficiency measures have been reviewed in light of the increase in energy costs from 2022 onwards. These utility costs have had an impact on LeisureSK Ltd's operating costs and previously resulted in requests for financial support from the Council.
- 2.3 The Council are currently leading on a £4 million decarbonisation project at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre to remove the gas boilers and combined heat and power units, and replace with a Net Zero Pod which will be powered by air source heat pumps. The principal contractor for this project is Leisure Energy through Alliance Leisure and the UK Leisure Framework.
- 2.4 Once in place the upgraded heating system is expected to cut carbon emissions from the site by over 550 tonnes of carbon per year which equates to 8% of the Council's total carbon emissions and a quarter of the of the Council's carbon reduction target of at least 30% by 2030.
- 2.5 To help mitigate the increased electrical costs at the centre once the decarbonisation project has been completed, Leisure Energy have undertaken an additional review into the electrical consumption baseload. This has highlighted that out of hours there is an electrical baseload of 100kW with the pool pumping facilities making up c. 61kW of the baseload, 47kW of which is directly from the Main and Leisure Pool circulation pumps. Logging equipment has therefore been fitted to the pumps for analysis and to monitor consumption.
- 2.6 The current pool circulation pumps for the Main and Leisure Pools each run two of three pumps continuously without any speed modulation and are considered to be old, inefficient and oversized. To improve efficiency, they should modulate throughout the day based on demand and should ramp down considerably overnight. The continuous load from the pool circulation pumps is 47kW which equates to approximately 409MWh of energy consumption per year, costing c. £80k to run the pumps continuously.

2.7 Therefore Leisure Energy have provided the Council with a proposal to replace the Main and Leisure Pool circulation pumps with a new correctly sized system with variable speed drives to modulate the output based on demand, using a differential pressure control strategy and with high efficiency motors to substantially reduce the energy consumption and reduce the overnight baseload. The cost and detailed savings are presented below:

Location	Estimated annual savings			Project Cost (£)	Project Payback (years)
	£	CO ₂ (te)	Electricity (kWh)		
Main and Leisure Pool Circulation Pumps	£64,492	58.72	239,674	£98,000	1.5

3. Available Options Considered

3.1 The Council could choose not to upgrade the pool circulation pumps. This would mean that operation of the facility remains expensive and at risk of failure.

4. Preferred Option

4.1 To make a contract variation to the decarbonisation project currently being undertaken and award the works to upgrade the pool circulation pumps to Leisure Energy.

5. Reasons for the Decision(s)

5.1 The upgrade of the pool circulation pumps to a correctly sized system with variable speed drives to modulate the output based on demand with high efficiency motors will reduce the electrical baseload and utility costs at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre, helping to ensure the sustainability of the centre.

Signed by: **David Scott**

Dated: **11 September 2025**