



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Officer Delegated Decision

12 August 2026

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive
and s151 Officer

Interactive Water Play – Stamford Leisure Pool

This Officer Delegated Decision (ODD) report seeks approval to allocate funding of £171,032 to supply and install interactive water play features at Stamford Leisure Pool and to award a contract to AIS Marine Ltd trading as Hippo Leisure.

Contact

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

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Decision made by:	Richard Wyles – Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer
Decision:	1) To allocate funding from the Leisure Investment Reserve to fund the supply and installation of interactive water play features at Stamford Leisure Pool. 2) To award a contract to AIS Marine Ltd trading as Hippo Leisure for a value of £171,032 to undertake the works.
Key or Non-Key? (A Key Decision has a value of 200k or over, or is a significant impact on two or more wards)	Non-Key
For call-in (only applies to Key Decisions)	N/A
Public or Exempt:	Public
Reasons for exemption:	This report is not exempt from publication.
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes
Details of delegation:	1) Financial Regulations, Appendix A – Authorised Limits of the Financial Regulations: Approval to use General Fund and Housing Revenue Account

	Reserves with the exception of the relevant Working Balances. The Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer has the appropriate delegation to release funds from the Leisure Investment Reserve in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Chief Executive. 2) The Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer is authorised under Part 3 (c) for Delegated Powers to Officers, item 28 (Tendering) of the constitution to accept tenders and award contracts to contractors on behalf of the Council in the following circumstances: a) Following a tender process strictly in accordance with the Council's Contract 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 A Leisure Investment Reserve has been established totalling £1million to provide investment into the leisure facilities. As part of the budget outturn process for 2025/26 at a meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee on 23rd July 2026 [General Fund Provisional Outturn Report 202526.pdf](#), Members of the Committee approved the transfer of an additional £132k into the Leisure Investment Reserve generated by an operating surplus from LeisureSK Ltd.
- 1.2 An opportunity has been identified to review the pool offering available at Stamford Leisure Pool with the flume being out of order for the past 12 months and no longer economically viable to repair due to its structural condition deteriorating. Therefore, Officers have developed a proposal for interactive water play features to be fitted into the leisure pool which will complement the existing offer.
- 1.3 The total value of the project is £171,032 and this will be funded from the Leisure Investment Reserve.

Completed by: David Scott, Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy s151 Officer

Procurement

- 1.4 As the contract value is over the PA23 threshold for good and services, and initial notice will need to be published and an 8 working day standstill will need to be provided in order to allow suppliers to challenge the award. Providing no challenge is received in this time, contract can be awarded formally.
- 1.5 Due to the specific nature of the requirement, it is of the opinion that Hippo Leisure are the only provider able to supply this play feature.

Completed by: Helen Baldwin (Procurement Lead)

Legal and Governance

- 1.6 The Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer has delegated authority to award a contract to contractors for the carrying out of works in accordance with Delegation 28 (Tendering), Part 3 (c), Delegated Powers to Officers in the constitution provided the award is compliant with the Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations. The detail of this compliance is as set out in the Procurement section (above); notably that an exemption is being applied on the basis of there being no genuine competition in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules 4.21.5.
- 1.7 The Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer is, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Chief Executive, authorised to release funds from the Leisure Investment Reserve. This is in accordance with the Council's Constitution - Financial Regulations, Appendix A – Authorised Limits of the Financial Regulations: Approval to use General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Reserves with the exception of the relevant Working Balances.

Completed by: Emma Powley – Interim Democratic Services Manager

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 Since the summer of 2025 the flume at Stamford Leisure Pool has been out of order due to the deterioration of the structural steel support columns. Whilst this doesn't present an immediate health and safety concern to users of the facility whilst it is not in use, over time the structural integrity will continue to deteriorate due to the humidity of the environment its within.
- 2.2 Investigations have been undertaken into the feasibility of refurbishing the flume however due to its age and condition it is no longer considered financially viable and has reached its end of life at 40 years old. Work is underway to obtain quotes for the removal of the flume which will help to reduce any complaints received about it not working.
- 2.3 Officers have therefore identified an opportunity to refresh the offering available at Stamford Leisure Pool and worked with a specialist UK based company called Hippo Leisure, who specialise in retro fitting water features into swimming pools. This included exploring the possibility of replacing the flume with a new one however

to do this within the current footprint of the facility would not be possible as it would require structural changes to the facility and the pool tank. This option was therefore discounted.

- 2.4 Given the leisure pool design and the large shallow area at the beach area of the pool it was decided that this space could be better utilised with the installation of interactive water play features which would be suitable for children of all ages and abilities to use. This would also give Stamford a unique offering compared to both the other leisure centres in Bourne and Grantham which also have a flume and no interactive water play features.
- 2.5 The water play features will be aimed at increasing water confidence in toddlers and young children using a unique combination of high- and low-level water play features providing learning through play scenarios. Children will be able to explore and discover their watery environment, teaching them how to manipulate the flow of water through channels and interactive jets.
- 2.6 Hippo Leisure are a UK based company that manufactures all their products in the UK making use of existing water supplies and are the proposal has been designed to work in the pool with the wave machine.

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 The Council could choose not to enhance the pool offering and install interactive water play features however this has been discounted as the flume has reached its end of life. Undertaking the improvements will ensure that Stamford Leisure Pool remains an attractive facility and continues to encourage families to use it.
- 3.2 The Leisure Centre Investment Reserve was established with the primary objective to improve the customer facing areas.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 To allocate an additional budget of £171,032 from the Leisure Centre Investment Reserve and to award a contract to AIS Marine Ltd trading as Hippo Leisure to undertake the works.

5. Reasons for the Decision(s)

- 5.1 The improvements identified will enhance the pool offering available at Stamford Leisure Pool which is aimed at families an improve the customer experience.

Signed by: **Richard Wyles**

Dated: **12 August 2026**