

Stratford Park Lido Update

The purpose of this update paper is to: Brief Members on progress to date on the development of a Stratford Park Lido business plan and funding application for capital works, and heating of the pool.

Progress to date - 2017 -2019

- Feasibility study into the future of the lido (including community consultation) completed and published - 2017
- Grade II listing of the diving boards - 2018
- SDC funded condition survey of the Buildings and Mechanical & Electrical – 2019
- Appointed Tricolor to assist with bid applications

Recommended 'Direction of Travel'

SDC and the Project Team was presented with a range of different architectural development options, based on the additional research and consultation with community groups and comparator lidos. This option is being recommended for the following reasons:

- It will provide heating for the lido which is consistent with the council's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- It will offer both Stratford Park and the wider Stroud District an excellent community resource.
- It will increase community engagement
- It will preserve and celebrate the unique heritage of the lido and connect it to the rest of the park through improved landscaping and new glazing.
- The creation of terraces and general levelling of the site, alongside the inclusion of new ramps, will provide significantly increased physical access. Sloped access into the main pool will increase access for wheelchair users or those with additional physical needs (this is subject to advice from an access specialist).
- A new cafe serving both the park and the pool will provide year-round income

Research into potential funding applications for this project has been ongoing. The previous briefing given to the group was suggesting that one funding application may have been to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). It is now felt that a request to this funder would be unlikely to be successful at this stage. An application to NLHF at the second phase of the project has a stronger possibility of success, if the summer 2020 project mentioned later is successful at reaching new audiences and developing a track record and working relationship.

An alternative funder has been identified to partially fund £175,000 for the first stage of the redevelopment. Tricolor (the consultancy procured for this piece of work) are taking this research forward.

Next steps

Over the next month, the following work will be completed:

- Application to a funder for first phase project (circa £2m total project cost, funder ask approx £175,000) an expression of interest for which would be submitted in February 2020
- Development of the long-term business case for the lido redevelopment, including ongoing running costs, operational structure, heating option and more detailed estimations of potential costs to reach the final vision - resulting in a business plan
- Development of fundraising strategy for phasing
- Development of 2020 Summer Project

Request support with the current vision, and proposed use of a portion of the £200,000 funds allocated towards the development of the Lido by SDC for a summer 2020 project which would increase the likelihood of application to capital funds for phase 1 of the capital project being successful.

Summer 2020 Project

As part of the next steps and to test the assumptions made in the business plan, the Project Team will proceed to develop a 2020 Summer Project, and use a proportion of SDC's £200,000 funds set aside for the development of the Lido to pay for this project – the final project plan and budget will be completed by the end of January 2020.

The purpose of having a Summer 2020 project is to increase audiences to the pool, making it more attractive to families, young people and older people – with a view to build community participation, track record, and market test activities in the lead up to a larger capital project (phase 2). Successful completion of the summer 2020 project may also increase the likelihood of achieving a capital grant from a funder like the NLHF for the Phase 2 works.

Current proposals for achieving this vision for Stratford Park Lido suggest it should be completed in two phases of work.