
INVESTIGATION OF POOL LEAK, CLEMENTS HALL

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Contracts Sub Committee held on the 5 July 2001, Members requested a report in connection with the leak in the swimming pool to be made to the next meeting of the Leisure Sub Committee (min.108 of the Contract Sub Committee refers).
- 1.2 The report has been brought to this meeting as it was unavailable for Leisure Sub Committee held on the 11 September 2001.
- 1.3 The report seeks Members approval to the next stage of the investigations.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The loss of water from Clements Hall swimming pool is more than would normally be expected from such a facility, and is signified by wet areas outside the Pool building.
- 2.2 The leak is not considered to be from the structure of the pool itself, but from the pipework around the pool which recirculates the water.
- 2.3 Investigations were carried out during the closure of the pool in 2000 for re-roofing of the pool, and funded by the Leisure Contractor. The extent of the investigation undertaken was restricted by the funding set aside as part of the Leisure Contract extension.
- 2.4 These investigations involved breaking out two areas on the side of the pool where the water emerges outside the building, providing access to the recirculating pipework and introducing a CCTV camera. The camera did not show leaks on these two sides of the pool.
- 2.5 The second test involved lowering the water to below the "scum channel", where the water is removed from the top of the pool, and checking whether water was being lost from the pool. This showed a minimal loss of water which is attributable to evaporation and not to a leak in the pool itself.
- 2.6 To date investigation of the loss of water has been unsuccessful in identifying the location of the leak.

3 NEXT STAGE INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 Further discussion has been ongoing with the consultant and it is now considered that the leak does not occur when the recirculating pumps are operating. These pumps draw the water through the pipes, not push. When the pumps are off there is water loss but only under the action of gravity. This strongly suggests that the leak is from the remainder of the circuit not investigated in the tests of 2000.
- 3.2 The new investigation will involve cutting of the pipes between the boiler house and the pool and introduction of the CCTV camera to look at the lengths of pipe which have not been looked at previously.
- 3.3 There is no guarantee that the cause of the leak will be found, but evidence strongly suggests that this investigation could prove successful.
- 3.4 The Pool may need to be closed for the duration of this investigation and the timing and duration of this will be agreed with the Leisure Contractor. It is not expected that this should be more than one day, although it will be done overnight if possible to avoid closure of the pool.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Water conservation is an element of Environmental Stewardship and solution of this problem will reduce the excess water consumption at Clements Hall.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A quotation in the sum of £3270 has been received for this investigation.
- 5.2 The investigation will be funded from the consultants/support services budget for Property Maintenance. Should the resultant works not be capable of being met from existing budgets, a further report will be made to Members.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- i). That the next stage of the investigation be agreed and a further report be made to this Committee if any repair works identified cannot be met from within existing budgets. (CD(F&ES))

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Background Papers:

Quotation form Contractor for investigation

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