



CABINET REPORT

Date Written	1 st March 2020**
Report Author	John Sellwood/Chris Long
Service Area	Regeneration
Committee Division	Portfolio
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	25 th March 2020

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Welsh Government Free Swimming Initiative in the County Borough

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 In the financial year 2019/20 the Council has received £52,375 of funding from Sport Wales to deliver the Welsh Government Free Swimming Initiative in the County Borough.
- 1.2 Due to the closure of the pools at Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre the planned activities to deliver the Councils Free swimming plan have not been able to be delivered in full.
- 1.3 The funder Sport Wales have agreed to the carryover of part of the funding to deliver into the following financial year due to the circumstances that have been presented.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

- 2.1 The carry forward of the sum of £10,000 of revenue funding from the Free Swimming grant to the financial year 2020/21 be approved.
- 2.2 The carry forward of the sum of £21,500 of capital funding from the Free Swimming grant to the financial year 2020/21 be approved.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In the financial year 2019/20 the Council has received £52,375 of funding from Sport Wales to deliver the Welsh Government Free Swimming Initiative in the County Borough.
- 3.2 With this funding, the Council commissions the Leisure Trust to deliver a range of aquatic opportunities to people 16 & under and 60 & over.
- 3.3 In addition to the commissioned activities with the Leisure Trust a proportion of the fund is allocated to supporting schools to improve learn to swim levels in the County Borough.
- 3.4 As members are aware on 2nd December 2019 the pools at Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre closed for repair work to the tiles and will not reopen in this financial year.

4.0 THE IMPACT OF THE CLOSURE OF THE POOLS AT MERTHYR TYDFIL LEISURE CENTRE

- 4.1 The closure of the pools have impacted on the ability to deliver the full requirement of the Councils Free Swimming planned activities in 2019/20, therefore resulting in an underspend of the grant funding.
- 4.2 The Free Swimming funding was granted as part of an 18 month plan from 1st October 2019 to 31st March 2021.
- 4.3 The Leisure, Culture and Sports Development Manager has sort and gained the approval of the grant provider to use the underspend in the financial 2020/21 to deliver the activities that have not been able to be delivered in 2019/20.
- 4.4 In terms of the capital funding this is a one off amount for the improvement of visitor experience to the pools. This funding was not confirmed until mid-October, whilst some of the agreed work to the pools at Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre will be complied and paid for, the work at Aberfan community Centre will not be completed until April 2020.
- 4.5 There is an estimated underspend in the financial year 2019/20 in the region of £10,000 in the revenue budget and about £21,500 in the capital budget.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no impacts on the Councils revenue or capital budgets, however if permission is not granted to carry the funding forward the funding may have to be returned to Sport Wales.

6.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	0 of 4	0 of 4	4 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	0 of 5	0 of 5	5 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics <i>(including Welsh Language)</i>	0 of 10	0 of 10	10 of 10
4. Biodiversity	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
<u>Summary:</u>			
There are no impacts on any of the areas in this assessment as it is a request to carry over funding from one financial year to another.			

ALYN OWEN
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COUNCILLOR GERAINT THOMAS
CABINET MEMBER FOR
REGENERATION & PUBLIC
PROTECTION

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.