

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Town Hall, Assets & Services Committee Meeting		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	11th September 2025 7 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Town Hall Manager – Mark Worthington		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	11 Paddling Pool Feasibility Study		
Background	<p>Congleton Paddling Pool is an extremely popular asset within the community, offering users a free leisure activity. Despite the amenity's popularity, it does suffer from several inherent inconveniences. The chief amongst these are ease and convenience of access, user control and operating costs. The operating costs, location and lease arrangement of the paddling pool facility have been an area of discussion for a number of years. For this reason, CTC Officers have previously contacted local authorities who have replaced their existing paddling pools with modern Splash Pads, such as Amber Valley Borough Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council. Both authorities reported that the installation of a Splash Pad made a financial saving on operating costs but also created a safer, more environmentally friendly water facility.</p> <p>To determine if previous discussions relating to replacement/relocation of the paddling pool are viable/possible, it was agreed at the meeting of the THAS Committee on 31/10/24 and Finance & Policy Committee on 14/11/24, FAP/49/2425 RESOLVED To receive the report relating to the Splash Pad Feasibility Study and to agree to the proposed expenditure of £ 5,000 on a Splash Pad Feasibility Study.</p>		
Update	<p>IB Development, who specialise in the installation of aquatic leisure applications, including swimming pools, water features, aquatic leisure facilities and plant, have visited the paddling pool and associated sites to carry out the feasibility study. Investigations have centred around the feasibility of improving/relocating the paddling pool or the option of a new water facility at a more suitable location.</p> <p>The task of the first phase of the feasibility study is to identify changes that could be made to offer improvements to the existing pool or a facility at a different site.</p>		

	<p>The effect of each suggested change to the current paddling pool facility will be examined in isolation and evaluated for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technical feasibility • benefit to users • cost of implementation • cost of operation of the change compared to current costs and those of alternative changes <p>For each proposed change, as much engineering design will be carried out as is necessary to establish, in isolation or in combination with other changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the technical feasibility of a proposed change • a budgetary cost for its implementation • the effect of its implementation on public safety, satisfaction and convenience • its effect on the cost of pool operation <p>CTC Officers have met with Cheshire East Officers to inform them of the feasibility study and the reasons behind it, as detailed above. Any recommendation from the feasibility study to relocate the paddling pool or install a Splash Pad to Congleton Park or Hankinson Fields Skate Park would require approval by Cheshire East. Cheshire East Officers would look to review the information provided in the feasibility study. The feasibility study carried out by IB Developments is expected to be complete during October 2025 and will be presented to Committee members on completion.</p>
Financial	To be in accordance with allocated budgets and financial regulations.
Environmental	To assess via the procurement process the environmental impact and benefits.
Equality	Where applicable in the procurement of services, this is taken into consideration.
Decision Request	To receive the report relating to the Paddling Pool Feasibility Study.