

## CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

### COUNCIL REPORTS

COMMITTEE:	Council		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Town Hall Manager – Mark Worthington / Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	Agenda Item 8 Paddling Pool Soft Play Surface		
Background	<p>This item was previously presented to the previously presented to the THAS committee on the 12th January 2023. The resolution from that meeting was as follows</p> <p><b>THAS/31/2223 Resolved to</b> receive the updates on matters relating to the paddling pool Soft play surface and noted comments for consideration with regards to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Different types of surfaces suitable for around paddling pool</li><li>• Checks to see the legality behind what type of surface is required</li></ul> <p>Furthermore to accept the report and delegate the authority to the Chief Officer and Town Hall Manager to make the decision on the type of surface suitable for the paddling pool up to a budget £13,125</p> <p><b>The report stated</b></p> <p>The pathway around the paddling pool edge and leading to the toilet facilities is made from a wet pour rubber, anti-slip surface. Wet pour is an impact absorbing rubber crumb safety surface. The rubber granules are mixed with a polyurethane resin and laid in the desired colour to a thickness of, in this case, 15mm.</p> <p>The existing wet pour pathway was installed in 2017 and began to show signs of wear after 5 years of use. It is beyond any agreed guarantee. The pathway is started to show signs of wear including a split in the wet pour surface which continues around the circumference of the paddling pool pathway. On inspection in December the pathway surface had deteriorated further and will continue to do so throughout the Winter months.</p>		

## Update

Three companies have been contacted to provide quotes to replace, or partially replace, the damaged wet pour surface around the paddling pool edge and leading to the toilet facilities. Pictures below highlight the issue where the wet pour surface needs to be replaced.



Picture below, taken during the 2017 install, shows the surface of the pathway on which the wet pour surface will be poured. The picture also indicates why the damage to the path surface (reflective cracking) is located in the same place around the circumference of the paddling pool.





Each company has provided two quotes, Quote 1 to completely replace the wet pour surface over both the pathway surface and the surface/edge of the paddling pool, and Quote 2 to cut away the wet pour surface along the joint of the two concrete surfaces and replace wet pour over the surface/edge of paddling pool only.

	Quote 1 (full replacement)	Quote 2 (partial replacement)
Company A	£13,125 + VAT	£4,250 + VAT
Company B	£14,000 + VAT	£5,000 + VAT
Company C	£15,488 + VAT	£5,235 + VAT

For Quote 1, work will involve removing the existing 15mm wet pour surface and replacing with a 25mm wet pour surface. The surface will be laid in two stages, a 10mm subbase of wet pour, followed by a 15mm top layer of wet pour. This will help to avoid the top layer from splitting in the same area as the existing wet pour surface. Quote 1 works will be provided with a one year guarantee. Extended guarantees are available, however there are caveats on this, one being to approve the sub base. The existing sub base would not be eligible for an extended guarantee due to the underlying issues with the joint around the subbase.

Regarding Quote 2, each company add the caveat that with this type of repair, there is always a chance the joint could split between the new and old wet

	<p>pour surfaces and/or along the same joint between the concrete surfaces. No guarantee would be provided with Quote 2 repairs.</p> <p>The resolution from Town Hall, Assets &amp; Services Committee (12.01.23) was to clarify any legalities around what type of path surface is required around a paddling pool and to accept the report and delegate the authority to the Chief Officer and Town Hall Manager to make the decision of type of surface suitable for a paddling pool path to the budget of £13,125.</p> <p>While there is no legal requirement for protective surfacing to be provided on children's playgrounds. It is, however, recommended by safety organisations such as RoSPA, BSI, NPFA and CAPT.</p> <p>The Department of the Environment 'strongly recommended' its use in 1978 while the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (currently the Government's lead body on playgrounds) advised its use in their Playground Safety Guidelines (1993) as one of the design elements of a safe playground. The Health and Safety Executive has also recommended it.</p> <p>It is fair to say that recent out-of-court settlements arising from playground accidents have suggested the courts recognise that the provision of suitable surfaces represents good practice, especially under new equipment.</p> <p>As part of the Budget setting process for 2023-2024, approval was granted to spend £15,000 on the Paddling Pool maintenance for resurfacing works, funds were approved to be transferred from Earmark Reserve 320, Capital Contingency. (Approval reference CTC/37/2223 meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022.)</p> <p><b>Officer recommendation</b></p> <p>There was a lot of debate around various options at the THAS meeting which were explored by officers. Ultimately some were excluded on potential health and safety grounds and others simply on the basis that there would be insufficient time to explore those options and ensuring they could be delivered in time for the opening of the paddling pool season. Discussions have also taken place with Northwich who have advised that they have the same type of paddling pool and the same surface that we currently have around their pool. Company A quote 2 literally would replace the inner ring with a join onto the outer section of the surface, it has no guarantee and aesthetically it will look very poor.</p> <p>Based upon the information above we believe that the preferred solution is the company A quote 1 which is for £13,125 plus VAT which comes with a 1 year guarantee. When this surface was last refurbished in this way it lasted just over 5 years and will provide a safe and attractive surface around the pool.</p>
<b>Decision Request</b>	<p>The proposal is for the Town Council to proceed with the Company A Quote 1 to carry out work at the Paddling Pool to replace the existing wet pour surface at a cost of £13,125 plus VAT</p>