

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Town Hall, Assets & Services Committee Meeting		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	26th June 2025 7 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Town Hall Manager – Mark Worthington		
AGENDA ITEM	10		
REPORT TITLE	Paddling Pool & SEND Sessions Update 2025		
Background	<p>The 2025 paddling pool season opened on Saturday, 24th May and will continue until Sunday, 31st August. The pool will be open from Wednesday to Sunday during term time and 7 days per week during school holidays. There are two sessions per day, 10 am – 1 pm and 2 pm – 5 pm, with a capacity per session is 140. Staff qualified in Active IQ Level 3 pool training will be on site throughout these opening hours.</p> <p>Access to the pool will continue to be via the clicker system, whereby a member of staff will count users into the facility until the 140 capacity is reached. Additional users above the 140 capacity are able to wait in the queueing area, not on the pavement, until spaces become available. This system was used last year and proved successful on days when the weather is changeable. Queues at the entrance to the pool still formed when hot weather was forecast; however, CTC Officers will be informing users via social media of the potential for queues on these days and recommending not to travel too far to avoid the disappointment of not gaining access to the pool.</p>		
Update	<p>Following the success of last year's Ruby's Fund SEND sessions at the pool (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), CTC Officers have continued to work with Ruby's staff to provide the sessions again this season. SEND sessions were implemented to allow families and children with these specific needs to enjoy a quieter environment at the facility and will continue to take place every Wednesday morning throughout the Summer school holidays in 2025.</p> <p>Dates for this season are Wednesday 23rd, 30th July, and 6th, 13th, 20th August, 10 am – 1 pm. The SEND sessions are advanced bookings only through the Ruby's Fund website. These sessions proved to be a huge success with Ruby's members last year, with the original capacity of 45 per session being increased to 60 attendees at the request of Ruby's staff. A qualified member of CTC paddling pool staff is on site during</p>		

	each session for operational purposes, as well as a member of Ruby's Fund staff who is responsible for bookings. We have received some requests this season from organisations outside the Congleton area who wish to arrange individual sessions at the pool for their respective groups. These organisations have been signposted to the team at Ruby's Fund (with their permission) to arrange places where possible on the Ruby's Fund SEND Sessions. For this reason, Ruby's Fund may request additional sessions for their existing Wednesday morning slot.
Financial	SEND Sessions require no additional staff costs and fall within the usual opening hours of the paddling pool season.
Environmental	SEND Sessions support a local organisation.
Equality	SEND Sessions allow access to the pool for families with specific needs and improve equal access to the pool facilities.
Decision Request	To receive the report relating to Paddling Pool & SEND Sessions 2025 and to agree to the continued support for Ruby's Fund SEND Sessions.