

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Officer: Supply, Distribution and Property
Report by Chief Officer: Chief Officer for Roads and Neighbourhood

Council: 9 February 2022

Subject: Update Council on Water Safety Policy & Loch Lomond Lido

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Council on proposed Water Safety Policy and feasibility of a Loch Lomond Lido.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council:

2.1.1 notes the contents of the report and the recommendation at 4.8

2.1.2 approves the recommendation to enter into a procurement process to engage with a Consultant to deliver a Water Safety Policy;

2.1.3 approves the recommendation that additional budget in the sum £30,000 be included in the budget for financial year 2022/23 to cover the consultancy appointment for the proposed Water Safety Policy.

3. Background

- 3.1 At Council on 26 August 2021 Councillor Sally Page moved the following Motion:

This Council agrees to write and adopt a Water Safety Policy. This Council agrees to draft an initial proposal for a Lido on Loch Lomond in Balloch, to provide a supervised swimming area.

- 3.2 The following addendum was requested by Councillor Jonathan McColl to be added at the end:

The report should outline the potential benefits as well as potential risks and liabilities, along with comments from our partners in Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

Council also asks the Leader of the Council to write to Council Leaders in the Glasgow City Region and neighbouring authorities asking them to ensure they

take every appropriate opportunity to educate their citizens who visit areas like West Dunbartonshire, on the dangers open water swimming.

The Council Leader is also asked to write to Scotrail and the British Transport Police to ask that they take steps to provide information and advice to travellers visiting Balloch and other tourist areas with open water.

3.2 The following addendum was requested by Councillor Douglas McAllister:

Council agrees that we contact whoever is responsible for the multi-member working group, probably the relevant Scottish minister, and ask that we are allowed a representative on that group.

3.3 The addendums at 3.1 and 3.2 were accepted by Councillor Page and the Council agreed the motion as amended.

4. Main Issues

Proposed provision of a Lido, Loch Lomond

- 4.1** Following Council in August 2021. Officers across a number of service met to discuss options and feasibility of a Lido to be situated in the Loch Lomond area.
- 4.2** Across the UK there are a number of swimming venues which are operated by private firms or community organisations but not local authorities but the vast majority of these are based on open water swimming and not recreational.
- 4.3** Officers in Corporate Asset Management carried out a high level assessment of various sites on Loch Lomond with a view to forming a Lido on Loch Lomond and looked at options for both open water swimming and recreational swimming.
- 4.4** A number of stakeholders have been engaged with in relation to the high level assessment of various sites. To carry out a formal assessment of options together with financial implications, would require a group consisting of officers from Supply, Distribution and Property and Roads and Neighbourhood with a number of key stakeholders..
- 4.5** In addition, in order to progress further, the specialist skills of a Marine Engineer Consultant would be required, to carry out in depth surveys of a number of areas. The results of the survey would inform the options appraisal
- 4.6** A specific site to build a proposed lido would need to be identified. Several options have been considered in the high level assessment, and a number of factors would need to be considered as part of the options appraisal including:
- Location;
 - Impact on existing businesses and activities on local Lomond;

- Planning, environmental requirements;
- Environmental assessment on sites to include water quality assessment;
- Proposed costs in relation to delivery of infrastructure including size of any potential pool area and associated changing facility;
- Proposed costs in relation to future maintenance and repair;
- Proposed costs in relation to staffing and training;
- Proposed options for operational delivery;
- Options for other locations within the wider Council area;
- Any possible income generation;
- Proposed model for operating;

4.7 It is anticipated that the cost to engage a marine engineer consultant to review any site options would be in the region of £40,000. In addition, it is estimated, that any future capital works to develop a potential site for a Lido, could be in excess of £3m. This estimated cost is based on indicative costs for other similar Lido installations nationwide and is dependent on site selection and grounds works.

4.8 It is therefore recommended that at this time due to the significant cost implications no further action is taken in respect of any formation of a Lido.

Water Safety Policy

4.9 Following Council in August 2021 the Council Leader wrote to Scotrail and the British Transport Police asking that they take steps to provide information and advice to travellers visiting Balloch and other tourist areas with open water.

4.10 A number of interventions has taken place since Council in August 2021 and a number of life bouys have been installed as can be seen in Appendix 1.

4.11 The Council is a member of the “Partnership Approach to Water Safety” (PAWS) group chaired by the Fire and Rescue Service and the group is developing a joint water safety policy to reflect the responsibilities of the various stakeholders.

4.12 The Council has limited remit to manage/enforce activities on Loch Lomond but are a key stakeholder where the land adjoining the water is in our ownership. Working in partnership with partners such as Police Scotland and National Park the Council has identified locations for life belts and information boards for maximum impact.

4.13 An inspection regime is in place to replace missing/damaged life belts and a social media messaging carried out to encourage residents/visitors to report any missing/damaged life belts and to raise awareness about why they are in place.

- 4.14** The Council has a duty of care to everyone on its land under the Occupiers Liability (Scotland) Act 1960. This states that a risk assessment procedure should be used to ensure that reasonable steps are taken to reduce the level of risk, and advises that liability is reduced by ensuring that the danger is brought to the attention of visitors.
- 4.15** The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) provides information on UK accidental drownings and advises that councils should have water safety policies to reduce drownings. Although the Council does not have a formal water safety policy at this time, a number of measures have been put in place to minimise the risk of drowning on not only Council owned land but across the private landholdings across the authority.
- 4.16** Although there have been very few accidental incidents involving water accessed from Council land, the Council has a responsibility to ensure its sites continue to be safe for public use. Primarily, individuals have a responsibility to look after their own safety and for those in their care by avoiding obvious hazards and not taking unnecessary risks. Where hazards are less obvious or there is a known risk, the Council must ensure these are assessed and appropriate proportionate measures put in place.
- 4.17** Any future policy should identify an efficient, effective, consistent and sustainable means of ensuring the Council meets its duties for water safety on the land it manages. The policy ensures that water safety management and risk assessment procedures are in line with current legislation and national guidance.
- 4.18** It is recommended that a Water Safety Policy should be produced to fulfil the Council's duty to reasonably reduce the risk in relation to water hazards and encourage an effective, consistent and sustainable approach to applying appropriate safety measures. The policy measure which are already in existence.
- 4.19** It should be noted that any proposed Water Safety Policy will only cover recommendations and criteria for key sites within Council ownership. Partnership sites are currently being reviewed in partnership with PAWS and are very site specific.
- 4.20** It is proposed that a procurement process is entered into to engage with a Consultant to deliver such a policy with the current estimate being in the region of £30,000 this would be to ensure that this could be implemented as early as possible in the new financial year 2022/2023. This Policy would then come back to a future Council meeting for approval.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no people implications arising from this report but it is envisaged should a project progress that there will be significant impact on people

resources in relation to staffing for any future LIDO itself, inspection of life buoys on a regular basis.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

6.1 No budgetary provision exists for any funding for any decision that may be made by Council in respect of any revenue or capital monies. Any future paper to Council will include detailed costs for both revenue and capital.

6.2 There are no procurement issues associated with this report

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 None.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 No significant issues were identified in relation to equality impact screening in relation to this report but individual assessments will take place for each of the recommendations in 2.1.1 and positive outcomes will be achieved.

9. Strategic Environmental Assessment

9.1 A Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the purposes of this report but in the course of site selection for any proposed capital works it is anticipated there will a number of Strategic Environmental Assessments required during this process.

10. Consultation

10.1 Consultation was undertaken with various officers across a number of services including West Dunbartonshire Leisure Trust.

11. Strategic Assessment

11.1 By agreeing to recommendation within this report the Council will be delivering on a strategic aims by

- meaningful engagement with active, empowered and informed citizens who feel safe and engaged; and
- efficient and effective frontline services that improve the everyday lives of residents.

Chief Officer, Supply, Distribution and Property
Gail Macfarlane
Chief Officer, Roads and Neighbourhood
Date: 24 January 2022

Person to Contact: Gail Macfarlane, Chief Officer, Roads and Neighbourhood,
Email: gail.macfarlane@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Angela Wilson, Chief Officer Supply, Distribution and Property,
Email: angela.wilson@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Michelle Lynn, Assets Co-ordinator,
Email: michelle.lynn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: Appendix 1 – List of installation of Life Bouys

Background Papers: Council – 26 August 2021. Motion by Councillor Sally Page.

Wards Affected: All

Appendix 1. – List of Life Bouys Locations

River Leven Bridges Public Rescue Equipment

Site No.	Bridge Name	Location	Access Type	Site Number	NGR	Approx width of river at location
1	Balloch Bridge	Balloch Road to Drymen Road	Vehicle & Pedestrian	NS38SE 22	NS 39104 81947	80m
2	Lomond Road Bridge	Lomond Road	Vehicle & Pedestrian	NS38SE 24	NS 39146 81745	50m
3	Stuckie Bridge	Heather Ave to Honeysuckle Lane	Pedestrian			40m
4	Bonhill Bridge	Bridge Street	Vehicle & Pedestrian	NS37NE 34	NS 3965 7988	40m
5	Renton Bridge	Main St Renton to Vale of Leven Ind Est	Pedestrian			40m
6	Artizan/ Dalreoch Bridge	Glasgow Road	Vehicle & Pedestrian	NS37NE 184	NS 39262 75537	110m
7	Dumbarton Bridge	West Bridgend to Bridge Street	Vehicle & Pedestrian	NS 39268 75358	NS 39268 75358	100m

2 x 24" Lifebuoy Ring complete with mounting hook and integral throwline to be installed either side of each bridge over River Leven that have pedestrian access.

Dumbarton Harbour, Balloch Country Park and Surrounds

No. Installed	Area	Location
35	Dumbarton Harbour	Riverside Lane
	Dumbarton Harbour	Woodyard Road
	Dumbarton Harbour	Walkway from Riverside Lane to Lidl
	River Leven, Dumbarton	Bridge Street
21	River Leven, Balloch	Moss O Balloch
	Balloch Castle Country Park	Moss O Balloch to Old Bothy
7	River Clyde	Cable Depot Road
	River Clyde	Aurra Avenue to Ossian Way