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2 March 2026

## EXECUTIVE

A meeting of the **Executive** will be held on **Tuesday, 10th March, 2026** in the **Council Chamber, Forde House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 4XX** at **10.00 am**

PHIL SHEARS  
Managing Director

### Membership:

Councillors Buscombe, Hook, Keeling (Chair), Nuttall, Nutley, Palethorpe (Deputy Leader), Parrott, G Taylor and Williams

**Please Note:** Filming is permitted during Committee meeting with the exception where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public. By entering the Council Chamber you are consenting to being filmed.

## AGENDA

### Part I

9. **Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee -** (Pages 3 - 10)  
**Teignmouth Lido Call In**

To update the Executive on the call in of the Executive decision on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 relating to Teignmouth Lido.

If you would like this information in another format, please telephone 01626 361101 or e-mail [info@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:info@teignbridge.gov.uk)

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**Teignbridge District Council**

**Executive**

10 March 2026

Part i

**Teignmouth Lido**

**Addendum**

To provide a response to the discussions from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.

**Recommendation(s)**

The Committee RESOLVES to:

- (1) Note the comments in this report to inform the Executive decision making.

**Authors**

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**Executive Members**

Cllr John Nutley

Executive Member for Leisure, Recreation, Resorts and Tourism.

Cllr David Palethorpe

Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects.

## **1. Introduction**

The paper is to serve as an Addendum to provide the Executive Committee with further information to support their decision making regarding the Teignmouth Lido.

## **2. Background information**

The Council's 'Modern 25' programme was implemented to enable the Council opportunities to reduce its budget deficit, and this programme has been reported on separately. The 'One Teignbridge' Council Strategy has also determined the approach for services, that included:

- reducing the operating costs of the Leisure service
- considering alternative uses of assets
- restructuring service areas to reduce staff costs

Consequently, the report regarding the Teignmouth Lido was taken to the Executive Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026, where the decision was taken to not open the Lido for the 2026 season, deliver a budget saving and consider options for the site. The decision to not open for the 2026 season was called in for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026. There were various comments from Councillors and members of the public and it would be beneficial for the Executive Committee to be afforded further detail to support the considerations and inform decision making.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 that:

1. The Executive decision to not open the Teignmouth Lido site in 2026 is reconsidered and reversed.
2. The Executive works together with the local community and willing community groups to explore other solutions for how the Lido site can be operated in 2026, and details for any proposals to be submitted is given by the Executive in due course.

In coming to a final decision, the Executive should consider an Equality Impact Assessment and assessment of the economic and health impact of their decision.

The Executive at its meeting should decide whether to accept, or reject, the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and may either endorse the original decision, in which case it is implemented unaltered from the original, may make a new decision with amended elements or application, or determine to do something different altogether.

### **3. Implications**

Comments and questions arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting were invited from Councillors and the public, and the information below will enable the Executive committee to consider the matters in more detail.

- When was it first considered to close the Lido?  
The first report was taken to the Executive Committee on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 for formal decision.
- Clubs are not paying for their bookings.  
All clubs that hire the facilities pay for their usage.
- The primary objective of Council's investment at the Lido was to reduce the site's carbon footprint.  
Energy unit prices and standing charges have increased substantially over previous years that would naturally inflate operational costs. Electricity bill standing charges in particular have inflated notably over this period with increases of around 600% being typical; these costs relate to a range of pass-through charges which have all increased and cover things like network balancing costs, power availability charges, network investment costs, and meter operating costs, etc.

When the relative changes in gas and electricity consumption pre- and post-project are combined with current energy unit costs (£/kWh), recent data shows a cost saving of approximately £7.3k per year. Power availability charges (one component of the standing charge) have changed significantly since the project was completed following Ofgem charging reforms, which will partially act to

reduce these savings; though, there remain opportunities to mitigate these changes by lowering capacity limits and fine-tuning equipment operation.

The investments at the site were completed with good intention as there was not a previous consideration or instruction to not operate the Lido. Furthermore, without some of the investment, such as repairing the pipework, the facility would have remained closed.

- Attendance figures from previous years and comments on accuracy of the data with IT failure or staffing issues.

Attendance data for previous years:

Year	Attendances
24/25	9267
23/24	8224
22/23	9955
21/22	Closed
20/21	Closed
19/20	Closed
18/19	13057
17/18	12761
16/17	14303

IT failures are not a significant feature over the course of an opening schedule. On occasions where failure may be experienced, the Lido Supervisors are able to call another TDC leisure centre to collect payment by card, staff were provided with manual tilling processes, or users of the site would often let staff know that they were unable to pay and would offer to pay later. On the odd occasion, a payment may not have been taken, but caution would be advised against considering that this would amount to any substantial additional income.

- Leisure membership impact.

The following terms are outlined in the Teignbridge leisure membership so a decision to not operate the Lido would be addressed accordingly:

- All activities are subject to availability and Teignbridge Leisure reserve the right to cancel, amend, suspend or withdraw classes and/or activities at any time. Opening hours may vary around holiday periods.

- Facilities may become unavailable, e.g. due to adverse weather or planned maintenance etc. These will be advertised prior to closure where possible, and you will be encouraged to use our alternative facilities.
    - Refunds will not be made if other facilities are available unless the closure exceeds a 2-week period.
  - Teignbridge Leisure reserves the right to amend the Terms & Conditions. However, we will give reasonable notice.
- 
- Pool closure for the burst pipe.

The pool closed 10 days earlier than scheduled in 2023 due to a burst pipe.
  - Impacts on plant and heat pumps if the pool does not open.

Should the pool not open, a low energy cycling regime would be maintained.
  - Level of school use of the Lido.

Last season, three schools hired the Lido.
  - Energy sold back to the grid.

There is no tariff in place. The Council would need to understand the costs to install an export meter and the potential net benefits between account charges and export payments. Surplus energy generation is currently stored in a 50kwh battery.
  - Has the Council considered the health and economic impacts of closing the Lido.

Unless the Council commissions a study to specifically consider the data, it is not routinely held and has not been able to be gathered in time for this meeting.
  - Has the council considered other options to save money.

Please refer to the earlier comment regarding the Modern 25 programme and One Teignbridge Council Strategy, both of which have been reported on through Council meetings and considerations have been presented there.
  - Do all TDC leisure assets make a profit or break even, are there any that don't?

The Broadmeadow and Newton Abbot leisure centres operate profitably net of centralised admin costs, and the Dawlish leisure centre requires a subsidy, but a refurbishment proposal will be brought forward in the coming months to

present opportunities to reduce operational deficits and provide a more suitable leisure facility.

- Once a qualifying organisation has triggered ACV process do they alone have the 6-months to bring forward their bid. If another community group comes in later, will they then have up until the end of the moratorium process if they want to bid?

The moratorium period would remain the same irrespective of the number of bidders. Based on the legislation any community group interested to bid should come forward within the six-week interim moratorium period. The six-month moratorium period is a timeline for community bidders to raise funds, develop a business plan, and submit a competitive bid against potential commercial buyers. The legislation states that local authority can take strict measures on timeline. There isn't anything in the legislation that expressly restricts a potential bidder after the 6-week period. However, once the clock has triggered the 6-month, timeline remains fixed. The clock does not restart.

- Can the asset be disposed of prior to the end of the moratorium period if there is only one community bid brought forward if the Council decides to do or do we have to wait 6-months?

As per the legislation, the number of bidders does not matter. The six-month moratorium period should be completed.

- Can we receive other commercial bids during this 6-month period?

The Right to Bid legislation does not grant community groups the absolute right to buy and it does not confer a right of first refusal. If the owner decides to sell, they can accept a commercial bid from any third party only after the mandatory moratorium period expires.

- How do we evaluate commercial bids against community bids?

As stated above the owner can consider commercial bids against community bid after the moratorium period. After the 6-month period, the owner is free to sell to whoever they choose, including commercial bidders, even if the community group made a bid. The local authority just need to follow the process correctly i.e. keeping the steps transparent and following the timeline.

#### **4. Further considerations**

It would be cautionary for the Council to note that a property maintenance assessment would be required to consider any necessary works for opening the Lido, as would a recruitment schedule to assess if the necessary staffing levels could be achieved. Either consideration may have the potential to now reduce or preclude any suggested opening period.

For wider context, an assessment of leisure facility needs in Teignbridge was undertaken in 2024. Calculations assume that the current swimming pool stock remains available for community use and the quality of provision remains the same. The projected increase in population will lead to an increase in demand for swimming space. The data indicates a requirement for an additional four lanes (equivalent to 1.02 swimming pools) up to 2043. Therefore, whilst the Council are to consider all options available for the site, from a leisure provision perspective, retaining the asset for use as a pool would be encouraged to promote opportunities to access water and promote active wellbeing, noting that the Council has stated it will consider the options available for the site.

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