

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL DELEGATION PROCEDURE

SCC Standing Orders Para 26

COMMITTEE CONCERNED: Full Council
OFFICER INITIATING: Marc Read
DATE: 21 August 2025

To:

Cllr S Charleston, Leader of Salisbury City Council
Cllr J Wells, Chair of Salisbury City Council
Cllr A Bayliss, Vice Chair of Salisbury City Council

Item: Bemerton Heath Pump Track

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Report

Subject: Acceptance of additional maintenance responsibilities – Bemerton Heath Pump Track
Committee: Urgent decision request to the Leader and Vice Chair of the Council and Chair of Full Council.
Date: 21 August 2025
Author: Marc Read, Head of Environmental Services (Acting CEO)
Owner: Cllr J Wells, Chair of Full Council

1. Report Summary

1.1. This report sets out the request from Wiltshire Council for Salisbury City Council (SCC) to accept additional maintenance responsibilities for the Bemerton Heath Pump Track following its completion.

1.2. The additional responsibilities comprise:

- Maintenance and electricity supply for a floodlight installed at the site.
- Payment of electricity costs, estimated at £1,100–£1,200 per annum, based on projected usage.
- Arrangements for SCC to be billed by Harlequins Football Club, who lease the feeder pillar from SCC.

1.3. The total connected load for the floodlighting is 3,823.2 W (8 × 477.9 W Challenger 1 LED units), i.e. 3.8232 kW. Based on estimated use of 1,156.93 hours per year (from sunset until 10pm daily, subject to local control via a timed system), this equates to:

- 3.8232 kW × 1,156.93 h = 4,423 kWh/year,
- Which translates to an annual cost of between £1,100 and £1,200, depending on the utility supplier.

1.4. These costs and responsibilities are to be incorporated into SCC's existing budgets and will not require additional funding.

1.5. To formalise these arrangements, an amendment to Harlequins Football Club lease will be required to enable the billing arrangements and clarify maintenance responsibilities.

1.6. At the Full Council meeting of 4 November 2024, the following resolutions were made:

- 15.1. Approve the project proposal for the Bemerton Heath Pump Track.
- 15.2. Agree that Salisbury City Council will assume ownership and maintenance responsibilities following project completion, subject to planning approvals, and warranties provided by suppliers.

1.7. The acceptance of Wiltshire Council's request is consistent with the above resolutions, ensuring the facility is maintained to the appropriate standard and that operating costs are provided for.

2. Policy Considerations

2.1. SCC has already resolved to assume ownership and maintenance responsibilities (Minute 15.2, Full Council, 4 November 2024). This request represents an operational extension of those responsibilities.

2.2. Formalising the arrangement through an amendment to Harlequins Football Club lease ensures clear accountability for electricity billing and ongoing site management.

3. Justification for Special Delegation

3.1. Wiltshire Council's funding contribution towards the Pump Track is contingent on the project being delivered within the current financial year. If Salisbury City Council does not formally agree to the additional maintenance and electricity responsibilities at this stage, there is a significant risk that the project could be delayed or fail to proceed, as Wiltshire Council would be unable to release its funding.

3.2. Without this agreement, uncertainty around the ongoing costs and responsibilities for the floodlighting would leave the project in jeopardy, potentially jeopardising both community benefit and the external investment already secured.

3.3. By agreeing the maintenance and billing arrangements now, SCC provides the necessary assurance for Wiltshire Council to finalise and release its funding, ensuring the project is completed on schedule.

3.4. As the additional costs can be fully met from existing budgets, no further financial authorisation from Full Council is required. However, the urgency of the matter means that waiting until the next Full Council meeting would put the entire scheme at risk.

4. Maintenance Considerations

4.1. For the floodlighting system, the following additional information applies:

- LED lifespan: minimum of 70,000 hours.
- Warranty: LEDs covered by 5-year warranty.
- Planned Preventative Maintenance: annual cleaning of LED lamps, achievable at ground level using droppable lamp standards.
- Spare parts: SCC will hold stock of replacement bulbs to ensure continuity in the event of a lamp failure.

5. Recommendation

5.1. The Leader of the Council, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council are recommended to:

- Approve SCC accepting responsibility for the additional maintenance and electricity costs of the Bemerton Heath Pump Track floodlight.
- Approve billing arrangements whereby Harlequins Football Club invoice SCC directly for electricity usage.
- Approve the amendment of Harlequins Football Club lease to reflect the above responsibilities.

5.2. It is recommended that this matter be dealt with urgently by Special Delegation to ensure arrangements are in place upon completion of the Pump Track.

6. Background Papers

6.1. Full Council minutes – 4 November 2024, Items 15.1 and 15.2.

Implications:

- **Financial:** Annual electricity costs estimated at £1,100–£1,200 can be met from existing budgets.
- **Legal:** Amendment to Harlequins Football Club lease required, which can be met from existing budgets.
- **Personnel:** Nil in relation to this report.
- **Environmental Impact:** Minimal, relating only to energy use for floodlight.
- **Equalities Impact Statement:** Nil in relation to this report.

Recommendation

The Leader of the Council, the Vice Chair of the Council and Chair of the Council are recommended to authorise the acceptance of additional maintenance and electricity responsibilities for the Bemerton Heath Pump Track, and to approve the necessary lease amendment with Harlequins Football Club.

It is recommended that this matter be dealt with urgently by Special Delegation to ensure clarity of responsibility upon project completion.

Having considered the Special Delegation request above, and the reasoning behind it, I confirm that I APPROVE the request.

Councillor/s:

John Wells

Alan Bayliss

[Signature]

Date:

21/08/2025

Please return the signed form to the Head of Environmental Services (Acting CEO),
The Guildhall, Market Place, SP1 1JH - Thank you.