



Our wellbeing

Aquarena outdoor redevelopment

Request of Government

We ask the State and Federal Governments to provide \$15 million in funding to assist in the delivery of this project.

The problem

- ▶ Aquarena is Manningham's sole aquatic centre, the outdoor area (built in 1960s) is a much-loved space, however, is at the end of its lifespan and requires a total refresh.
- ▶ This facility serves the entire municipality, receiving 1.14 million visits annually. Without this redevelopment, Manningham Council will struggle to accommodate the growing demands of the community and the delivery of essential health and wellbeing outcomes effectively.

The solution

In 2023 we asked our community what was important to them when visiting Aquarena, their priorities were; café space, water play and dedicated space for school carnivals. Following this feedback, high level designs were prepared to bring Aquarena up to a contemporary standard, which includes:

- ▶ New 50m outdoor pool with swim wall to provide flexibility to run 50m and 25m lanes, plus an accessibility ramp into the water.
- ▶ New Family Zone – interactive water play, splash pad and toddler pool.
- ▶ Spectator seating and dedicated change rooms for schools and squads.
- ▶ Sun-smart shade cover over part of the pool area
- ▶ Improved spaces for social connection, with an improved café area to serve into the indoor pool (wet lounge) as well as outdoors.

- ▶ Removal of gas boilers, and replacement with energy efficient electric plant to future-proof the facility and better meet our emissions targets.

Timing

- ▶ Ideally construction would commence by August 2025. This means that the entire outdoor pool area would be closed off for the 2025-26 summer season.
- ▶ The facility would then open by the start of summer 2026.

Project benefits

- ▶ These enhancements aim to create a more welcoming, modern and functional environment for all visitors.
- ▶ The works will provide another 60 years of vibrant community interaction for children and families to promote active participation, fitness, social connection and a sense of belonging.

Project contact

Emma Michie, Manager Community Participation