

Timeline of events

1992

Health Suite opens at Pools on the Park with sauna, steam room and jacuzzi.

23 March 2020

After 28 years in operation, the Health Suite is closed as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown. It never reopens.

27 July 2021

Richmond Council announces:

The Health Suite has had ongoing repairs over the last few years to the sauna, steam room and spa bath. However, more recent works have identified that the facilities have all now reached the end of the natural life and are no longer viable for repair.

A survey of members and non-members runs until 3 September 2021 and asks if users would prefer to see refurbishment of the health suite or conversion to a group exercise studio.

24 February 2022

Capital Programme and Funding Budget is approved by Finance, Policy and Resources Committee with £187K allocated to 'health suite refurbishment'.

8 March 2022

Capital Programme and Funding Budget is approved by full council.

26 September 2022

Capital Programme and Funding Budget is approved by Finance, Policy and Resources Committee with £187K again allocated to 'health suite refurbishment'.

28 February 2023

Capital Programme and Funding Budget is approved by Finance, Policy and Resources Committee with £187K allocated to 'health suite refurbishment' split between 2 years at £47K and £140K.

7 March 2023

Capital Programme and Funding Budget is approved by full council.

21 September 2023

Capital Programme and Funding Budget is approved by Finance, Policy and Resources Committee with £181K allocated to 'health suite refurbishment'. The remaining £6K is presumed to be spent in year 2023/24 but is not present. An error?

4 October 2022

FOI request for results of 2021 survey is refused. Internal review is requested.

22 December 2022

After internal review, FOI request for survey results is refused again but for a different reason.

14 August 2023

Richmond Council issues a statement on the future of the health suite:

We know that residents are frustrated that the health suite at Pools on The Park continues to be out of use during this period, and we want to reassure users of the leisure centres that we are committed to providing leisure services which meet the needs of our residents.

To ensure that investment into our facilities is made in line with the evidence gathered for the final strategy, any decisions regarding the health suite will be made once the strategy work is complete.

3 November 2023

Results of the 2021 survey are finally made public. 84% of member respondents and 68% of non-member respondents wanted to see the health suite refurbished and reopened. 371 people wanted their health suite back and 72 people wanted a group exercise studio.

8 November 2023

The Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee meets to decide on the fate of the health suite. Six members vote for the proposal to convert it into a group exercise studio, two members vote against.