

**REPORT TO:** Leisure Arts and Communities Committee -14 February 2011

**REPORT ON:** Proposals for a Regional Gymnastics Centre in Dundee

**REPORT BY:** Director of Leisure and Communities

**REPORT NO:** 34-2011

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the proposal to establish a regional Gymnastics Training Centre at the Dick McTaggart Sports Centre.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the committee:

- 2.1 notes the contents of this report.
- 2.2 approves that the upgraded facility, once complete, is to be run by Dundee Leisure, or its successor body, and remits officers to enter into discussion with Dundee Leisure on this basis.
- 2.3 approves officers entering into negotiation with Dundee College to arrange a weekly day time License for use for the car park, to be reported back to Committee for agreement.
- 2.4 approves the issuing of tender documents, if funds are available.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of this project will be £1,800,000. Application has been made for a Sports Lottery/sportscotland Capital Funding grant of £1,200,000 and savings in running costs will allow £450,000 to be met from Prudential Borrowing. The balance of £150,000 will be included in the forthcoming update of the Council's Capital Plan

## **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 4.1 Reference is made to agenda item VI of the Leisure Services Committee of 17 April 2000 where a lease for the Dick McTaggart Centre, to Dundee College, was agreed and agenda item VIII of the Leisure Services Committee of 18 February 2002 where the Committee approved the extension of the lease.
- 4.2 Dundee College has continued to run the Dick McTaggart Centre as a Sports Centre. In February 2010 they expressed their desire to terminate the lease, however they continued until August 2010 to allow time to consider the options for the centre and find alternative venues for the Roller hockey user groups. By August 2010 the health & safety issues associated with the building required major capital investment and made it no longer viable for Dundee College to continue operating the centre. Since this time the centre has been closed and is now back in the management of the Leisure and Communities Department. The previous Roller hockey users have been allocated times in Douglas Sports Centre and are discussing access to Community Centres. Leisure and Communities department are continuing to support them in developing their long term vision for their sport in the City.
- 4.3 The major capital investment required to bring the centre up to standard for public use, necessitated the consideration of external grants. The only substantial sporting development that had been requested in the City that could attract a sizeable sport lottery grant for this facility was the desire by Scottish Gymnastics to establish a regional Gymnastics Training Centre.

- 4.4 Scottish Gymnastics first approach the City Council in 2006 to see if a Regional Gymnastics Training Centre could be provided in Dundee, as their National facilities Plan 2007-2014 highlighted the lack of Regional Facilities in the East of Scotland.
- 4.5 The Dundee Gymnastics and Trampolining Strategy 2006-2011, which was approved by Leisure and Arts Services Committee on 20 February 2006, also highlighted the need for a performance facility and the national targets for Regional Facility Development.
- 4.6 The City Council considered the Lynch Sports Centre as a potential site for a Gymnastics Centre and submitted a Stage 1 Sports Lottery Grant in March 2010. Although this was agreed by sportscotland in principle, further investigation work highlighted that the financial viability was not robust enough to proceed.
- 4.7 Investigations into the Dick McTaggart Centre and ongoing discussions with sportscotland have resulted in a proposed project, supported by a sports lottery grant, to establish a Regional Gymnastic training Centre at this facility, after extensive refurbishment and part demolition and subsequent rebuild.
- 4.8 The proposed facility would entail the existing sports hall at the Dick McTaggart Centre being refurbished with a new roof and heating system, electrics and utilities provided. The existing changing facilities, dance studio, kitchens and foyer would be demolished and a new smaller changing facility, foyer and dance studio erected in the same location. The sports hall would be fitted out with permanent gymnastics equipment including the construction of 2 dismount pits. This would also include equipment for trampolinists and all would be to a standard that national gymnasts & trampolinists could train upon. The existing garage to the north west of the centre would be included in the lease for the site and be utilised for storage of equipment etc
- 4.9 The upgraded facility is proposed to be managed by Dundee Leisure, whose Board have agreed in principle to the idea. This would require an extension of the existing Management Agreement and a new Lease for the site and will entail further discussions with Dundee Leisure and the approval of their Board. The Committee is requested to approve the proposal for Dundee Leisure to manage the new facility and for discussion by officers to continue with their Board.
- 4.10 Funding for the £1.8m project depends on the success of the Stage 2 Sports Lottery /sportscotland Capital Funding grant application. This will hopefully be approved in February 2011. Prudential borrowing will be funded from the projected savings in running costs of the centre.
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| Sports Lottery/sportscotland Capital Funding Grant | £1.2m        |
| Prudential Borrowing                               | £450k        |
| Capital Dundee City Council                        | <u>£150k</u> |
|  | £1.8m        |
- 4.11 Users of the facility would be the Commonwealth and elite Gymnasts in the City, members of the Gymnastic Clubs in the Region, developing gymnasts, disabled gymnastics groups, grass root classes, trampolinists, disabled groups from Dundee College and Cheerleaders utilising the 2 floor areas. There will also be weekend training classes for coaches and regional/national gymnastics squads. The Dance Studio will also allow the establishment of a dedicated dance academy.
- 4.12 It is further proposed that the car park area adjacent to the new facility be licensed to Dundee College during daytime week days for the use of their students. This will be the subject of a further report to Committee.
- 4.13 Should the Sports Lottery/sportscotland Capital Funding Grant application be successful it is proposed to go out to separate tenders for the demolition works, the new build with car park and the Gymnastic equipment fit out. The committee is asked to approve the issuing of tender documents, should the funds be agreed. Acceptance of Tenders will be the subject of further reports to the Committee.

- 4.14 A Bat Survey of the premises has been undertaken and there are no bats present and no signs that bats use the site for roosting.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic environmental assessment, Anti-Poverty and Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.
- 5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.
- 6.2 Consultations on this proposal have also been undertaken with Dundee Leisure, Scottish Gymnastics, sportscotland, the Regional Sporting Partnership and Dundee College who are all supportive of the project.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**Stewart Murdoch**  
**Director of Leisure and Communities**  
**31 January 2011**