

**REPORT TO: Leisure Services Committee – 15 October 2001**

**REPORT TITLE: Swimming/Leisure Facilities in Dundee**

**REPORT BY: Director of Leisure & Parks**

**REPORT NO: 651-2001**

**1. Purpose of Report**

To consider the recommendations of the Swimming/Leisure Facilities in Dundee Working Group as undernoted.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Agree that, until proposals are finalised, that the City Council continues to maintain Olympia Leisure Centre and support its capital and revenue costs.
- 2.2 Agree that the City Council enters into discussions with Dundee University in regards to proposals for the building of a swimming pool suitable for club use.
- 2.3 Agree to continue to explore the requirements of the Olympia Centre to extend its life and how this may be achieved with specific reference to accessibility, and the creation of a Non Profit Distributing Organisation.
- 2.4 Agree to continue to explore the alternative options put forward by the consultants to the Working Group, as outlined in this report.
- 2.5 Agree that the Director of Leisure & Arts report back to the City Council after discussions have been progressed with Dundee University and the City's Swimming Clubs, and the future proposals for swimming pool provision are finalised, including a clear indication where and when funding may be available.
- 2.6 Agree that public access to school pools throughout Dundee is also explored.

**3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 Provision has been included in the Financial Plan and Revenue Estimates of the Leisure and Parks Department for the continuation of operation of Olympia Leisure Centre.

**4. Local Agenda 21**

- 4.1 The proposals in this report support a number of the key themes of Local Agenda 21, including opportunity for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.

**5. Equal Opportunities Implications**

- 5.1 The proposals in this report are consistent with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

**6. Background**

- 6.1 At a meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on 28 June 1999, the Director of Leisure & Parks and the Chief Executive were given the remit to carry out a review of the Olympia Leisure Centre operations, with a view to investigating the reasons for a high level of subsidy, and what actions could be taken to reduce this, and report back to the Committee.

- 6.2 A meeting of the Leisure Services Committee of 15 November 1999, in a report identifying a range of measures to reduce the operating deficit of Olympia Leisure Centre, the Director of Leisure & Parks was given the remit to appoint consultants to investigate the long-term Capital and Revenue costs for either retaining the Olympia Leisure Centre or replacing it with a new purpose built facility established through a Leisure Company, and to identify feasible options which would not exceed the current subsidy to Olympia Leisure Centre, including the impact and the cost of borrowing.
- 6.3 At the same meeting, the Director of Finance was remitted to obtain a report from our Tax Consultants, Price Waterhouse Cooper, on the tax and VAT issue associated with establishing a Leisure Company to operate a replacement facility.
- 6.4 At this Committee, it was also recommended that a Cross-Party Working Group, including advisory representatives of **sportscotland**, Trade Unions, and users of Olympia Leisure Centre, be established to take forward the recommendation in the Committee report.
- 6.5 This Cross-Party Working Group has since been set up and had a series of meetings as well as swimming pool visits throughout Scotland.

## 7. **Feasibility Study**

- 7.1 The Consultants appointed were Kit Campbell Associates and Tim Cruttenden & Associates.
- 7.2 Towards the end of the production of the Feasibility Study, Dundee City Council was made aware that the University of Dundee is considering replacing its present 25 m pool, which like Olympia Leisure Centre, requires major reinvestment.
- 7.3 The Consultants considered what Public Pool provision is needed by Dundee and whether Olympia Leisure Centre can meet these needs. They analysed public new build options and locations, and the retention of Olympia. They also considered both capital and revenue costs, how these compared with the City Council's financial restrictions and the different options for funding these.

## 8. **The Way Forward**

- 8.1 The Cross-Party Working Group agreed with the Consultant's Conclusion that there are 2 possible options for new-build swimming provision in Dundee, but concluded the future retention and development of Olympia should also be further explored, including the possibility of a establishment of a non profit distributing organisation. This would include particular emphasis on changes to the present access arrangements.

## 9. **Consultation**

The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Planning, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance and the Director of Economic Development have all been consulted on the contents of this report.

## 10. **Background Papers**

Agenda Item I of the Leisure Services Committee of 28 June 1999.  
Agenda Item V of the Leisure Services Committee of 15 November 1999.

11. **Signature**

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Director of Leisure and Park

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Date