

Rutland County Council

Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP

Telephone 01572 722577 Email: governance@rutland.gov.uk

CABINET – 10.00AM Tuesday, 16 November 2021 at 10.00 am

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

15) LEISURE OPTIONS

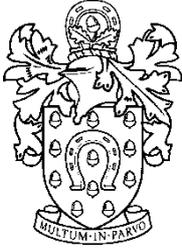
Supplementary to Report No. 161/2021 setting out the details of a petition referred to Cabinet from Council on 8 November 2021.

(Pages 3 - 6)

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MEMBERS OF THE CABINET: Councillor O Hemsley (Chair)
Councillor L Stephenson (Vice-Chair)
Councillor K Payne
Councillor I Razzell
Councillor A Walters
Councillor D Wilby

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SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

MEETING: CABINET – AGENDA ITEM 15

MEETING DATE: 15 NOVEMBER 2021

1 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

1.1 Following the publication of the Cabinet agenda, Rutland County Council has received a petition from members of the public expressing support for swimming in Rutland. The petition was received at the Council meeting on 8 November 2021 under Procedure Rule 28 and referred to Cabinet to respond.

1.2 The Petition calls upon the Council to:

Decide whether they [Rutland County Council] update and repair what we have [Catmose Pool]

Decide whether to look at a new premises

Find funding for a public pool

1.3 These requests have been carefully considered, and the recommendations set out in the report set out a clear way forward, i.e., not to repair the Catmose pool; to explore the potential for new facilities; to identify RCC match funding from Section 106 receipts to support swimming facilities; and to explore opportunities to secure from external sources the balance of capital funds required.

1.4 A report setting out the action the Cabinet have taken in response to the Petition will be submitted to the next meeting of Council.

2.0 CHANGES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

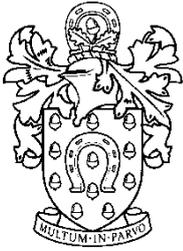
2.1 In addition to the recommendations set out in Report No. 161/2021, Cabinet is also recommended to:

2.2 Consider the Petition received at the Council meeting on 8 November 2021 from members of the public expressing support for swimming in Rutland and agree to report back to Council on the action taken in response.

3.0 APPENDICES

3.1 Appendix A: Petition submitted to Council on 8 November 2021.

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PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

MEETING: COUNCIL – AGENDA ITEM 6

MEETING DATE: 8 NOVEMBER 2021

No.	Petition, deputation or question	Details of Lead Petitioner
1	Petition – 1124 signatures	Leah Toseland 1 Coleridge Way Oakham Rutland LE15 6GA

STATEMENT OF THE PETITION

Currently Rutland is the only county in England with no public swimming pool. Catmose pool is closed as Rutland County Council say they cannot afford the repairs needed. This is totally unacceptable as swimming provides many very important benefits. These include.

- Swimming is a key life skill that every child should be given the opportunity to learn. 1 in 4 primary school leavers are unable to swim 25m (Swim England research, 2018).
- Local public pools provide affordable access to a form of exercise that's seen as a valuable life skill and brings people together to learn, bond and get fit.
- Many people using swimming to improve their mental and physical well-being.

There are public swimming pools in Melton, Corby and Stamford but these are simply not accessible for people who do not drive. The bus services are so poor that it makes it much more difficult to get to these pools especially for children's swimming lessons after school. It is not right that the only swimming pools in our county are privately owned and not as readily available for the people of Rutland.

Rutland County Council need to decide whether they can repair the pool or if they should be looking for a new development, perhaps to include a children's splash pad/park like those in Grantham (Wyndham Park,) Wellingborough and Peterborough (Bretton.)

Without a public swimming pool there will be a detrimental impact on people's mental and physical health. Rutland should have a public pool up to the same standard as Corby has, this could help attract people from out of Rutland to visit and use our pool, as people within our County travel to Stamford, Melton or Corby.

There is very little for young people to do within our county, and perhaps with a rejuvenated pool we can encourage young people to go swimming and encourage a new hobby.

RCC need to decide whether they update and repair what we have, or whether to look at a new premises so Rutland can rival the pool of Corby and the Children's Splash pad in Grantham.

Ultimately, Rutland County Council **MUST** find the funding for a public pool as the benefits far outweigh the negatives. This may mean they have to explore other options for funding such as a community run pool.

We call on Rutland County Council to find the funding for this essential facility.