

## **COUNCIL**

**13 December 2021**

## **PETITION REPORT**

### **Report of the Cabinet**

Strategic Aim:	All		
Exempt Information		No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:		Cllr O Hemsley, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships, Economy and Infrastructure	
Contact Officer(s):	Marie Rosenthal, Monitoring Officer		mrosenthal@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	All		

### **DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council:

1. Notes the response of Cabinet to the Petition presented to Council on 8 November 2021

### **1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To report back to Council on the action taken in response to a Petition presented at Council on 8 November 2021 and referred to the Cabinet.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At the Council meeting on 8 November 2021 a petition entitled "Rutland Swimming Pool" was submitted by Leah Toseland (since elected to the Council on 4 November 2021 and now Councillor Toseland). The petition had received 1124 signatures.
- 2.2 The wording of the petition was as follows:

### **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 use 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. 5 2 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.

- 2.3 Under Procedure Rule 28 of the Council's Constitution, the Chairman referred the Petition to the Cabinet at it's meeting on the 16 November 2021 where there was an item in relation to the future of the Rutland swimming pool.

### **3. DECISION OF CABINET**

- 3.1 The Cabinet considered the Petition at it's meeting on the 16 November and resolved as follows, to:

- 1) Approve the exploration of opportunities for county-wide leisure provision in partnership with the Rutland Local Sports Alliance, to determine whether any community owned / led options are viable.
- 2) Approve the development of plans for a Pool and Dry side Provision ("Wet and Dry"), or Pool Provision ("Wet Only") at a new site to an initial design stage, using the existing project budget, to build a viable case for a new swimming pool in Rutland, noting that progress beyond this point can only be undertaken when:
  - a) If Significant (at least 90%) capital funding becomes available from external sources, or a partner body is identified that would be willing and able to meet at least 90% of the capital requirement, and
  - b) The new provision can be delivered at no revenue cost to the Council

- 3) Agree to allocate £250,000 of Section 106 Developer Contributions received to date for the purpose of providing Recreation, Sport and Leisure infrastructure to a 225 Agenda Item 15 Swimming Provision Project, as match funding towards future provision and investment in facilities.
- 4) Note that further repair to the existing Catmose Pool, which has reached its end of life, is not affordable, and the pool will not be re-opened.
- 5) Authorise the Strategic Director for Places, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care, to enter negotiations with the Management of Catmose College to agree the future of the legacy leisure facilities at Catmose Campus, including the option to let a new nil-cost contract for the management of all or part of the dry side leisure facilities under the existing or renewed leases.
- 6) Authorise the Strategic Director for Places, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care to progress procurement of a dry-side leisure management contract if a nil-cost contract is achievable and agreeable to both the Council and Catmose College. Procurement implications will be reported to Cabinet before any award is made.
- 7) Authorise the Strategic Director for Places, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care, to enter negotiations with other local providers for the provision of public access swimming.
- 8) 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.

## **4 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 4.1 Report No. 161/2021 – Leisure Options and associated appendices, considered by the Cabinet on 16 November 2021.

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