
Rutland County Council
Leisure Review Update

- On 16th November 2021 Cabinet approved the Leisure Review recommendations that had been considered and amended by Scrutiny on 7th October 2021. Progress against these recommendations is outlined below:

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

The Leisure Project Board meeting on 25th January approved* terms of reference for a stakeholder group, including the Local Sports Alliance, to feed in to the project. An initial meeting is being scheduled

Development of plans for provision ... at a new site to an initial design stage, using the existing project budget, in order to build a viable case for a new swimming pool in Rutland, noting that progress beyond this point can only be undertaken when significant funding becomes available from external sources... and the new provision can be delivered at no revenue cost to the Council

Indicative plans for a new site-neutral wet and dry facility have been commissioned from a firm of professional architects and a cost consultancy firm

- *Allocate £250,000 of Section 106 Developer Contributions received to date for the purpose of providing Recreation, Sport and Leisure infrastructure to a Swimming Provision Project, as match funding towards future provision and investment in facilities*

The funding has been allocated in the Council's capital programme

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

The public, College and SLL have been informed of this decision, and additional security has been implemented on the site to secure the old pool premises

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

An initial meeting with the College has been held, and discussions are underway to jointly agree the future of the site, including the pool

- *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*

A soft market testing exercise is underway, supported by Welland Procurement, with the results expected by the end of February. These results will inform any procurement decision

Authorise the Strategic Director for Places, in consultation 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

Discussions have been held with Oakham School and Uppingham School around increasing access to their swimming facilities. Both sites have noted increased uptake of use following the closure of the Catmose Pool, but have not been able to increase public access hours due to existing commitments for school and hire use. Oakham School now has over 400 individuals using its swimming lessons, and 9 Primary Schools using their pool