



Leicester
City Council

**MINUTE
EXTRACT**

Minutes of the Meeting of the
ARTS, LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2003 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Clair - Chair
Councillor Mrs Maw - Conservative Spokesperson
Councillor Sandringham - Liberal Democrat Spokesperson

Councillor Green
Councillor Hall

Councillor Keeling

83. BRAUNSTONE LEISURE CENTRE - UPDATE REPORT

The Corporate Director, Cultural Services and Neighbourhood Renewal submitted a report summarising the progress made on the Braunstone Leisure Centre project. It was stated that the site was currently being cleared with completion envisaged for October 2004. A good working relationship had been developed with all partners and contractors and it was hoped that once completed the Leisure Centre would provide a significant level of employment for local people.

Councillor Clair welcomed the news that the project was now underway. Members raised concerns about the location of the leisure centre, transport links and the need for improvements to local infrastructure. It was felt that residents on the eastern side of the City would find it difficult to access the service. Concerns were also raised about security at the Centre.

The Corporate Director, Cultural Services and Neighbourhood Renewal stated that the project would not have attracted the funding it did had it not been located in Braunstone and changes to the facility may lead to a loss of grant. As a whole Leicester had a large number of swimming pools but a co-ordinated approach to make them accessible to all was required. With regard to infrastructure, it was explained that the planning approval for the project required a travel plan and a number of improvements to roads and junctions in the area. Security and safety features have been incorporated into the design of the centre.

Members expressed particular concern in regard to the potential impact of the need for increased revenue funding on other facilities. The Corporate Director, Cultural Services and Neighbourhood Renewal explained that increased revenue funding would be available corporately so it would have no direct effect on the departmental budget. However, Members expressed their unease that funding for the centre was relying on the corporate budget when this was

already under strain.

Councillor Sandringham, seconded by Councillor Mrs Maw, put the following resolution:

(1) That Cabinet be asked to give an assurance that there would be sufficient revenue funds available within corporate budgets to finance the Braunstone Leisure Centre; and

(2) that it be requested that if Cabinet were unable to give these assurances that consideration be given to a scaled down version of the project incorporating existing sports facilities within Braunstone, possibly incorporating Braunstone Hall hard court.

The matter was put to a vote and was carried.

RESOLVED:

(1) That Cabinet be asked to give an assurance that there would be sufficient revenue funds available within corporate budgets to finance the Braunstone Leisure Centre; and

(2) that it be requested that if Cabinet were unable to give these assurances that consideration be given to a scaled down version of the project incorporating existing sports facilities within Braunstone, possibly incorporating Braunstone Hall hard court; and

(3) That the report be noted.