



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED: Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields

CABINET

Date 21 July 03

**REFERRAL FROM ART, LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY
REGARDING BRAUNSTONE LEISURE CENTRE**

Report of the Corporate Director of Cultural Services & Neighbourhood Renewal

1. To propose a paper to Members of Cabinet on options for Braunstone Leisure Centre.
2. **Summary**
 - 2.1 Members of Arts, Leisure and Environment Scrutiny resolved 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
 - 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.
 - 2.2 The Council approved a 3 year revenue strategy in March 2003, which reflected the fact that corporate provision had been made for the running costs of the Braunstone Leisure Centre. What this meant in practice was that, in calculating spending and resources requirements for future years, the running costs of the Braunstone Leisure Centre had been included. This is distinct from other general growth pressures, where we expect departments to find compensating savings.
 - 2.3 However, the distinction between corporate and departmental funding can be somewhat artificial. Any commitment to set-aside a sum "corporately" has to be paid for, either by increasing the council tax or increasing the amount of reductions which need to be found from services as a whole. As you are aware, there are significant pressures on the 2004/05 budget.
 - 2.4 The question is thus difficult to answer in the terms in which it has been written.
 - 2.5 While it may be possible to reduce the scale of Braunstone Leisure Centre, doing so runs the risk of increasing the capital cost to the Council without significantly reducing the running costs.

- 2.6 For instance, deleting the larger main pool from Braunstone Leisure Centre might save £2.5 million but could cost in excess of £3million in abortive work and loss of grant.
- 2.7 Members of Cabinet may wish to consider a full range of costed options with a thorough risk analysis by commissioning a report to an early meeting of Cabinet. This report could then, in turn, inform decisions about your future budget strategy.
- 3. Recommendations**
Members of Cabinet are recommended to commission from officers a full report on options, with their costs and risks, to be considered at an early meeting of Cabinet.
- 4. Financial & Legal Implications**
There are no particular financial or legal implications in this report. The financial and legal implications of the full range of options will be explained in the later detailed report recommended above.

Report Author

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