

6. REPORT OF THE AQUATIC LEISURE FACILITY WORKING PARTY

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Diana Saxton, Community Recreation Advisor, DDI 941 6628 Marie Byrne, Community Advocacy Assistant, DDI 941 6660
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The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the progress of the aquatic leisure facility working party (the working party). It also seeks the Board's endorsement of a working party deputation on behalf of the Board to the Community and Leisure Committee and requests discretionary funding to undertake preliminary research.

The working party met on 3 October 2003 to assess the current situation regarding providing an aquatic leisure facility in the Linwood area following the Board's submission to the Council's Annual Plan process. It had been decided to extend the membership of the working party to include the following community representatives: Bev Adams (Woolston Development Project); Celia King (Linwood College Board of Trustees); Jeff Macey (Our Youth Our Community Trust) and Nic Stewart (Youth Worker).

Following an assessment of the current situation, the working party decided to further progress the proposal of a facility in the Linwood area by requesting a deputation to the November Community and Leisure Committee meeting to submit that there is a need to provide more than one aquatic facility in the city before 2011. Furthermore, the case for a facility in the Linwood area is strong given the following points:

- Existing research points to the need for a facility.
- Linwood is ideally suited as a location for the facility given the proximity to arterial transport routes including the Orbiter bus route.
- Access to existing facilities is limited for people in this area.
- Several sites have already been identified as possible sites in which a centre could be located which would build on developing a recreation hub based around Linwood Park in close proximity to Eastgate Mall.

The working party identified that a facility the size of Pioneer Stadium would be ideal. It is envisaged that this facility could become the first stage of a larger recreation zone based in the Linwood area.

From this stage the working party agreed that a study would need to be done to assess the feasibility of a facility such as Pioneer in the identified possible sites, and that funding would need to be sought for this study. It was decided to seek Board discretionary funding for this research. It is estimated that the cost of this feasibility study would be in the vicinity of \$5,000.

A sub group of the working party will meet to formulate a submission and make a deputation to the Community and Leisure Committee.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Community Board give the working party power to act to make a deputation to the Community and Leisure Committee and submit that more than one aquatic facility be provided in the city before 2011 and that priority be given to the Linwood area.
 2. That the Board consider allocating \$5,000 from its discretionary fund to enable preliminary research to be undertaken into the present and future use of the land in the area between Linwood Park and the Linwood Resource Centre.

Chairperson's

- Recommendation:** That the recommendations be adopted.