

2. FUTURE AQUATIC/LEISURE FACILITIES

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The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's support for a process by which a decision can be made on the location for the next aquatic/leisure facility and the timing of any development.

BACKGROUND

The Council at its meeting on 15 July 2003 adopted the following resolution in respect to future aquatic facilities.

"That all submissions relating to the provision of aquatic facilities in the Ferrymead Ward, south west Christchurch and the Papanui Ward be referred to the Community and Leisure Committee for a report on the requests for aquatic facilities and issues relating to existing and future community pools, with a report back to the Annual Plan Subcommittee for 2004/05."

Councillors will recall that following the development of Centennial and Pioneer Pools and the redevelopment of QEII, four other areas were identified as lacking aquatic facilities based on a catchment area of 4 km radius. These were the south-west area of Christchurch, the Papanui area the Ferrymead area and Jellie Park which is programmed for redevelopment over the next two financial years 2004/05 and 2005/06. The Riccarton/Wigram, Shirley/Papanui and Hagley/Ferrymead Community Boards have been proactive in lobbying the Council over the past two to three years in an attempt to secure the next aquatic/leisure facility which is not in the Council budget until 2011/12 .

DISCUSSION

To assist the Council to make the decision on the location of the next aquatic/leisure facility the following factors should be considered:

1. The population base and the potential population growth for the area.
2. The population demographics of the proposed area focusing on target groups, (children, youth, elderly, those with disabilities and low socio economic factors).
3. The distance to other aquatic facilities (4 km radius) and level of service by public transport.
4. The capital budget impacts for the Council including land acquisition impacts.
5. The operational budgets impacts for the Council taking into account potential closures of other aquatic facilities.
6. The potential for partnerships in provision and operation (local authorities, commercial providers schools etc).
7. The potential impact on other aquatic facilities both Council operated and others.

It is important to note that these factors will change over time and with any development still eight years out (2011/12) there is no value in carrying out research based on the situation as it exists today. Research based on the above factors should be carried out no more than three years in advance of the proposed development to ensure that any decision will be relevant.

The Leisure Unit is involved in preliminary discussions with commercial providers of aquatic facilities and any outcomes from these discussions could impact on any location decisions.

While it would be good to have a decision now on the location of the next aquatic/leisure facility, any research based on today's information will hold little relevance in eight years time. This leaves the Council the option of either delaying any decision process until 2007/08 or bringing forward the capital provision in the budget from 2011/12. This will still leave two areas not provided for.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the factors outlined above (1 to 7) be used to determine the location of future aquatic/leisure facilities and that staff inform the Community and Leisure Committee should this process have any proposed changes to the current levels of service offered through its existing aquatic facilities.
 2. That any research on the location of future aquatic/leisure facilities be carried out within three years of the proposed development.
 3. That a report be prepared for the Community and Leisure Committee and the Annual Plan Subcommittee about bringing forward expenditure for one pool and the possible provision of additional money for a second facility.