

8. AQUATIC FACILITIES STRATEGY CRITERIA

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services
Officers responsible:	Alan Bywater, Acting Research and Policy Manager and John Filsell, Recreation Facilities Manager
Authors:	Alan Bywater, DDI 941-6430 John Filsell, DDI 941 8303

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to fulfil stage one of the Aquatic Facilities Strategy covering the establishment of general criteria and direction for the location and type of facilities to be developed. These criteria will be applied as part of Stage 2 of this work to create an overall plan for the provision of aquatic facilities for the next 30 years.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Work has commenced on developing a comprehensive strategy for the future provision of aquatic facilities in the city for the next 30 years.
3. Staff have developed a series of criteria to apply in generating strategy options for subsequent consideration by the Council.
4. Significant relevant information to inform the aquatic facilities strategy has been collected and staff will be attempting to fill the information gaps over the next few months.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. There are no significant financial or legal considerations from this report.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council adopts the criteria for developing the aquatic facilities strategy as listed in section 4 of this report.

BACKGROUND

6. Work has commenced on developing a strategy for the future provision of aquatic facilities in the city. Aquatic facilities are defined as swimming pools with additional recreational features or community services attached to them. The overall aim of this strategy is:

'To develop a comprehensive plan for the provision and upkeep, for the next 30 years, of aquatic facilities in the city taking in to consideration existing Council and other provision.'

7. The following areas have been identified to be covered by the strategy:
- The future number and location(s) of aquatic facilities.
 - The type of facility to be developed in each location.
 - Options of providing aquatic facilities with other partners (including other territorial authorities).
 - Priorities for provision of aquatic facilities.
 - Effect of the planned leisure facilities on existing aquatic/leisure provision (Council and external).
 - Requirements for ongoing renewal and replacement within current and future facilities.
8. The Council has made significant budgetary provision over the next nine years for aquatic facilities provision, as follows:

2004/5	\$1.5m]	
2005/6	\$4.0m]	Jellie Park Upgrade ¹
2006/7	\$0.7m]	
2007/8	\$5.0m]	New facility(s)
2008/9	\$5.0m]	
2012/13	\$10.2m]	New facility(s)

9. It should be noted that the budgetary provision is over the next nine years. However the strategy will have a 30 year horizon. The budgetary provision made may require further consideration as part of the overall strategy.
10. Work to date has largely been focussed on gathering together the existing information pertinent to the planning, identifying the information gaps and how best to fill them.
11. As indicated in the initial brief the first stage of the strategy process is to develop some criteria that will be used as a basis for generating and evaluating options for future aquatic facility provision. This report recommends a series of criteria for this purpose, noting that all criteria must be considered together.

CRITERIA²

12. The strategy will consider aquatic facility developments according to the extent to which they fulfil community outcomes.³

¹ Indications are that the budget is insufficient to meet the development proposal as originally conceived. Also, it has emerged that the type of facility originally conceived for Jellie Park may not be the most appropriate. This will need to be considered by the Council in the context of the Annual Plan/LTCCP process.

² Criteria 6.1, to 6.4 include relevant decision making criteria from the Local Government Act; criteria to determine the location of future aquatic facilities approved by the Community and Leisure Committee (and subsequently Council) are included amongst the criteria detailed in section 6 of this report.

³ **Healthy and Active People** – Our People Live Long and Healthy Lives. Regular participation in physical activity has been identified as necessary for a healthy life. There is strong evidence that people who are active are healthier and have enhanced physical, mental and social wellbeing. Active lifestyles also reduce the risk of high blood pressure, obesity and osteoporosis. Aquatic facilities provide a wide range of opportunities and encouragement for people in Christchurch to be physically active. They provide opportunities for children and young people to learn to swim in a safe and enjoyable environment as well as helping them to develop lifelong activity patterns by providing an attractive and accessible environment in which to be physically active.

A Cultural and Fun City – Our people value leisure time and recognise that arts and leisure pursuits contribute to their identity, connectedness and wellbeing.

12. The strategy will prioritise aquatic facility developments that will increase overall participation in physical activity and aquatics rather than merely encourage people from one form of participation to another.
13. The strategy will prioritise aquatic facility developments that will most effectively contribute to the wellbeing and participation rates of all city residents.
14. The strategy will consider aquatic facility developments that will compliment a range of Council strategies, policies or initiatives eg urban planning, future growth of communities, transport, retail and school clustering.
15. The number, nature and form that future aquatic facilities take will be informed by community views.
16. The strategy will adopt an objective assessment of the needs of the city from a connected citywide perspective, taking into account the range of views expressed by the community.
17. The strategy will consider aquatic facility developments that will appropriately accommodate the needs of the community as a whole with particular attention being given to the needs of children, schools, youth, people with disabilities, older people and people on low incomes.
18. The strategy will identify aquatic facility developments that best balance:
 - effectiveness (degree to which community outcomes are achieved)
 - equity (degree to which the facility can be accessed by community groups)
 - efficiency (degree to which costs can be recovered), and
 - affordability (the finite limits on community resources).

Note: In developing a plan for the provision of aquatic facilities the Council will need to determine trade offs between effectiveness, equity, efficiency and affordability.

19. The strategy will consider the financial implications of aquatic facility provision. Namely; finite community resources, capital costs for land and buildings, and operational costs.
20. The strategy will support provision of aquatic facilities where they cannot be provided effectively and equitably by other providers.
21. The Council will consider other potential providers and providers working in partnership, rather than merely assuming that the Council is the only means of provision. Partnership can involve other providers enhancing Council facilities and neighbouring territorial authorities.
22. The strategy will ensure that the components of aquatic facilities are future proofed by being of a sufficient quality and by being able to adapt to different uses over time. In addition realistic expectations of the life of existing and future facilities will be identified and suitable future plans developed.
23. The Council will maintain and redevelop its existing facilities that effectively and efficiently meet current and future need before considering the development of new facilities

Aquatic facilities provide opportunities for Christchurch residents to participate in meaningful activities in their leisure time that contribute to their connectedness and wellbeing. The aquatic facilities environment provides opportunities for people to interact with one another in an unstructured casual way and in more structured ways (eg swimming lessons, competitive aquatic sports).

A Safe City – our people are free from crime, violence, abuse and injury. Aquatic facilities play a key role in helping people learn to swim with the consequence that they are less likely to suffer injury through accidental immersion in water. In addition these facilities equip people to assist others in difficulty and to prevent risky situations arising.

24. The Council will continue operating current facilities where they continue to effectively and efficiently meet current and future need.
25. The strategy will assess the potential benefits, and where possible encourage the co-locating of future aquatic facilities with other recreational or community facilities.

INFORMATION REQUIRED AND AVAILABLE

26. The information that will be considered in developing the plan includes the following:

Information Held

- Pool radius maps – shows areas of Christchurch covered by 4km radii from leisure centres, summer pools, and suburban pools, dated 2001
- Population density maps – shows population density and 4km radii around four main leisure centres, also shows deprivation index and 4km radii, age breakdowns and 4km radii, projected change in Christchurch population by area
- Projected housing development for next 10-20 years
- Pool usage data – across all pools, by overall numbers, plus breakdowns including child numbers, Community Service Card numbers, learn to swim numbers, provision and usage of aquatic programmes (baseline information showing current usage, growth trends)
- Leisure, Parks and Waterways reports for all community board areas except Shirley/Papanui, noting existing and desired facility provision, makes some recommendations for types of facilities in each area. Also notes general recreation trends.
- CCC Residents' Survey – shows participation trends over last few years for recreational activities, visits to pools
- Key Council studies and needs analyses:
 - Southeast Multipurpose Community and Recreation Hub Investigation
 - Papanui Community Needs Analysis
 - Papanui Community Centre Needs Analysis
 - Fendalton-Waimairi Community Multi-Purpose Facility Proposal
 - Fendalton-Waimairi Community Centre Needs Analysis
 - Sockburn Recreation Centre – Service and Facility Mix Report
 - Profile of Halswell
- CERM data – customer service data showing key areas of performance expectations, notes areas for improvement, possible gaps in provision. Also provides profiles of regular users and programme enrolments
- Pricing Review project – contains information on constraints and barriers to participation, focus group reports containing some comment on desired pool provision and location
- Requirements of aquatic recreation and sporting groups
Programmed maintenance and condition assessment reports of indoor leisure facilities.

Information Needed

- School pool needs for both swimming and school aquatic sports:
- Current and desired swimming standard and abilities of children
Current own pools usage and anticipated future usage
Life expectancy of own pools
Expected and desired use of CCC pools
- Condition of outdoor pools, ie asset management requirements, to identify existing and future costs
- Market research to identify the perceptions of current and future needs
- Potential partners and intentions of other providers
- National and international trends in pools provision
- The capital budget impacts for the Council including land acquisition impacts and availability of land.
- The operational budgets impacts for the Council taking into account potential closures of other aquatic facilities.

PROCESS



