

Officer Implications (for office use)

Please give your comments on this proposed topic, for example is there any other similar review planned or in progress, are there any potential resource constraints etc

During the past two decades gymnastics provision within Cheltenham has predominantly been through the development of several privately run local gymnastics clubs operating within the area. Facility provision for the clubs has been through hire or lease agreements using a number of local properties.

Until November 2000, the "Gym Centre", operated from the council owned Montpellier Pavilion, through a lease arrangement. The pavilion was closed in November 2000, on the grounds of health & safety following the identification of white asbestos within the facilities.

In recognising the recreational and community value of the "Gym Centre" in the town, particularly for young people, the council included the provision for the sport within the improvement plans for the Midwinter area, with the provision of a gymnastics facility within the current development brief for the site. Development of this area is progressing with the recent selection of seven developers to proceed to Stage 2 of the selection process, which will ultimately determine the council's preferred developer and chosen scheme for the site.

The gymnastics provision has been identified as an "aspirational" element within the Midwinter area improvement plans with the short listed developers currently preparing their submissions which will set out their vision for the Midwinter area, in line with appropriate Council policies and supported with financial information. Narrative within the brief in respect of gymnastic provision is as follows:

Reservation of space for gymnastics centre (2,100 square metres building footprint).

Notwithstanding the issues facing society regarding the health and physical activity levels of young people, it is important to recognise that the council has never been responsible for the direct provision or development of this sport, in the town. The clubs who have successfully developed the sport have done so as private concerns with exclusive facility provision arrangements in place. Such an arrangement could not be considered by the council within its existing level of sports facility provision, i.e. leisure @ cheltenham, hence the aspiration for a gymnastics facility being included within the Midwinter area improvement plans.

There are no resources either financial or human available to further progress this specific request at this stage.

Links to Business Plan and Corporate Objectives or Risk Register	The council has not identified gymnastic facility provision within the business plan, corporate objectives, risk register or medium term financial strategy.
---	--

Completed by: Sonia Phillips, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing

Date: 10th September, 2004