

**Extract from the minutes of Cabinet – 18 November (Agenda Item 8)
(Cabinet report attached)**

Cheltenham Indoor Cricket Centre/Gymnastics facility Feasibility Study

The Cabinet Member Sport and Safety introduced this report which had been circulated with the agenda. He explained that following the extensive flood damage and subsequent closure of the Indoor Cricket Centre on 24th June 2007, officers were instructed to commission a feasibility study to explore future options for the re-provision of the Cheltenham Indoor Cricket Centre, which also included the viability of incorporating an indoor gymnastics centre into a future facility. The report set out details of the feasibility study, which identified a number of options for Cheltenham's future indoor cricket and gymnastic facility provision following consultation with key stakeholders within the cricket and gymnastic community. He explained that his recommendation did not follow that of the consultants because certain assumptions had been made when the report was commissioned which had changed over time as follows:-

- The existing site of the Cheltenham Indoor Cricket Centre was deemed to be inadequately protected from future flooding. A suitable bund was now in place and the council's insurers were satisfied that the building could therefore be re-instated.
- It had been anticipated that cross subsidy would be available from the Midwinter Area Improvement scheme. In view of the economic downturn this was no longer a feasible option.
- The original insurance claim of £1.2m was based on total rebuild. Following further assessment the building was deemed structurally sound and the council's insurers have allocated £125k.

The Cabinet Member Sport and Safety explained that because a decision regarding the future of cricket provision had been delayed, works were not undertaken as part of the main building contract for the reinstatement of Leisure@. As a result of losing economies of scale the recently re-estimated value of the work was now £160k. It was proposed that the shortfall be met from the Leisure@ budget for flood reserve. In recommending the report to Cabinet, the Cabinet Member Sport and Safety, indicated that Option A was the only feasible option available and would quickly achieve the re-provision of indoor cricket in Cheltenham. He introduced Mr Dave Courtney, former Chairman of Gloucestershire Cricket Board and main sponsor of the indoor cricket 6-aside competition to say a few words in support of the recommendations as a representative of the cricket stakeholders.

In response to Cabinet Members' questions the Assistant Director Wellbeing and Culture explained that the initial view had been that the cricket hall was condemned to the point of rebuild with an estimated

replacement cost of £1.2m and the feasibility study had proceeded on that basis. However following a subsequent structural survey, the premises were found to be structurally sound and could be re-instated, therefore the council's insurers estimated the value of works to be £125k. PMP Leisure Consultants were informed and the final report had therefore been delayed to insure that all facts were correct.

At the invitation of the Leader, Councillor Hall asked the Cabinet what its aspirations were for the provision of an indoor gymnastics centre in Cheltenham, as there was a lot of local support for one. In response, the Leader indicated that in view of the existing budget gap, the current economic climate and the councils' on-going commitments another big capital scheme in the foreseeable was unrealistic. He explained that the provision of a gymnastics facility was not a corporate priority, however Members could put forward a case to be considered as part of the Cabinet's interim budget proposals for 2009/10.

The Cabinet Member Built Environment was concerned about the process leading up to the decision, in particular the disparity between the estimated replacement cost of the cricket hall of £1.2m (the basis for PMP's original feasibility study) and the amount allocated by the council's insurers of £125k which had resulted in a further delay to the report and future re-provision of indoor cricket in Cheltenham. He was also concerned about the issue of making the re-provision of the cricket hall a separate contract to the re-instatement of Leisure@ which had resulted in additional costs. He suggested that the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee be invited to investigate the process of events so that lessons could be learnt in future.

The Cabinet Member Sport and Safety thanked David Courtney for attending the meeting and welcomed some input from the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee but indicated that this would not change the decision or delay the re-instatement any further.

The Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report and invited the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee to look into the process leading up to the decision being made in order to learn lessons for the future.

(Executive Decision 42/2008 attached)

To be approved at the next Cabinet meeting to be held on 16th December 2008

Decision 42/2008

CABINET DECISION REPORT FORM

**Cheltenham Indoor Cricket Centre/Gymnastic Facility Feasibility Study
(Agenda item 8)**

1. Decision made

1. Approves the re-instatement of the indoor cricket centre on a like for like basis (Option A of the feasibility report)
2. Allocates £35k of the insurance claim settlement to offset the shortfall identified to fund the reinstatement works
3. Invites the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate the disparity between the estimated replacement cost of the cricket hall of £1.2m (the basis for PMP's original feasibility study) and the amount allocated by the council's insurers of £125k which had resulted in a further delay to the report and future re-provision of indoor cricket in Cheltenham. What lessons could be learnt from the process for future in particular the issue of making the re-provision of the cricket hall a separate contract to the reinstatement of Leisure@ which had resulted in additional costs.

2. Identity of the Decision Maker

Cabinet

3. Date of Decision

18th November 2008

4. Reasons for Decision

Re-provision of the Cheltenham Indoor Cricket Centre, following the extensive flood damage and subsequent closure on 27th June 2008

5. Consultation undertaken

As set out in Section 2 of Appendix 1

6. Results of Consultation

Report of Cabinet Member Sport and Safety – Cheltenham Indoor Cricket Centre/Gymnastics Facility Feasibility Study

7. Alternative options considered and rejected by the Cabinet at the meeting

None

8. Background documents

Leisure@cheltenham Cabinet report 9th October 2007

To be approved at the next Cabinet meeting to be held on 16th December 2008
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9. Interests declared

None

10. Dispensation

Was a dispensation given by the Standards Committee in respect of any declaration of interest listed at 9?

NOT APPLICABLE

Date of dispensation ...N/A.....

YES... NO...