

Refurbishment of Glenogle Swim Centre

Culture and Leisure Committee

20 November 2007

Purpose of report

- 1 To update the Committee on progress with the planned refurbishment of Glenogle Swim Centre.

Main report

- 2 At its meeting of 23 August 2007, the Council considered a report on the refurbishment of Glenogle Swim Centre, and called for a progress report to be submitted to the Culture and Leisure Committee meeting in November.
- 3 Glenogle Swim Centre is the last of the Council's five Victorian pools to be scheduled for major refurbishment. Previous works at the other four pools, which have been very favourably received by the public, have been in sympathy with the original architecture and design features of the buildings, and it is proposed to repeat this approach for Glenogle.
- 4 The works were tendered in May 2006, and the lowest compliant tender returned was £2.985m, which was approx £1m in excess of the funding available. The Council subsequently agreed to defer the refurbishment of Glenogle, re-allocate the remaining budget provision, and explore alternative proposals for the delivery of the project.
- 5 Local residents and users formed a Save Glenogle campaign which called for the Council to reaffirm its commitment to the sympathetic refurbishment of the pool, and to reject approaches from developers which would involve the demolition of the building and the creation of a new pool and housing.
- 6 The earliest date for the project to be rescheduled into the Council's Capital Investment Programme is 2010/11. The estimated total cost of the refurbishment works, updated and projected to 2011, is £5.8m. A bid for this amount has now been made to the Council's Budget Review Group, which decides on the priorities for the Capital Investment Programme. If this bid were unsuccessful, it would not be possible to proceed with the project, and a further attempt would have to be made next year to bid into the Council's Capital Programme for 2011/12.

- 7 In parallel with the bid for core funding from the Council's Capital Programme, preliminary enquiries have been made to a number of organisations regarding the possibility of some external funding being made available. **sportscotland** had previously agreed a grant of £350,000 towards the project, its maximum award at the time. However, when the Council was forced to postpone the project, **sportscotland** advised that they would have to withdraw their offer of an award. If the project were to be rescheduled for 2010, it is likely that **sportscotland** would again provide some funding, and in fact the maximum available under this scheme has now risen to £500,000. There is, though, no guarantee of this or any amount from **sportscotland** at this stage – a fresh grant application will be required if and when the Council approves the core funding for the project.
- 8 As Glenogle Swim Centre is a listed building, enquiries will also be made to Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding the possibility of grant funding. However, as with **sportscotland**, an application cannot be made until the core Council funding for the project is in place. It should also be noted that the money available to organisations like **sportscotland** and the Heritage Lottery Fund is diminishing, due to a reduction in their own funding from the National Lottery.
- 9 If the bid for core funding is successful, efforts will also be made to attract investment from Edinburgh's private sector. For example, one of the city's leading financial institutions has offices close to the pool, and may be interested in becoming involved, either to be able to offer use of the pool for its workforce, or even as part of its ethos of community involvement.
- 10 Meetings have been held with representatives from the Save Glenogle campaign to keep them updated on progress with the project. The architect for the project has presented details of the proposed refurbishment scheme to representatives of the campaign, and this has been very favourably received.
- 11 Some minor but important interim remedial works have now been carried out to the undercroft supports to the pool surround. There were no other structural issues brought to light by the engineering surveys of the building which required immediate attention.

Financial Implications

- 12 A bid for £5.8m has been made into the Council's Capital Investment Programme for 2010/11. The decision of the Budget Review Group should be known by early February 2008.

Recommendation

- 11 That the Committee note the report.

Jim Inch
Director of Corporate Services

Appendices	None
Contact/tel	David Wardrop, Sports Manager, Tel 0131-529 7738
Wards affected	5 – Inverleith; city-wide
Background Papers	Report to Council of 23 August 2007