

East Renfrewshire Council

Media release



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PUBLIC TO HAVE SAY ON OPTIONS FOR FUTURE LEISURE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE EASTWOOD AREA

A public consultation is to be held to find out the views of residents on a number of potential options for future leisure and recreational facilities in the Eastwood area of East Renfrewshire.

Councillors on East Renfrewshire Council's Cabinet agreed that a range of options will be put to residents to allow members of the public to have their say on the scope of facilities on offer in future.

Significant maintenance issues have been identified at the current Eastwood Park Leisure facility, with Carmichael Hall and Eastwood Theatre also requiring major renovation and refurbishment if they are to remain fit for purpose.

Work to identify the various options available to the Council as it aims to improve the facilities currently on offer within the Eastwood area has already been carried out.

The options which will be put before the public in the New Year include continuing to run the centre on a maintenance basis only, addressing the current maintenance backlog issues, redeveloping the existing site or scoping out the potential for creating a new state-of-the-art leisure and recreational facility on a different site within Eastwood.

Council Leader Tony Buchanan said: "The Council has always been ambitious and aspirational with regard to its education provision and investment in new and refurbished schools, while our commitment to delivering regeneration projects totalling £44m through the City Deal also show our vision for the area. The current facility at Eastwood Park Leisure presents the Council with an opportunity to consider, develop and set out clearly its ambitions and aspirations with regard to future leisure provision within the Eastwood area.

"It's clear from the work already carried out that we need to look at all options before considering the best way forward. So we want to hear the public's views to allow us to consider the best way forward. We are absolutely committed to providing the best possible facilities for our residents so I would urge everyone to get involved in this consultation to help shape our plans."

The studies already carried out into the condition of the current leisure facility have outlined that whilst continuing with the current maintenance regime is an option to be considered, ultimately it is unsustainable.

The further option being put forward for consideration is to address the current maintenance issues which would tackle the immediate problems at the centre. However, this option would not provide an improved service offering capable of competing in the current market. It would also require the facility to close either partially or fully during the maintenance works, causing significant disruption to customers.

If the option of a major refurbishment of the current centre was undertaken it would provide better facilities, with the potential to include a new competition swimming pool, redesigning the gym space, a sports hall along with a new changing village, pool side sauna and steam room, and soft play area. This option would require the centre to be fully closed for potentially up to 12 months.

Another potential option is a creating a new facility which would give Eastwood residents access to modern leisure, wellbeing and recreational opportunities. This would include a swimming pool, theatre and conference suites and provide a replacement for the existing Eastwood Park Leisure building.

If a new facility was to be developed it has the potential to be three times the size of the current leisure centre and could include a six lane competition pool, teaching pool, sports hall, dance and fitness studios, an interactive play area, community library space, fully equipped gym, health suite, café area and four outdoor five-a-side 3G football pitches with floodlights.

A theatre with studio facility, dressing rooms, green rooms, toilets and cafe/bar could also be incorporated into any new facility.

A challenge posed by this option is the identification of a suitable new site. Some sites which could be considered appropriate for a completely new development, although detailed feasibility work would still be required, are Woodfarm Pavilion and playing fields, Eastwood Park, Broomburn Park, Overlee Pavilion and playing fields, Braidbar, Rouken Glen, and Shawood Park in Newton Mearns.

If a new build facility was the preferred option then this would however allow the existing facility to remain open until the new centre was ready, providing continuity of service for residents.

At an East Renfrewshire Council Cabinet meeting on Thursday 7 December Councillors agreed to commission a master plan outlining potential future options for the Eastwood Park campus.

This will be carried out alongside a comprehensive feasibility study into the potential for the possibility of building a new facility within the Eastwood area.

Details of the consultation process will be confirmed in due course.

ENDS

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