

Press Release

September 21, 2026

Manor Leisure Centre redevelopment plans update

Detailed work remains ongoing to fully cost redevelopment of Whittlesey's Manor Leisure Centre.

Engineering investigations necessary as part of the detailed design process have uncovered significant concerns with the long-term viability of retaining elements of existing facilities, including the swimming pool tank and associated plant areas.

Fenland District Council leader Cllr Chris Boden, told September's full Council meeting (on September 14) the overall project costs, previously estimated at £18.7 million, is expected to be higher. A report is being prepared for Cabinet giving further detail to allow decisions to be made on the way forward.

The requirement to replace all elements of the existing facilities alters the nature of the development to such a degree that a fresh full planning application is required, Cllr Boden said. The new planning application is expected to be lodged imminently.

Once lodged, the application will be available for public view and comment via the Fenland District Council website: www.fenland.gov.uk/planning

Fenland District Council set out an aspiration to redevelop the centre as part of its [Fenland Inspire!](#) investment campaign, aimed at enhancing leisure facilities and public spaces across the district.

Cabinet has previously been told the current Manor Leisure Centre has reached the end of its useful life and would cost more than £4million to keep running in its current form. The proposed redevelopment would create a facility fit for decades to come and improve financial viability by attracting more users and making it less costly to run.

When complete, the Cabinet report giving details of the latest position will be available for public view barring any parts that have to be kept confidential due to, for example, legal advice or sensitive third-party data. It is anticipated the report will be published by October.

Cllr Boden told Monday's meeting: "Costs have gone up, particularly on the construction side, and we are now talking about a larger project than we were talking about before. Inevitably, that is going to mean an increase in the overall cost."

After the meeting Cllr Boden said: "This is a major, incredibly aspirational project to create a facility fit for the future.

"We await the Cabinet report to consider all relevant factors and make appropriate decisions on next steps." **Ends**