



Press Release

9 October 2026

Options outlined for future of Manor Leisure Centre, Whittlesey

More details on options for the redevelopment of Manor Leisure Centre in Whittlesey are outlined in a report to Fenland District Council's Cabinet later this month.

Cost of full redevelopment is likely to exceed £20.5million, while options to repair and maintain the existing facility are estimated to be up to £7.4million.

A report before Cabinet on Monday 19 October says full redevelopment could bring improved and longer-lasting facilities, long-term stability, increase the use of the centre and improve income generation. Repairing and maintaining the existing facilities would require significant ongoing investment and further expenditure in future years.

Cabinet members will be asked to note the situation at next week's meeting and advised that work is ongoing to assess 'value for money' of the options and update cost estimates.

A further report, including detailed assessments and calculations, is expected to be presented to Cabinet in December, when councillors are expected to decide which option should be taken forward.

Last month, Council Leader Chris 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."

A detailed Royal Institute of British Architects design protocol has been followed since the Council began looking seriously at options for the centre two years ago. The technical design phase (RIBA stage 4) is now complete, with construction the next step. Issues always feared to be a possible risk have come to pass. There's a fundamental structural engineering issue associated with the existing swimming pool tank. Rising costs due to inflation have also hit.

As previously reported, a new planning application was required after it became clear that the existing pool tank would need to be replaced if the redevelopment option is pursued. That application has now been submitted.

In addition, the Council's construction partner went into administration and while a replacement contractor was appointed quickly, the change contributed to delays in the

programme. Earlier redevelopment cost projections were based on a construction start date of November this year, which is no longer possible.

The anticipated Cabinet decision in December will mark the culmination of the detailed pre-construction design work, ensuring councillors can make an informed decision on the option best placed to secure the long-term future of this important community facility.

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Notes to Editors

For media enquiries, please contact the Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226 or email: communications@fenland.gov.uk