

STAFF REPORT

TO: Councillors

FROM: Community Services Manager

REFERENCE: P951

DATE: 6 December 2005

SUBJECT: Proposed Motueka Swimming Pool

PURPOSE

To advise the Council of the following recommendation from the Motueka Community Pools Incorporated Society:

“That the Feasibility Study, prepared by LHT Engineering Solutions, for the Motueka Aquatic Centre be accepted, and the recommendation be made to Council to prepare the proposal for the public consultative process early in 2006.”

BACKGROUND

Since the decision was made to proceed with plans for a swimming pool on the north/eastern side of the Motueka Recreation Centre, LHT were engaged to prepare a concept plan and costings both for capital and ongoing running costs. The facilities within the complex are based on a brief prepared by the Pool Society.

A copy of the report from LHT is enclosed with the agenda. The report shows a total cost of between \$4.0 million and \$5.0 million.

DISCUSSION

This project has been subject to strong submissions to Council during Annual Plan submissions for a number of years and has increased significantly in cost since the first proposal was put to Council.

The LHT report provides detailed costings and suggests using a figure of \$4.5 million with the need to recognise that this could vary by \pm \$0.5 million.

Based on \$4.5 million, the local contribution would be \$900,000.00 being 20% of the total cost. How the balance of \$3.6 million would be funded will need to be debated.

The following are examples of how other facilities have been funded over the last two years:

	Estimated Cost	Facilities Rate	DILs	Fundraising
ASB Aquatic Centre	\$5.7 million	\$2.0 million	\$2.1 million	\$1.7 million
Lake Rotoiti Hall	\$0.8 million	\$0.4 million	-	\$0.4 million
Moutere Hills Complex	\$2.4 million	\$1.8 million	-	\$0.55 million
Motueka Grandstand	\$1.3 million	\$0.9 million	-	\$0.4 million

Whether the Motueka Reserve DILs could afford to make any significant contribution is debatable, although the answer to this will be clearer once the LTCCP process is finalised early in 2006.

The Facilities Rate is the obvious means of funding, however, Councillors need to be aware that \$3.6 million funding would increase the rate by approximately \$16.50 per property. Therefore, some other funding may be required such as DILs and/or a higher level of public funding.

Before putting the proposal out to the public Council will need to decide on how the project will be funded.

The annual operating costs, according to the LHT report, would have an annual deficit of between \$80,000.00 and \$100,000.00, and this would be met by a special rate over the Motueka Pool rating area.

OPTIONS

The Pool Society has asked Council to prepare the proposal for the public consultative process early in the new year.

This could be done by sending an information brochure to every property in the proposed rating area with a tear-off return slip indicating support or otherwise for the project. While this would give an indication of how the public feel about the project, some people are concerned that this method does not provide a true indication of the public's views and would sooner have a poll on the issue.

Another question that has been raised in recent days is "What are the alternatives?" There is the view that if the public are canvassed and the project does not receive the green light then it will be difficult to promote any alternatives in the future.

Therefore, should a cheaper alternative be included in any proposal going to the public? Again, this creates the concern that the majority of the public would vote for the cheapest option, not necessarily the best option for the future growth of Motueka. At this stage it is not known whether there is a cheaper option available.

RECOMMENDATION

That the request from the Motueka Pool Society be considered with a view to canvassing the community on their views and further that Council discuss:

- 1 How the community is to be canvassed.
- 2 Should more than one option, if others are available, be included?

L L Kennedy
Community Services Manager

<http://tdctoday:82/shared documents/meetings/council/full council/reports/2005/rcn051214 report proposed motueka swimming pool.doc>