

Camberwell Leisure Centre – Frequently Asked Questions

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Investing in Leisure

- **Which leisure centres are involved in the programme?**

Of the total £12.3 million allocation of leisure investment the first phase involves the complete refurbishment of Dulwich Leisure Centre (£5 million) and Surrey Docks Watersports Centre (£2.3 million).

The council has allocated £1.5 million towards a sustainable investment solution for Camberwell Leisure Centre and is spending additional funds here to ensure that the centre remains open whilst this is being sought.

Funds are also being spent on Elephant & Castle Leisure Centre and Seven Islands Leisure Centre to ensure that the current buildings are enhanced and remain operational to the public until they are replaced by state-of-the-art new leisure centres.

- **How is Southwark Council paying for this investment?**

The council has paid for this investment entirely from its own funds, and will also be seeking any external funding we that can be added to this budget to make things even better.

- **Will leisure centre charges increase as a result of this investment?**

No. The purpose of this investment is to provide you with a better service, not to increase charges. The Council is committed to providing a service which is accessible for everyone and wished to increase number of people using the centres as a result of this investment.

- **Why is Southwark Council investing in the leisure centres in this order?**

The first phase of the leisure centre investment scheme of £12.3 million aims to be fully under-way in late spring/early summer of 2008. It is our objective is to provide all Southwark residents with the quality of leisure centres they want and deserve. Obviously we cannot upgrade all of our leisure centres at once; the programme has to be phased so that customers have a convenient leisure centre to visit whilst their local one is being refurbished.

- **What is Southwark Council doing about disabled access?**

All of Southwark Council's fully refurbished leisure centres will meet with the standards set by the Disability Discrimination Act, as will the new centres which will replace Elephant & Castle and Seven Islands. Until the new centre come on line we will also continue to make changes at the existing centres to improve access for people with disabilities.

- **How will the refurbishment affect me as a user?**

You will end up with a modern, well-designed leisure centre that you will want to use. We'll keep disruption to a minimum whilst the building is going on, keep you fully informed and offer you an alternative whilst we are refurbishing your local centre.

- **How will the refurbishment affect me as a resident?**

For the duration of the reinvestment project, please be reassured that we will keep all construction noise to a minimum and will endeavour to conduct the work during normal working hours.

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- **What is the current situation with Camberwell Leisure Centre?**

Southwark Council recognises the value of Camberwell Leisure Centre to the community and its historical importance. That is why the sum of £1.5 million has already been allocated by the council to the leisure centre as guaranteed match-funding for a scheme to revitalise the centre and retain it for leisure. This will be supplemented with any capital, which can be raised from the disposal of land or assets within the boundaries of the centre. We are also actively seeking any external grant funding to which the centre might be entitled.

- **Will the centre remain open?**

Yes. The council has made a commitment that the centre will remain operational whilst a sustainable solution to the investment need is sought. In order to make this possible the council has provided more than £200,000 of additional funding to deal with essential works at Camberwell. This is on top of the £1.5 million match-funding. Southwark Council is also looking with Fusion, our management partners, at ways in which we can enhance the leisure programme on offer at the centre.

- **Who is looking at the solution for Camberwell Leisure Centre?**

The Camberwell Leisure Centre Working Group, comprising key stakeholders has been meeting since April 2007 to consider all the options, which will secure a sustainable future for the centre. The Working Group is Chaired by Councillor Lorraine Zuleta, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport and includes Councillors from the local Ward. We are looking at every aspect of the centre and working with a range of partners to try to find an innovative way forward.

- **What is the next stage of the Working Group's programme?**

The working group will report back to Southwark Council Executive in October 2007, at which time we will have a clearer picture of the possibilities and how to best proceed in order to meet local residents' aspirations for the centre.