

Frequently Asked Questions - Investing in Leisure

In February 2007 Southwark Council agreed to allocate £12.3 million for the refurbishment of its leisure centres. This is a greater sum than has ever been provided for this purpose and more than any other London borough is currently spending on such a project.

Although brand new state-of-the-art centres will be provided at Canada Water and Elephant & Castle the council will be upgrading the current centres in the interim. Details of the new centres and upgrades to the current facilities at Elephant & Castle and Seven Islands will be added to this web page in the near future.

FAQs

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 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.

If you are either a user or a resident and want to be kept directly informed with the progress of the project, then just let us know by completing your details in the ['Interested Parties'](#) section online.

Dulwich Leisure Centre

- **How much is Southwark Council investing in Dulwich Leisure Centre and what will it achieve?**

In the first phase of Southwark Council's refurbishment programme £5 million of the £12.3 million has been allocated to Dulwich Leisure Centre to upgrade the building and facilities completely whilst preserving and enhancing the historical features.

Dulwich Leisure Centre serves a wide population, approximately 35,000 residents – its main catchment area is from the following six wards; East Dulwich, Nunhead, Peckham Rye, South Camberwell, The Lane and Dulwich Village.

- **When is the refurbishment work scheduled to begin and how long will it last?**

Work will commence on this project in the late spring of 2008 and is scheduled to last approximately 18 months to deliver a 21st century leisure facility right on your doorstep. We will have a better idea of the building programme and actual timescales nearer the time and will continue to keep you informed both before and during the refurbishment. Our aim is to work as quickly as possible to and re-open as much of the building as we can, as soon as we can.

- **What is Southwark Council doing to preserve the historic features of Dulwich Leisure Centre?**

Although the reinvestment project is only at consultation stage, Southwark Council is already in discussion with [English Heritage](#) and is taking advice on the aspects of the building which must be preserved in line with the Grade II listing. We want to make sure that we modernise the facilities but retain and enhance the historical aspects that make Dulwich Leisure Centre special.

- **What has the council done to involve residents and users in how the refurbishment money is spent?**

On August 17 the council began the four-week consultation period with residents of East Dulwich, Nunhead, Peckham Rye, South Camberwell, Dulwich Village and The Lane wards by posting **26,000** letters and reply cards to them. At the same time the council posted **6,500** letters and cards to regular users of the Centre and invited all clubs that use the facilities to email their members to ensure they were also included.

The consultation report provides you with results of the consultation as well as giving you responses to questions raised by the respondents about the different types of service to be

made available from the Centre. See this link to read the results of the [Consultation Report](#) published on October 31 on the Southwark Council web site.

- **Even though the initial consultation has passed, how can I be kept informed?**

Although we have held the initial consultation, the council still wants to hear from all residents and users if they have an opinion to voice or even if they just want to be kept informed.

To register your interest in this project please visit the Southwark Council web site at www.southwark.gov.uk – and click on ‘**Sports and Leisure**’ on the left hand side, then select ‘**Investing in Leisure**’ – You will then have the choice of which leisure centre you want to learn more about – click on ‘**Dulwich Leisure Centre**’ and here you will see an [online form](#) to complete – it takes a couple of minutes.

On the web site you will also learn more about all three of the on-going leisure centre projects with responses to frequently asked questions for Surrey Docks Watersports Centre, Camberwell Leisure Centre and of course [Dulwich Leisure Centre](#).

Details will be posted on the web site as more information becomes available regarding further consultations or notice of key dates and special events as part of the refurbishment programme. If, however, you register your interest then we will notify you directly via your chosen method of communication – post or email.

- **What type of facilities will the new Centre be able to offer?**

The initial consultation presented many new ideas which are being considered within the allocated budget. We can confirm there will be: cycle parking, upgraded wet and dry changing rooms, cubicles for family changing, secure larger lockers, children’s soft play area, upgraded pool facilities and an extension to the facilities currently available. In addition the new Centre being DDA compliant, it will definitely have a better and greater range of gym and pool facilities with increased opportunities for more people to join in, and anything else provided will be complementary to these.

- **When will there be a draft plan so we can see what the new Centre might look like?**

As a result of the consultation report and meetings the council hosted an exhibition at Dulwich Leisure Centre on Saturday November 24 from 2 to 4pm.

From **November 2007** you will be able to see conceptual designs of the new refurbishment along with outlines of equipment to be installed. The exhibition is situated just after reception – turn right and before you enter the gym you will see the graphic panels.

End of FAQ’s

Read on for a Summary of the Consultation Report – [the full report](#)

Summary Consultation Report for Dulwich Leisure Centre

- In February £12.3 million was allocated for the refurbishment of its current leisure centres
- £5 million has been allocated to Dulwich Leisure Centre
- Dulwich Leisure Centre is over 100 years old (June 25 1891) and is Grade II Listed. By working with English Heritage from the outset the new centre will provide users with a state-of-the-art building whilst retaining as many of the historic features as possible.
- August 17 Southwark Council sent 26,000 letters to residents and 6,500 letters to users
- Note: 1292 people replied that were users of the centre (largest group)
 - 691 replies were from people that do not use the centre
 - 184 didn't tick a box / 69 people replied that did not want to be kept informed
- We received 2,236 replies – 6.8%. Of the replies people expressed an interest in these top 4 requirements of the centre:

Pool	2012 /	Exercise classes	1768
Gym	1796 /	Treatment rooms	1324

Summary of suggestions made in the Consultation Report:

- Access and parking – Good cycle parking will be available with designated car parking reserved for disabled users.
- Changing rooms and facilities – In addition to male and female, wet and dry changing rooms there will be larger cubicles for family changing and secure larger lockers.
- Children and crèche – A soft-play area is included in the conceptual plans. There will also be dedicated classes for children and staff to work with them. Crèche facilities with extended hours are also being planned so that parents and carers of young children can take part in activities.
- Classes and personal training – Twenty-two different exercise classes are already on offer at Dulwich Leisure Centre but the plan is to increase this number and offer greater opportunities for individual personal training.
- Disability enhancements - The centre will be fully accessible for people with disabilities – there will be hearing loops, handrails and features for people with visual impairment as well as full wheelchair and pushchair access from the new entrance. The refurbished Centre will comply with [DDA](#) regulations not only in terms of building design and equipment but also in relation to trained staff and services provided.
- Disruption – The aim is to transform the centre whilst preserving and enhancing its Grade II listed status. This will involve the Centre being closed for a period of time so members will be offered alternative Fusion facilities for gym and swimming. For residents – noise from the building works will endeavour to active during normal working hours.
- Green issues and café – Energy efficiency and long-term sustainability are being incorporated into the new design as far as is practically possible. Provision for a coffee shop is being made in the reception area which will serve a selection of healthy refreshments.
- GP Referral and Health Suite/Treatments – Health is a key feature of the newly designed building. There are plans for expansion of the existing GP referral scheme and opportunities for other therapies will be explored.
- Pool – Over 90% of respondents to our consultation had useful suggestions for the new pool. Some ideas being considered include: a moving floor (so that the depth can be adjusted); chlorine-free filtration and a hydrotherapy feature.
- Studios and room Hire – The new centre's studios will be soundproofed and adaptable for community hire (for parties and functions).

End of Summary