

# **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 15 December 2003**

**REPORT ON: Removal of Sunbeds from Leisure and Arts Facilities**

**REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts**

**REPORT NO: 818-2003**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek approval for the proposal to remove 8 sunbeds from Olympia Leisure Centre (6), Lochee Leisure Centre (1) and Douglas Sports Centre (1) by the end of 2004.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that members agree that sunbed use will be discontinued by the end of 2004 in Council Leisure facilities.

2.2 It is recommended that members agree to re-configuration of Olympia facilities, as outlined in Section 7 below.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 An estimated £50,000 of capital expenditure will be necessary to re-configure the existing facilities at Olympia. This will be accommodated within the Leisure and Arts Capital Plan for 2004/2005.

3.2 It is anticipated that the overall impact of removing sunbeds and re-configuring the facility layout, will have a neutral effect on income, which can be contained within existing Leisure and Arts Revenue budgets.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Recreation opportunities will be maintained and enhanced.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This initiative is consistent with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

## **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

6.1 An assessment of the medical issues surrounding the public provision of sunbeds has been conducted via the Community Planning Partnership (Health Action Team) and the following developments have been noted:

- COSLA and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health have both recommended that local authorities should no longer be selling sunbed sessions.
- The British Medical Association reports that sunbed use increases the risk of skin cancer, eye damage and photo-sensitivity disorders.
- It has been concluded that there is sufficient concern surrounding the continued public provision of sunbeds that Dundee City Council should discontinue this provision at its leisure centres.
- Recent newspaper reports have confirmed that only ten local authorities in Scotland still offer a sunbed service to customers.

## 6.2 **Re-configuration of Olympia**

The removal of the six sunbeds at Olympia does however impact upon the current mix of facilities within the Aqua Sana health suite. It is therefore proposed that the leisure facilities at Olympia are reconfigured to maximise income generation potential. This will be achieved by relocation of the existing fitness equipment to Aqua Sana and the utilisation of the existing fitness studio as an activity room. This will enable the provision of aerobics and other exercise classes to be programmed, for which there is significant public demand.

The following works will be required:

- Separation of wet and dry areas by construction of a glazed wall
- Installation of air-conditioning to the dry area
- Transfer of fitness equipment to the dry area
- Minor refurbishment of the fitness studio to create an activity room

## 7.0 **CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

7.2 The Council's Health Promotion partners have also been consulted and they endorse the proposal to remove sunbeds from local authority Centres.

## 8.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None

**STEVE GRIMMOND**  
**DIRECTOR OF LEISURE and ARTS**  
**DATE 19 NOVEMBER 2003**