

Response from Councillor Mike Rowley, Board Member, Leisure Services to the address to Council by Nigel Gibson

The Council's website contains detailed answers to these points which have already been provided to Mr Gibson.

<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decLP/ConsultationonLeisureFacilities.htm>

To assist members I have summarised a few key points:

The new pool costs are just over £9 million, not the stated £13 million. The £9 million figure is made up of the professional fees and constructions costs.

Temple Cowley Pools costs the council in excess of £500,000 per year. The table shown in Mr Gibson's address to council shows the estimated management fee but excludes utilities and repair and maintenance costs. Both these costs are very high at the two centres that are being replaced by the new pool at Blackbird Leys.

The management fee paid to Fusion Lifestyles is the combined net fee for all the centres. The ice rink and Ferry Centre generate a surplus which is then offset against the cost of the other centres, of which temple Cowley is by far the most costly.

Whist Fusion are responsible for maintenance at the newer centres, the council continues to be responsible for the maintenance costs at the older sites with higher risk of failure (Temple Cowley, Blackbird Leys Pool, the Ice Rink and Hinksey outdoor pool). This is because the cost of transferring that risk to Fusion Lifestyles is prohibitively high.

The £150,000 management fee for the new pool is inclusive of all utilities and maintenance costs.

The business case and feasibility study were developed with the support of Mace. Mace are an highly respected international consultancy and construction firm who have stood by their advice throughout intense scrutiny over recent years.

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