

CABINET– 10th July 2003

RINGWOOD RECREATION CENTRE LIFT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 All the Council's Recreation Centres have lifts in order to allow access to facilities at all levels.
- 1.2 The lifts are used mainly by disabled or elderly customers, mothers with pushchairs and for some deliveries.
- 1.3 In all cases the lifts are those which were originally installed when the Centre's were built and they receive an annual inspection in order to ensure their safety and fitness for purpose. The inspection also results in a report on the present condition and possible future maintenance requirements.

2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 The lift at Ringwood Recreation Centre was installed in 1983 and following an inspection in 1999 it was identified that it was nearing the end of its useful life and would need replacing within the next few years. A replacement cost was included in the Expenditure Plan under the category of future years.
- 2.2 This item remained in that category until last year when it was felt that given the current condition of the lift funding should be identified for 2004/05 for the lift replacement.
- 2.3 The condition of the lift has unfortunately deteriorated more quickly than anticipated and there have been 8 breakdowns in the last 12 months which have already cost over £2,000.
- 2.4 In addition to costs of repairs the breakdowns have caused major problems of access for elderly and disabled customers and mothers with pushchairs to the extent that a number of customers will not use the Centre until the lift is back in working order.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 A report from our lift engineers in March recommends that for future reliability the lift is replaced with a modern day equivalent within the next 12 months.
- 3.2 It is therefore proposed to replace the lift in the current year when other works are being undertaken to the cafeteria area on the first floor.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Following the inspection of the lift that took place last year a sum of £30,000. was included in the capital expenditure estimates for 2004/05.

4.2 In order to undertake the necessary works it is proposed that the £30,000 capital allocation should be vired from the Marchwood Youth Club capital provision on the basis that it unlikely that the Youth Club project will require all the funds to be spent in this financial year. At some stage in the future Members will need to allocate further funds if it wishes the Youth project to be completed.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The proposal has been put forward following a report from the Council's specialist lift engineers.

6. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

6.1 The Portfolio Holder supports the recommendation.

7. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The virement means that the youth club project will not be completed without further funding later in the year. This could have implications to the issues surrounding the need for local youths to have suitable places to meet and engage in constructive activity rather than the possibility of drifting into inappropriate behaviour.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are none.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the proposal in 4.2 of the report.

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Background Papers: