

KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO RESOURCES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 21st March 2006

DEVIZES LEISURE CENTRE - SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL BID LIGHTENING CONDUCTOR

REPORT BY MARK SMITH
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE SERVICES (designate)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek support from the Committee for additional capital for the installation of a lightening conductor.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Director of Environment and Leisure Services is seeking supplementary capital funding of C£30,000 from reserves, for the installation of a lightening conductor at Devizes Leisure Centre. The estimation for the provision and installation was obtained from a reputable specialist contractor in order to provide an indication of the costs involved. The contract for the provision of the lightening conduction shall follow the Council's normal tendering procedure.

3 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

There are no staffing implications arising as a result of this report.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising as a result of this report.

5 RISK IMPLICATIONS

The risk of a lightening strike at Devizes Leisure Centre is eleven times the minimum acceptable risk. The risk is 1 in 8,900, the British Standards recommends that protection should be provided for buildings where the risk is a lesser figure that 1 in 100,000.

6 BACKGROUND

The Council approved a capital budget of £1.5m to be spent at Devizes Leisure Centre in financial year 2005/6. Unfortunately, financial provision was not made for a lightning conductor within the build cost. The issues were discussed at the Risk Management Group which met on February 15th 2006 and a report by the Council's Engineering and Design Services Manager were considered **APPENDIX A**.

7 THE VIEW OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT GROUP

The view of Risk Management Group was that the Devizes Leisure Centre should be protected against lightning strikes and a report should be submitted to the Resources Executive Committee requesting that a supplementary capital bid for £30,000 should be approved for the installation of a lightning conductor.

8 CONCLUSIONS

In the event of a lightning strike resulting in a fatality or serious injury it would be difficult for the council to defend why it did not take reasonable practicable measures to mitigate the risk.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to;

a) Approve a supplementary estimate of C£30,000 to allow for the installation of a lightning conductor and make a recommendation to the Council accordingly.

Director of Environment and Leisure (designate)

MS/REC/002

KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL

RISK MANAGEMENT GROUP

15th February 2006

LIGHTNING RISK TO DEVIZES LEISURE CENTRE

**REPORT BY STEVE IBBETSON
ENGINEERING AND DESIGN MANAGER**

1 INTRODUCTION

To inform the Risk Management Group about the risk of a lightning strike to Devizes Leisure Centre and to make recommendations about managing the risk.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommended option will result in additional costs to the Devizes Leisure Centre Refurbishment.

3 BACKGROUND

The Council's professional advisors raised concerns about the possibility of a lightning strike on Devizes Leisure Centre. The Project Team looking after the refurbishment of Devizes Leisure Centre instructed their advisors to establish the extent of the risk.

A specialist lightning protection company assessed the risk of a strike as being about 1 in 8,900.

The British Standards recommends that protection should be provided for buildings where the risk is a lesser figure than 1 in 100,000.

Devizes Leisure Centre is therefore a factor of eleven times this minimum acceptable risk.

In the event of a lightning strike the users of the swimming pool would be the most vulnerable to fatalities and serious injury. Additionally it is likely that extensive damage would be caused to the electrical systems resulting in a prolonged closure of the Centre for repairs.

4 PROPOSALS

Option One: Provide a lightning protection system to the Leisure Centre at an estimated cost of £30,000 and £500 per year maintenance. This would give protection to the site and the Council's residual risk would be negligible.

Option Two: Do nothing. In the event of a lightning strike resulting in a fatality or serious injury it would be difficult for the Council to defend why it did not take reasonably practicable precaution measures to mitigate a foreseeable risk. The cost would be no defence.

5 RECOMMENDATION

The Risk Management Group is recommended to agree;

- a) that Devizes Leisure Centre should be protected against lightning strikes as part of the refurbishment of the building.