

Hengrove leisure centre on track

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Members of Bristol's cabinet are set to consider a report which outlines the case for agreeing to a £800,000 out-of court settlement in a bid to keep the prestigious, multi-million pound Hengrove leisure centre on track.

The council has been negotiating with a consortium, led by DC Leisure Management (DCLM) to resolve the legal complications following a challenge over complex aspects of the procurement process.

By settling out of court now, the council would avoid a lengthy legal situation and be able to actively press ahead with the winning bidder - BAL ltd - to deliver the state-of-the-art leisure centre to the people of south Bristol.

The Cabinet, while confident the council's actions have been correct will need to carefully weigh up all the risks involved when they meet on Thursday, July 30, 2009.

Key developments to deliver the leisure centre in 2011 are already underway, including infrastructure works to provide road access and utilities to serve the leisure centre and other elements of phase 1 of the Hengrove Park regeneration programme.

And the Government has reaffirmed that the current funding for the project in the form of PFI Credits remains secure.

Councillor Simon Cook, deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, sport and capital projects, says: "The Hengrove leisure centre and the opportunities it will create for local people remain central to our plans for the regeneration of south Bristol.

"We are determined to deliver the leisure centre and are keen move onwards to complete Phase 1 and progress to phase 2 of this ambitious development.

"This current legal situation cannot be allowed to derail this crucial development. The settlement represents just one percent of the lifetime cost of the project - and can be managed within the overall Hengrove Park budget."

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