

Pool spillage

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Swim centre costs more than \$3.5m allocation, shows report

MORE public land might need to be sold or money borrowed to fund any future development for the Oakleigh pool site, a report is expected to reveal at Monash Council tomorrow night.

The pool steering committee report shows costings for options to redevelop the site are each more than the \$3.5 million the council had allocated.

The report states the council may have to borrow or sell land to make up the shortfall.

It also reveals two council-owned sites in Mount Waverley

and one site in Oakleigh will be sold for a total of \$2 million to finance the pool.

The three public open space sites identified are: 2 Stanley Avenue, Mount Waverley; 7 Lesay Court, Mt Waverley; and 18 Cabena Crescent, Oakleigh.

The four redevelopment options for the pool site, to be displayed for community consultation, are: a 'splash pad' or 'water play zone', a 50-metre

outdoor heated pool, a 50-metre outdoor heated pool and diving pool, and a 25-metre 'free form' outdoor heated pool.

The first and cheapest option includes a 'water play zone' to replace the existing 50-metre pool. The diving tower would be retained as an iconic sculpture.

The option was costed at \$4.1 million.

The option of a 50-metre pool, which would involve the

rehabilitation of the existing pool, would cost \$4.6 million.

If the diving pool is retained and heated, the project will cost \$5.39 million.

Based on a six-month season opening from October to March, and with entry charges, the pool options would have up to four times the operational costs of a splash pad.

A 25-metre, free-form, heated outdoor pool was the most

expensive option at \$5.59 million.

The council is expected to decide on the future of the site in May, following community consultation.

Steering committee member Cr Stephen Dimopoulos said the earliest the redevelopment would open, after a tendering and design process, was 2009.

He said the council couldn't rely on State Government

funding to finance the pool.

However, he said, Oakleigh MP Ann Barker was its "strongest ally" and would fight "150 per cent" for the pool.

Community Life Action Group spokeswoman Julie Clearwater said she hoped the final options would include a toddlers' or learners' pool.

She questioned whether the diving pool needed to be heated.