

# ***Report to the Council***

**Subject: Emergency and Urgent Expenditure  
- Ongar Leisure Centre and Leisure Services Offices**

**Date: 30 October 2007**

**Portfolio Holder: Councillor M Cohen**

**Item: 12(b)**

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## **Recommendation:**

**That the need to incur expenditure totalling £7,188 outside of the Budgeting Framework, as advised by the Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder, with respect to urgent measures taken to repair the roofs of Ongar Leisure Centre and Leisure Services Offices, Hemnall Street, Epping, be noted.**

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1. In accordance with paragraph 2.63 of Appendix B to Financial Regulations, I am advising the Council of the need to incur expenditure outside of the budgeting framework, on the grounds of urgency.
2. It was brought to Leisure Services' attention on 29 August 2007 that a substantial amount of lead flashing had been stolen from the roof of Ongar Leisure Centre
3. Under the terms of the contract with the Council's Leisure Management Partner, responsibility for external/structural repairs was retained by the Council.
4. As there was clearly a risk of water ingress to the building and interference to users, urgent work was undertaken to repair the roof, with a non-lead alternative. It was not practical to convene a quorate meeting of the Council before proceeding with the work.
5. The Police were informed, who advised that there had been a number of similar incidents in the area. The Council's insurance does not cover thefts in these circumstances, as the building is located within unsecured public open space and there has been neither forcible entry or exit to achieve the theft.
6. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, was consulted and agreed that the expenditure was required as a matter of urgency.
7. The final cost of the repairs to Ongar Leisure Centre have now been established at a level of £5,608, which can be charged against the Council's Insurance Fund.
8. Similarly, on the 8 October 2007, it was discovered that some lead flashings had been stolen from the roof of Leisure Services Offices, Hemnall Street, Epping. Although less in quantity, damage was incurred to the roof tiles on its forced removal. The cost of repair is £1580. Again, this can be met by the Council's Insurance Fund.
9. In accordance with the Constitution, these matters are now being formally reported to Council as expenditure has been incurred which is not wholly in accordance with the approved budget.