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Rising costs downsize arena expansion plans

By [SHAWN LOGAN](#), SUN MEDIA

Concerns some community-led projects aided by city funding are spiralling out of control have prompted council to call for a report to find ways to deal with the growing problem.

Aldermen yesterday approved scaled-down plans for the expansion of Centennial Arena, 2390 47 Ave. S.W., from its original scope of two ice surfaces to one with the same \$5-million commitment from the city, despite a move to delay funding.

Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart said, with other projects set to tap into the city's purse, a strategy is needed to deal with any future cost escalation so taxpayer dollars are spent most effectively.

"We all fully anticipate there will be more of this cost escalation for projects that will come forward," she said, calling for a six-week delay to look into why costs have spiked and ways to avoid it. "This is a problem to support one of these knowing full well what's coming down the line."

But some aldermen said further delays will only see costs go higher and the work should just get started.

"The last thing we need on this project is another delay," said Ald. Bob Hawkesworth.

"We could be back a month from now and they'll be further behind."

