

Agenda

Cabinet

Date: **Thursday 26 March 2026**

Time: **2.00 pm**

Place: **Council Chamber**

For any further information please contact:

Democratic Services

committees@gedling.gov.uk

0115 901 3906

Cabinet

Membership

Chair	Councillor John Clarke
Vice-Chair	Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth
	Councillor David Ellis
	Councillor Kathryn Fox
	Councillor Viv McCrossen
	Councillor Marje Paling
	Councillor Lynda Pearson
	Councillor Henry Wheeler

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Responsibility of committee:

Cabinet is the meeting of all executive members. The Executive will carry out all of the local authority's functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the local authority, whether by law or under the Constitution. Cabinet Portfolios are detailed within Section 6, Part 9 of the Council's Constitution.

AGENDA

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MINUTES CABINET

Thursday 19 February 2026

Councillor John Clarke (Chair)

Present: Councillor David Ellis Councillor Marje Paling
Councillor Kathryn Fox Councillor Lynda Pearson
Councillor Viv McCrossen Councillor Henry Wheeler

Officers in Attendance: M Hill, F Whyley, T Adams, S Troman, N Osei,
L Juby, P Whitworth, D Reason, S Anderson,
J Goodall and L Squires

78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hollingsworth.

79 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29.01.2026

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1) The minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

80 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

None.

81 FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Democratic Services Manager, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, detailing the Executive's draft Forward Plan for the next six-month period.

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1) Cabinet noted the report.

CARLTON ACTIVE RIBA 2 BUSINESS CASE

The Assistant Director of Communities, Leisure & Wellbeing introduced a report which had been circulated prior to the meeting to provide Cabinet with a structured programme update on the Carlton Active Leisure, Health and Wellbeing Centre project following the Cabinet decision of 25 September 2025 that agreed a business plan for the new facility.

This includes an update on the consideration of the inclusion of bowls provision following the petition debated by Council on the 12 November 2025. The report presents the outputs of RIBA Stage 2 design work, including the emerging design proposals, indicative capital cost position and key programme, affordability, equality and environmental considerations.

The report seeks Cabinet direction on the proposed next steps for the project, namely progression into pre-construction through RIBA Stages 3 and 4, to be delivered via the UK Leisure Framework, subject to affordability, statutory requirements and budget approval. No decision is sought at this stage, on construction commencement or entry into irreversible contractual commitments however information is provided on prospective construction timetable and indicative final scheme costs.

RESOLVED:**That:**

- 1) Cabinet noted and agreed the outputs of the RIBA Stage 2 design work for the Carlton Active Leisure, Health and Wellbeing Centre, including the emerging design proposals, business case position and indicative RIBA Stage 2 cost plan, recognising that these remain subject to further development and refinement and having regard to the evidence set out within the report in respect of indoor bowls provision.
- 2) Subject to budget approval, Cabinet approved progression of the project into pre-construction, specifically RIBA Stage 3 (Spatial Coordination) and RIBA Stage 4 (Technical Design), to be delivered through the UK Leisure Framework.
- 3) Cabinet agreed the closure of the Richard Herrod Centre with effect from 1st May 2026, to enable the redevelopment of the site as the Carlton Active Centre, noting that the closure date aligns with the agreed programme for pre-construction and redevelopment.
- 4) Cabinet agreed to withdraw from the Carlton Forum Leisure Centre joint use agreement and authorised the serving of notice by the Chief Executive, in the consultation with the Leader of the Council, at the appropriate time in accordance with the terms of the agreement, in order to enable an orderly transition of leisure provision in Carlton.
5. Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the

Chief Executive, in the consultation with the Leader of the Council, to seek all necessary approvals relating to final design and the progression of the scheme through the planning and statutory approvals process, including planning applications, building control and building regulations matters, where such decisions are required to facilitate the approved progression of the project.

- 5) Each equalities impact assessment at each RIBA stage be disseminated to cabinet.
- 6) A report be brought to cabinet regarding the rehousing of the bowls club within the borough.

83 OPTIONS TO EXPEND S106 AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTRIBUTIONS

The Assistant Director of Housing and Resettlement introduced a report which had been circulated prior to the meeting to consider options available to the Council to best utilise Section 106 commuted sum monies with the aim of delivering urgently needed, good quality affordable housing in the Borough.

*Cllr Paling left the meeting at 14:26
Returned to the meeting at 14:30*

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1) Cabinet approved that the Council works in partnership with relevant Registered Providers of social housing to either build or acquire affordable units within the Borough.

84 GEDLING PLAN Q3 PERFORMANCE 2025/26 REPORT

The Assistant Director of Digital, Data and Technology introduced a report which had been circulated prior to the meeting to inform Cabinet in summary of the position against Performance Indicators and Annual Delivery Plan Actions in Quarter 3 of 2025/26.

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1) The progress against Improvement Performance Indicators for quarter 3 of 2025/26 be noted.

- 2) More information be brought back to cabinet on the cause of planning application delays.

85 COUNCIL PLAN - GEDLING'S LEGACY PLAN 2026 - 2028

The Assistant Director of Digital, Data and Technology introduced a report which had been circulated prior to the meeting to consider and endorse the Council Plan for the period 2026-2028 before it is submitted to Full Council for approval.

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1) Cabinet members endorsed the Council Plan (Gedling's Legacy Plan), 2026 – 2028 and recommended it for approval to Full Council.
- 2) The creation of accessible state of the art play equipment in parks be added to point 1.2 before the report is presented to council.
- 3) Information regarding the improvement of air quality within Gedling be added to point 1.5 before the report is presented to council.

86 PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT (TMSS) 2026/27

The Principal Finance Business Partner introduced a report which had been circulated prior to the meeting to present for Members' approval the Council's Prudential Code Indicators and Treasury Strategy for 2026/27, for referral to Full Council on 4 March 2026.

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1) Cabinet approved the Prudential and Treasury Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) 2026/27, which includes the key elements below, and referred it to Full Council on 4 March 2026 for approval as required by the Regulations:
 - A. The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement (2.2);
 - B. The Borrowing Strategy (2.3.4).
 - C. The Annual Investment Strategy (2.3.8), including 2.3.8 (a) increasing the Money Market Fund Limits from £4m to £5m
 - D. Capital Affordability Prudential Indicators for 2026/27 through to 2027/28 (Appendix 1).
 - E. Treasury Indicators including affordability limits to borrowing for 2026/27 through to 2028/29 (Appendix 1).

- 2) Noted the indicative Prudential Indicators for 2029/30 and 2030/31 (Appendix 1)
- 3) Approved the Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices (Combined Principles & Schedules) as set out in Appendix 5.

87 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2026/27 TO 2030/31

The Principal Finance Business Partner introduced a report which had been circulated prior to the meeting to present for Members' approval:

- 1) The proposed Capital Investment Strategy for 2026/27 to 2030/31.
- 2) The proposed Capital Programme for 2026/27 through to 2028/29 for approval, and the indicative Capital Programme for 2029/30 and 2030/31, in light of the Council's priorities and the resources available; and
- 3) The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2026/27.

The Capital Investment Strategy, the Capital Programme and the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy determined by Cabinet at this meeting will be referred to Full Council on 4 March 2026 for final approval. The detailed capital programme proposals are shown in Appendix 2 to this report.

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1) Cabinet agreed the estimated capital financing available for 2026/27 through to 2030/31.
- 2) Agreed the Capital Investment Strategy 2026/27 through to 2030/31 detailed at Appendix 1 and refer it to Full Council for approval on 4 March 2026.
- 3) Agreed the Capital Programme for 2026/27 through to 2028/29 detailed at Appendix 2 and refer it to Full Council for approval on 4 March 2026.
- 4) Noted the indicative Capital Programme for 2029/30 and 2030/31.
- 5) Agreed the Flexible Use of Capital Receipt Strategy in Appendix 3 and refer to Full Council for approval on 4 March 2026.

88 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2026/27

The Principal Finance Business Partner and Interim Deputy Section 151 Officer introduced a report which had been circulated prior to the meeting to inform Cabinet of the revenue budget which aligns to the Gedling Plan priorities, objectives and priority actions for the Council for the forthcoming year.

RESOLVED:

That:

Cabinet recommends to Council on 4 March 2026:

- 1) That the financial threshold of £0.5m which decisions be regarded as Key Decisions be set at £0.5m for 2026/27.
- 2) A provisional Council Tax increase of 2.998% (£5.82) which balances the financing of a Net Council Tax Requirement of £8,064,108 in 2026/27.
- 3) The detailed budget for 2026/27, as detailed in Appendix 1 be approved.

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ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.

None.

The meeting finished at 15:23 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date:



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Forward Plan

Date: 26 March 2026

Author: Democratic Services Manager

Wards Affected

All

Purpose

To present the Executive's draft Forward Plan for the next six month period.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

Cabinet notes the contents of the draft Forward Plan making comments where appropriate.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council is required by law to give to give notice of key decisions that are scheduled to be taken by the Executive.
- 1.2 A key decision is one which is financially significant, in terms of spending or savings, for the service or function concerned (more than £500,000), or which will have a significant impact on communities, in two or more wards in the Borough.
- 1.3 In the interests of effective coordination and public transparency, the plan includes any item that is likely to require an Executive decision of the Council, Cabinet or Cabinet Member (whether a key decision or not). The Forward Plan covers the following 4 months and must be

updated on a rolling monthly basis. All items have been discussed and approved by the Senior Leadership Team.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 The Forward Plan is ultimately the responsibility of the Leader and Cabinet as it contains Executive business due for decision. The Plan is therefore presented at this meeting to give Cabinet the opportunity to discuss, amend or delete any item that is listed.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 Cabinet could decide not agree with any of the items are suggested for inclusion in the plan. This would then be referred back to the Senior Leadership Team.
- 3.2 Cabinet could decide to move the date for consideration of any item.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 There are no carbon reduction/sustainability implications arising from this report.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Forward Plan

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None identified

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 To promote the items that are due for decision by Gedling Borough Council's Executive over the following six month period.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Chief Financial Officer

Date:

18/03/2026 (report content)

Approved by:

Monitoring Officer

18/03/2026 (report content)

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Gedling Borough Council

FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2026 TO 31 OCTOBER 2026

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the key and non-key decisions which the Executive Cabinet expect to take during the next six months.

The current members of the Executive Cabinet are:

Councillor John Clarke – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance

Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth and Economy

Councillor David Ellis – Portfolio Holder for Public Protection

Councillor Kathryn Fox – Portfolio Holder for Life Chances and Vulnerability

Councillor Marje Paling – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services (Operations)

Councillor Lynda Pearson – Portfolio Holder for Communities and Place

Councillor Viv McCrossen – Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Natural Habitat

Councillor Henry Wheeler – Portfolio Holder for Lifestyles, Health and Wellbeing.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters listed below may do so by contacting the relevant officer listed against each key decision, within the time period indicated.

Description of the decision	Date decision is expected to be taken and who will take the decision?	Responsible Officer	Documents to be considered by the decision maker	Cabinet Portfolio	Open / Exempt (and reason if the decision is to be taken in private) Is this a Key Decision?
<p>Council Tax Support Households with Terminally Ill Members Report to consider the adoption of a reduction in council tax to households that are in receipt of relief through the local council tax reduction scheme (CTRS) where a resident living in the household has been diagnosed with a terminal illness.</p>	<p>26 Mar 2026 Cabinet</p>	<p>Andrew Solley, Assistant Director Revenues & Welfare Services</p>	<p>Officer Report</p>	<p>Leader of the Council</p>	<p>Open Yes</p>
<p>Gedling Borough Council Biodiversity Report This is a requirement to publish a Biodiversity Report that documents the policies and actions carried out in order to comply with the biodiversity duty.</p>	<p>26 Mar 2026 Cabinet</p>	<p>John Krawczyk, Assistant Director - Development</p>	<p>Officer Report</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth and Economy</p>	<p>Open No</p>
<p>Saturday ashes internments Presents the findings of a review to assess the business case, feasibility, and operational implications of introducing Saturday ashes internments.</p>	<p>26 Mar 2026 Cabinet</p>	<p>Andrew Burgin, Parks Operations Manager</p>	<p>Officer Report</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Natural Habitat</p>	<p>Open Yes</p>
<p>Leisure Transformation: Joint Use Sites Report and consider the findings of the Joint Use Consultation undertaken in 2025.</p>	<p>26 Mar 2026 Cabinet</p>	<p>Lance Juby, Assistant Director of Communities, Leisure & Wellbeing</p>	<p>Officer Report</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Lifestyles, Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Open Yes</p>
<p>Council grant funding To consider the outcome of the recent Council grant funding consultation and to determine decisions in relation to funding for Citizen's Advice, the Play Forum, Phenomenal Futures, RCAN and member pots.</p>	<p>26 Mar 2026 Leader of the Council</p>	<p>Kate Lindley, Director of Transformation</p>	<p>Officer Report</p>	<p>Leader of the Council</p>	<p>Open No</p>

Description of the decision	Date decision is expected to be taken and who will take the decision?	Responsible Officer	Documents to be considered by the decision maker	Cabinet Portfolio	Public / Exempt (and reason if the decision is to be taken in private) Is this a key decision?
Erewash Building Control Partnership	26 Mar 2026 Cabinet	John Krawczyk, Assistant Director - Development	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth and Economy	Fully exempt – Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 No
Housing Strategy 2025-2030 The Housing Strategy set out Gedling Borough Councils vision and priorities for housing in the Borough over the next five year period.	23 Apr 2026 Cabinet	Paul Whitworth, Assistant Director - Housing and Resettlement	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth and Economy	Open Yes
Performance Indicators and Annual Delivery Plan 2026/27 To agree the Annual Delivery Plan actions and Performance indicators and targets against which performance will be measured in 2026/27.	23 Apr 2026 Cabinet	Dan Reason, Assistant Director - Digital, data and technology	Officer Report	Leader of the Council	Open Yes
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Non- Parish Funding – Consultation Response and Funding Decision 25/26 For Cabinet to note the representations and comments received in relation to the CIL Non-Parish Neighbourhood Public Consultation and approve the awarding of CIL Non-Parish Neighbourhood Funding and the retention of unsuccessful projects on the Local Infrastructure Schedule.	21 May 2026 Cabinet	Lewis Widdowson, Planning Officer	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth and Economy	Open Yes
Gedling Local Development Plan - publication draft To seek approval to consult on the Gedling Local Development Plan and submit for examination.	21 May 2026 Cabinet 10 Jun 2026 Council	Jo Gray, Planning Policy Manager	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth and Economy	Open Yes

Description of the decision	Date decision is expected to be taken and who will take the decision?	Responsible Officer	Documents to be considered by the decision maker	Cabinet Portfolio	Public / Exempt (and reason if the decision is to be taken in private) Is this a key decision?
Progress Report on Carbon Management Strategy To update Members on the progress of the Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan	21 May 2026 Cabinet	Sim Duhra, Climate Change Officer	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Natural Habitat	Open Yes
Gedling Plan Q4 Performance 2025/2026 Report Update on the annual delivery plan and performance for Q4	21 May 2026 Cabinet	Dan Reason, Assistant Director - Digital, data and technology	Officer Report	Leader of the Council	Open No



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Future Management of Joint Use Leisure Centres

Date: 26 March 2026

Author: Leisure and Wellbeing Transformation Programme Manager

Wards Affected: All Wards

Purpose

To present the findings of the public consultation undertaken between 26 November and 18 December 2025 regarding the future of Joint Use Agreements at Carlton Forum Leisure Centre, Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre.

To provide an update on the strategic context for leisure provision across the Borough, including work to date regarding the Carlton Active leisure and wellbeing centre and the future of Carlton Forum Leisure Centre and capital investments at other sites.

Cabinet is asked to consider the consultation findings and determine the Council's future operation of Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre, including whether the Council should withdraw from the existing Joint Use Agreements and explore alternative arrangements to maintain community access where appropriate.

Key Decision

This report constitutes a key decision as defined in the council constitution. The report relates to the future management of leisure centres that serve residents across multiple wards within the Borough and may result in significant changes to the Council's leisure service provision and associated financial implications.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- 1. Cabinet notes and considers the findings of the Joint Use Leisure Centre consultation undertaken between November and December 2025 regarding the Council's potential withdrawal from the Joint Use Agreements at Carlton Forum Leisure Centre, Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre.**
- 2. Cabinet agrees that Gedling Borough Council will continue operating leisure services at Calverton Leisure Centre under the existing Joint Use Agreement.**
- 3. Cabinet agrees that Gedling Borough Council will continue operating leisure services at Redhill Leisure Centre under the existing Joint Use Agreement.**
- 4. Cabinet will continue to review the operation of leisure services at Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre, as part of the wider Leisure Strategy, including operating models and programming to ensure services remain financially sustainable and responsive to local need.**

1 Background

- 1.1 Gedling Borough Council is delivering a borough-wide Leisure and Wellbeing Transformation Programme to ensure that leisure provision across the Borough remains sustainable, accessible and aligned with the Council's objectives relating to health, wellbeing and community participation.
- 1.2 The programme is informed by strategic documents including the Strategic Outcomes Planning Model (2023), the Gedling Borough Council Leisure Strategy 2025 and the development of the proposed Carlton Active Leisure, Wellbeing and Community Centre. Together these documents provide the strategic framework for modernising the Council's leisure estate, addressing the challenges associated with ageing facilities and ensuring that leisure provision supports the long-term health and wellbeing needs of residents.
- 1.3 In 2025 the Council commissioned Max Associates to prepare an updated Leisure Strategy and Built Facilities Strategy for the Borough. The strategy provides a comprehensive review of existing leisure provision and establishes a long-term vision for leisure and physical activity opportunities across Gedling. This includes an assessment of all the Council's sites, which was

essential to inform how future Leisure provision should be provided across the Borough.

- 1.4 The strategy identified that the Council's current leisure portfolio is financially unsustainable, requiring an annual subsidy of approximately £1.3 million (2024/25) to operate the existing leisure facilities. It also highlighted that several facilities are ageing and increasingly expensive to maintain, recommending a transition towards a smaller number of modern, strategically located facilities capable of meeting the Borough's future health and wellbeing needs.
- 1.6 As part of this approach, the strategy recommended reviewing the long-term role of a number of existing facilities, including those operating under Joint Use Agreements with Nottinghamshire County Council and Redhill Academy Trust.
- 1.7 The strategy identifies the development of the proposed Carlton Active Centre as a priority investment within the Council's leisure estate. It also recognises the longer-term direction to improve leisure provision in the Arnold area through the Ambition Arnold regeneration programme, should funding opportunities arise.
- 1.8 The Leisure Strategy was considered by Cabinet on 25 September 2025, where Cabinet noted the findings and recommendations of the strategy as the evidence base for future investment and management of the Council's leisure portfolio. Cabinet also agreed at that meeting to undertake public consultation on the Council potentially withdrawing its service provision from leisure centres operating under Joint Use Agreements.
- 1.9 The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) identifies a requirement for £2.5 million of efficiency savings over the next five years. Leisure currently represents one of the Council's highest subsidised service areas, with leisure facilities costing the Council approximately £1.3 million per year to operate.
- 1.10 As part of the Leisure Transformation Programme the Council also undertook a review of the most appropriate management arrangements for leisure services.
- 1.11 The findings of the Leisure Management Options Appraisal were considered by Cabinet on 19 November 2025, where Cabinet approved the continuation of the Council's in-house leisure management model as the preferred approach for the delivery of leisure services.
- 1.12 Calverton Leisure Centre, Carlton Forum Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre all operate under Joint Use arrangements. These facilities are

managed by the Council for community leisure use, but the buildings themselves are located on sites owned or controlled by partners including Nottinghamshire County Council and Redhill Academy Trust.

- 1.13 Following the Cabinet decision of 25 September 2025, a public consultation was undertaken between 6 November 2025 and 18 December 2025 to seek views from residents, users and stakeholders on the Council potentially withdrawing its service provision from leisure centres operating under joint use agreements.
- 1.14 In January 2026 the Council received a petition relating to the future of Calverton Leisure Centre and the potential impact of the Leisure Transformation Programme on the site.
- 1.15 The petition contained 286 signatures from residents and called on the Council to reconsider its plans relating to Calverton Leisure Centre. The petition asked the following:

The signatories to the petition call on Gedling Borough Council to:

- 1. Remove Calverton Leisure centre from the leisure transformation strategy.*
- 2. Not to issue notice on the joint use agreement for Calverton leisure centre.*
- 3. Continue to directly manage Calverton leisure centre.*

- 1.16 In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme the petition was debated at Full Council on 21 January 2026, where the matter was referred to the Executive for consideration as decisions relating to the future management of leisure facilities fall within Cabinet's responsibilities.
- 1.17 This report therefore forms part of the Council's consideration of the matters raised within the petition.
- 1.18 The future of Carlton Forum Leisure Centre was considered separately by Cabinet as part of the Carlton Active RIBA Stage 2 Cabinet Report on 19 February 2026, where Cabinet approved progression of the Carlton Active project into pre-construction and agreed that the Council should withdraw from the Carlton Forum Joint Use Agreement at the appropriate time.

2. Overview of Joint use facilities

- 2.1 As part of the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Council has reviewed the operational position, strategic context and asset condition of the leisure facilities currently operating under Joint Use Agreements.

2.2 Table A below provides a summary overview of the key characteristics of both Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre, the two sites being considered further in this report.

Facility	Ownership	Key Facilities	Asset Condition Information	Strategic Context
Calverton Leisure Centre	Nottinghamshire County Council/ Redhill Academy Trust	Swimming pool, gym, sports hall, fitness studios, 3G football pitch	Condition survey (2017) -approx. £40k works identified	Serves rural communities; housing growth in Calverton, catchment overlap with Arnold
Redhill Leisure Centre	Redhill Academy Trust	Gym, sports hall, fitness studios, 3G football pitch	Limited condition data (last survey 2009)	Proximity to Arnold Leisure Centre; linked to Ambition Arnold regeneration

2.3 It should be noted that the buildings at Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre are owned by Nottinghamshire County Council and/or Redhill Academy Trust respectively. Responsibility for undertaking and maintaining up-to-date condition surveys for the building fabric and core infrastructure sits with the respective asset owners under the terms of the Joint Use Agreements.

2.4 As a result, the Council is reliant on information provided by these partners, and in some cases, the most recent condition data available is historic and may not fully reflect the current condition of the facilities.

3. Calverton Leisure Centre

3.1 Calverton Leisure Centre is located on the Colonel Frank Seeley Academy campus site and operates under a Joint Use Agreement with Nottinghamshire County Council and Redhill Academy Trust. The facility provides a range of leisure opportunities for both the school and the wider community including a swimming pool, gym, 3G pitch, sports hall and group exercise studios.

3.12 The site is governed by two joint use agreements which collectively set out the operational, financial and maintenance responsibilities of each party. Under these arrangements, the Council is responsible for the delivery and

management of community leisure services, while ownership of the land and key building infrastructure sits with Nottinghamshire County Council and Redhill Academy Trust. The 3G pitch, sits with the school on a separate agreement, where the Council is responsible for managing and delivering community leisure provision, including control of bookings outside of school hours.

- 3.13 Both joint use agreements include provisions for termination, including a requirement for a minimum two-year notice period should the Council seek to withdraw from the arrangement.
- 3.14 The centre serves residents within Calverton and surrounding rural communities and provides access to swimming, fitness, playing pitches and indoor sport within the northern part of the Borough.
- 3.15 Calverton is identified within the Council's Housing Strategy as one of the Borough's significant rural settlements, serving a wider rural catchment within the northern part of Gedling Borough.
- 3.16 The Leisure Strategy identified overlap in leisure facility catchments across the Borough, with Arnold Leisure Centre covering much of the Calverton catchment area. However, consultation undertaken during development of the strategy highlighted that residents living in rural communities may experience additional barriers accessing leisure facilities, particularly where transport options are limited.

3.2 Asset Condition

- 3.21 During the 2025/26 financial year, the centre experienced disruption to swimming provision due to a malfunction of the boiler system serving the pool plant. Under the joint use agreement, the boiler system sits under the responsibility of Colonel Frank Seeley Academy. The Academy has installed a temporary boiler to enable the heating of school and the leisure facilities in the short-term. Redhill Academy Trust is considering longer-term boiler replacement as part of its capital programme development. Subject to approval, these works are expected to take place during 2026/27, which would address the current plant issues and support the continued operation of the swimming pool facility.
- 3.22 The failure of the heating system affected both the pool water temperature and air temperature within the pool hall, resulting in the temporary closure of the pool while temperatures fell below safe operational levels. The temperature drop during the colder winter period also resulted in thermal shock of the pool plant equipment, often associated with ageing pool infrastructure in such circumstances. This has created leaks in the system

and therefore ongoing operational issues of the pool plant resulting in a longer period of closure of the pool.

- 3.23 In response to this, the Council has taken the opportunity to undertake comprehensive essential maintenance works of the pool plant and improvements to the female changing space during this period of closure. This capital investment works ensures the continued safe operation of the facility and supports a commitment to the operation of the swimming pool whilst Gedling Borough Council exists, enabling residents in Calverton and surrounding rural communities to access local swimming opportunities.
- 3.24 This most recent investment, adds to work undertaken in 2025 to enhance the fitness gym provision at the leisure centre, converting a low use squash court, to increase the capacity on site. This improvement was funded through a combination of the Council's approved Leisure Base Maintenance budget and the Calverton Joint Use budget, with the latter agreed in accordance with the Joint Use arrangements

3.3 Housing Growth and Future Demand

- 3.31 Calverton has experienced residential growth in recent years and continues to form part of the Borough's housing development plans.
- 3.32 The Council's Housing Strategy and Local Plan identify the need for continued housing delivery across the Borough, with a requirement to deliver approximately 631 new homes per year in order to meet housing demand.
- 3.33 Calverton already contains a mix of housing tenures including 101 affordable homes and 460 private homes, reflecting its role as an established residential community within the Borough.
- 3.34 Demographic evidence also shows that the population of the Borough is ageing, which may increase demand for accessible health, wellbeing and physical activity opportunities in the future.
- 3.35 Population growth and demographic change may therefore increase demand for local leisure, sport and physical activity provision within the Calverton area.

3.4 Accessibility and Alternative Provision

- 3.41 Calverton Leisure Centre provides local access to leisure provision for residents in the northern part of the Borough.

- 3.42 The nearest alternative Council leisure facility providing comparable swimming provision is Arnold Leisure Centre, located approximately 5 miles from Calverton, with an average journey time of around 10-20 minutes by car.
- 3.43 For residents without access to private transport or those reliant on public transport, travel distance may affect accessibility to leisure provision should services at Calverton change in the future, although there is currently a good, regular bus service in operation between Calverton and Arnold.

3.5 Community Role

- 3.51 Calverton Leisure Centre supports opportunities for physical activity, recreation and wellbeing for residents in Calverton and surrounding rural communities.
- 3.52 The facility provides access to swimming, fitness activities, indoor sport, playing pitches and exercise programmes, as well as supporting school use and community groups. For many residents within Calverton and nearby villages, the centre provides the most locally accessible leisure facility within reasonable travelling distance.
- 3.53 The importance of the facility to the local community was also reflected in the petition submitted to the Council in January 2026, which was led by users of the swimming facilities and was subsequently referred to the Executive for consideration as part of the Leisure Transformation Programme.

3.6 Consultation Findings

- 3.61 Consultation responses highlight the importance of Calverton Leisure Centre as a highly localised community facility.
- 3.62 71% of respondents indicated that they would not support the Council withdrawing from the facility. The consultation also identified that a significant proportion of users walk to the centre, reflecting its role in serving the immediate local community.
- 3.63 Swimming provision was identified as particularly important, with 89% of Calverton users highlighting the swimming pool as the most important facility to protect.
- 3.64 These findings reinforce the role of Calverton Leisure Centre in supporting accessible leisure provision for residents in the northern rural area of the Borough.

4 Redhill Leisure Centre

- 4.11 Redhill Leisure Centre is located on the Redhill Academy campus and operates under a Joint Use Agreement with Redhill Academy Trust. The

facility provides leisure opportunities for both the school and the wider community, including a gym, fitness studios, sports hall and 3G outdoor sports provision.

- 4.12 As with other joint use facilities, the Council operates the leisure provision but does not own the building asset, with responsibility for the building infrastructure and 3G pitch sitting with Redhill Academy Trust under the terms of the Joint Use Agreement.

4.2 Strategic Context

- 4.21 The Council has embarked on the Ambition Arnold regeneration programme, which considers the future redevelopment of leisure facilities within Arnold town centre. The project forms part of the Council's medium to long-term leisure infrastructure plans, with feasibility work having progressed to RIBA Stage 2 regarding a new wet and dry leisure centre for Arnold. The RIBA 2 plans were approved by Cabinet on 19 November 2025.

- 4.22 At this stage, no funding has been formally identified for delivery of the Ambition Arnold leisure development, and the project remains subject to future funding opportunities and further Cabinet consideration.

- 4.23 Redhill Leisure Centre is located approximately 0.5 miles from the current Arnold Leisure Centre, which provides swimming facilities.

- 4.24 Due to the proximity of Arnold Leisure Centre, the catchment areas for the two facilities overlap significantly. This overlap was identified within the Leisure Strategy analysis of the Borough's leisure portfolio. It should be noted that Arnold Leisure Centre currently offers a swimming pool only and the gym and fitness facilities are provided at the Redhill site. The Leisure Strategy identified an opportunity to reduce Council costs by consolidating the two facilities into one, should capital funding be identified.

4.3 Asset Condition

- 4.31 The most recent available condition information for Redhill Leisure Centre dates from 2009, meaning the Council has limited up-to-date lifecycle condition information regarding the facility.

- 4.32 The centre has experienced ongoing roof issues, particularly within the gym area where water ingress has occurred during periods of heavy rainfall. The Council is working with Redhill Academy to address this issue. No other asset issues are currently apparent at that site and a sinking fund has been put place by both the Academy and the Council to support future 3G pitch replacement.

4.4 Planned Investment

4.41 Redhill Leisure Centre is currently undergoing plans for refurbishment of the fitness suite and gym in order to improve the quality and capacity of the facility. The refurbishment of equipment is necessary due to the condition of equipment currently, even continued operation of the site during any notice period (if notice served) would require some investment to ensure ongoing operations.

4.42 Funding of approximately £270,000 has been identified to support improvements including:

- replacement gym equipment
- refurbishment of flooring and lighting
- reconfiguration of internal space
- removal of the existing spin studio to increase gym capacity.

4.5 3G Pitch Provision

4.51 Redhill Leisure Centre also includes a floodlit third-generation 3G artificial grass football pitch, supporting both school sport and community football provision.

4.52 The pitch was developed through a partnership between Gedling Borough Council, Redhill Academy Trust and the Premier League & FA Facilities Fund (now delivered through the Football Foundation).

4.53 The facility provides an important venue for grassroots football, supporting local clubs, training sessions and competitive matches throughout the week.

4.54 Evidence from the Football Foundation Gedling Local Football Facility Plan 2025 highlights continued demand for high-quality 3G pitch provision to support football participation within the Borough.

4.6 Community Role

4.61 Redhill Leisure Centre provides opportunities for sport, recreation and physical activity for both school users and the wider community.

4.62 The facility supports a range of activities including fitness training, indoor sports, school sport provision and community football through the outdoor 3G pitch.

4.63 The centre therefore contributes to the provision of accessible opportunities for residents to participate in physical activity and organised sport within the Arnold area.

4.71 Consultation Findings

4.72 Consultation responses indicate that Redhill Leisure Centre performs a different role within the Borough's leisure offer, primarily serving as a fitness-focused facility within the Arnold area.

4.73 57% of respondents indicated that they would support withdrawal from the facility if it enabled investment in new, modern leisure provision elsewhere in the Borough.

4.74 Users of Redhill Leisure Centre are more likely to travel by car and demonstrate a greater willingness to travel to alternative facilities, reflecting the centre's proximity to Arnold Leisure Centre and the overlap in catchment areas.

4.75 These findings indicate a greater level of flexibility in how the facility is used, while still recognising its role in supporting participation in physical activity and sport.

5 Usage, Participation and Financial Performance

5.1 Participation and Membership

5.11 The Council monitors participation across its leisure facilities through a range of performance indicators including fitness memberships, swim school enrolment and overall site usage.

5.12 Fitness memberships are managed through the Council's DNA membership system, which provides access to gym and fitness facilities across the leisure portfolio.

5.13 Swim school provision forms an important part of the Council's leisure offer and supports both swimming participation and income generation at facilities where swimming pools are available.

5.14 Performance data from 2022/23 - 2024/25 set out in Table B indicates the participation levels at both Calverton and Redhill Leisure Centres:

Table B: Membership and Usage Trends at Calverton and Redhill Leisure Centres (2022/23 - 2024/25)				
Facility	Year	DNA Memberships	Swim School Members	Annual Visits
Calverton LC	2022/23	565	301	104,037
	2023/24	640	325	142,387
	2024/25	717	378	157,676
Redhill LC	2022/23	1,047	N/A	181,444
	2023/24	1,173	N/A	200,154
	2024/25	1,385	N/A	187,609

- 5.15 Performance data demonstrates a positive growth trend in participation at both facilities over the past three years.
- 5.16 At Calverton Leisure Centre, DNA memberships, swim school enrolment and overall visits have increased year-on-year, reflecting strong and growing local demand, particularly for swimming provision.
- 5.17 At Redhill Leisure Centre, fitness membership has also shown consistent growth, with attendance levels remaining strong overall despite some fluctuation in visits between 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- 5.18 These trends indicate that both facilities continue to play an important and active role in supporting participation in leisure and physical activity across the Borough.

5.2 Joint Use Consultation Findings

5.21 Consultation Overview

5.22 As part of the Leisure Transformation Programme, Gedling Borough Council undertook a public consultation regarding the future of the Joint Use Agreements at Calverton Leisure Centre, Redhill Leisure Centre and Carlton Forum Leisure Centre. The full consultation report is included in Appendix A.

5.23 The consultation was undertaken between 6 November and 18 December 2025 and invited feedback from residents, facility users, community groups and other stakeholders regarding the future operation of the centres.

Engagement was undertaken through:

- an online consultation survey
- paper copies available at leisure centres
- promotion through the Council website and social media
- distribution through community and partner networks
- engagement through health and wellbeing co-production meetings.

A total of 933 responses were received.

- 5.24 Survey responses indicated that Calverton Leisure Centre was the most frequently used of the school-site leisure facilities by those who responded, followed by Carlton Forum Leisure Centre, with Redhill Leisure Centre the third most frequently used facility. Approximately 16% of respondents indicated that they did not currently use any of the school-site leisure centres.

6 Summary of Consultation Findings

- 6.1 A full breakdown of consultation responses is provided in Appendix A. The key themes arising from the consultation are summarised below.
- 6.11 The consultation demonstrated that the facilities are well used, with 46% of respondents reporting usage at least once per week. Swimming (68%), gym (52%) and exercise classes (39%) were identified as the most used activities, highlighting the importance of both wet and dry side provision.
- 6.12 Accessibility and proximity to facilities were identified as important factors for users. Most respondents travel by car (65%), although a significant proportion walk (41%), and over half of respondents indicated they would only be willing to travel less than 10 minutes to access leisure facilities.
- 6.13 Views on the potential withdrawal from joint use facilities were mixed. Overall, 45% of respondents indicated they would not support withdrawal, while 36% indicated they would support withdrawal if it enabled the delivery of new, modern leisure facilities elsewhere in the Borough.
- 6.14 At a site-specific level, responses indicate differing roles for the facilities. Calverton Leisure Centre was identified as a highly localised community facility, with strong opposition to withdrawal (71%), reflecting its importance to residents in the northern rural area of the Borough. In contrast, responses relating to Redhill Leisure Centre indicated a greater level of acceptance of potential change, with 57% of respondents indicating support for withdrawal if it enabled investment in new facilities.

6.15 Table D below summarises the key findings from the consultation in relation to Calverton and Redhill Leisure Centre users.

Table D: Key findings from joint use consultation -Calverton and Redhill Leisure Centres			
Consultation Insight	Overall Findings	Calverton Leisure Centre Users	Redhill Leisure Centre Users
Total responses	933 responses received	Calverton most frequently selected centre used by respondents	Redhill third most frequently selected centre
Frequency of use	46% use facilities once per week or more	26% once per week; 23% three times per week or more	29% more than three times per week
Travel behaviour	Majority travel by car (65%), followed by walking (41%)	55% walk to the centre	66% travel by car
Preferred travel time	53% willing to travel less than 10 minutes	73% willing to travel less than 10 minutes	53% willing to travel 10–20 minutes
Most used facilities	Swimming pool (68%), gym (52%), exercise classes (39%)	Swimming pool (81%) most used	Gym (66%) most used
Facilities most important to protect	Swimming pool (79%), gym (53%), sports hall (39%)	Swimming pool (89%) most important	Swimming pool (62%) and gym (61%)

Views on withdrawal	45% opposed withdrawal; 36% supportive if new centres delivered	71% opposed withdrawal	57% supportive if new centres delivered
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7 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

7.1 Local Government Reorganisation is expected to take place within the next two years, which is likely to result in the creation of two new unitary authorities. As part of this process, it is anticipated that the new authority will undertake a review of services, assets and financial performance across the combined area.

7.2 Leisure services, as a discretionary service area which currently requires subsidy, are likely to be subject to future review. This may include consideration of the performance, usage and financial sustainability of facilities such as Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre.

7.3 Whilst this report recommends that the Council does not withdraw from the Joint Use Agreements at this time, it is recognised that the longer-term future of these facilities may be influenced by decisions taken by any successor authority.

7.4 In this context, it will be important for the Council to continue to engage with partners, including Nottinghamshire County Council, Redhill Academy Trust and local stakeholders such as parish councils, to explore opportunities to support the long-term sustainability of these facilities, including potential alternative operating or funding arrangements where appropriate.

8 Proposal

8.1 It is proposed that Cabinet:

- Cabinet notes and considers the findings of the Joint Use Leisure Centre consultation undertaken between November and December 2025 regarding the Council's potential withdrawal from the Joint Use

Agreements at Carlton Forum Leisure Centre, Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre.

- Cabinet agrees that Gedling Borough Council will continue operating leisure services at Calverton Leisure Centre under the existing Joint Use Agreement.
- Cabinet agrees that Gedling Borough Council will continue operating leisure services at Redhill Leisure Centre under the existing Joint Use Agreement.
- Cabinet will continue to review the operation of leisure services at Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre, as part of the wider Leisure Strategy, including operating models and programming to ensure services remain financially sustainable and responsive to local need.

9 Alternative Options

9.1 Cabinet could consider withdrawing from operating the facilities in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Use Agreements. However, any such decision would be subject to a minimum two-year notice period, during which time the Council would be required to continue operating and subsidising the facilities. As such, there would be no immediate financial benefit, and subsidy costs would continue into the period of Local Government Reorganisation.

9.2 The Carlton Active financial modelling undertaken suggests borrowing repayments can be met by the sole operation of that site, therefore savings from the other sites is not required. In addition, the joint use consultation has identified strong support for the Council not to withdraw its operations from Calverton Leisure Centre. While there is some support for withdrawal from Redhill Leisure Centre this is dependent on a new leisure centre being delivered for the Arnold area. While this remains a long term aim of the Leisure Strategy, there is currently there is no capital funding identified for that project.

9.3 Cabinet could consider withdrawing from direct operation but explore alternative operating arrangements, such as community or third-party management of the facilities, to enable continued community use where possible. It's unclear of the potential savings this could bring for the Council and what alternatives are current available by third parties. Retaining management of the provision at Calverton, aligns with the decision by Cabinet on 19 November 2025 to retain in-house leisure provision in the Borough.

10

Financial Implications

- 10.1 The Council's leisure services operate with an annual subsidy to support the delivery of leisure provision across the Borough.
- 10.2 The Leisure Strategy (2025) identified that the Council's overall leisure portfolio requires an annual subsidy of approximately £1.3 million to operate the existing leisure estate.
- 10.3 Financial performance data for 2025/26 indicates that the joint use leisure centres at Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre also require ongoing financial support from the Council.

Facility	Income	Net Subsidy
Calverton Leisure Centre	£556,200	£315,700
Redhill Leisure Centre	£594,500	314,300

- 10.4 Due to in year savings and management action the actual subsidy for 24/25 was £177,763 for Calverton Leisure Centre and £229,964 at Redhill Leisure Centre. We will continue to try and make in year savings to reduce the in-year subsidy.
- 10.5 The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) identifies £2.5 million of ongoing financial pressures across Council services and the need to ensure that services are delivered in a financially sustainable way.
- 10.6 As part of the Leisure Transformation Programme, the long-term financial sustainability of the leisure estate is being reviewed to ensure that facilities remain accessible while reducing the level of subsidy required to operate services.
- 10.7 If the Council were to withdraw from operating the joint use leisure centres, this would remove the ongoing operational subsidy currently required to operate the facilities.
- 10.8 However, should Cabinet wish to explore the option of continued community use through alternative management arrangements, there may still be financial implications depending on the structure of any future operating arrangements.
- 10.9 Financial modelling has been undertaken to assess the affordability of the proposed Carlton Active Centre. A seven-year financial model of the Council's leisure portfolio, including the introduction of Carlton Active.

- 10.10 The modelling indicates that the delivery of Carlton Active development can be delivered without the need to withdraw from the existing joint use leisure facilities.
- 10.11 The seven year income and expenditure modelling for the leisure centres recently undertaken by the Council shows an opportunity to further reduce subsidy at all sites through effective business planning and investment.

11 Legal Implications

- 11.1 Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre operate under Joint Use Agreements between Gedling Borough Council and the respective site owners.
- 11.2 Calverton Leisure Centre is located on a site owned by Nottinghamshire County Council and Redhill Academy Trust, while Redhill Leisure Centre is located on the Redhill Academy Trust campus. The Joint Use Agreements set out the arrangements for the shared use of the facilities by the school and the wider community.
- 11.3 Under these agreements, the Council is responsible for operating the leisure facilities for community use outside of school hours, while ownership of the buildings and responsibility for major structural elements remain with the site owners.
- 11.4 The agreements also define the responsibilities of each party in relation to maintenance, operation and management of the facilities, as well as arrangements for community access.
- 11.5 The Joint Use Agreements include provisions relating to the termination of the arrangements, including a requirement for two years' notice should the Council decide to withdraw from operating the facilities.
- 11.6 Should Cabinet decide to withdraw from operating the leisure centres, this would need to be undertaken in accordance with the terms of the Joint Use Agreements and in consultation with the relevant partners, including Nottinghamshire County Council and Redhill Academy Trust.
- 11.7 In making any decision in relation to the future of the site members must have regard to all relevant information including the responses to the consultations.

12 Equalities Implications

- 12.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken in relation to the continued in-house operation of Redhill Leisure Centre and Calverton Leisure Centre.

- 12.2 The assessment identifies the potential impacts on some groups, particularly in relation to accessibility, affordability and travel based local facilities continuing to be directly operated by the Council. The groups to benefit most from this decision include:
- Older adults, who may rely on local leisure facilities to support health, wellbeing and social interaction.
 - Disabled residents, who may face barriers if accessible facilities are not easily reachable or if transport links are limited.
 - Low-income households, who may be more affected by increased travel costs or reduced access to affordable leisure opportunities.
 - Residents in rural areas, particularly those living in and around Calverton, where travel distances to alternative facilities may be greater.
 - Parents, carers and families with young children, who may have limited flexibility to travel to alternative locations.
- 12.3 The EqlA also identifies that access to local swimming facilities can be particularly important for a number of groups, including children and young people, older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- 12.4 The full Equality Impact Assessment is included in Appendix B.

13 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 13.1 Gedling Borough Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions and improving the environmental sustainability of its operations and assets as set out in its Carbon Strategy 2030.
- 13.2 Leisure facilities are typically energy intensive buildings, particularly those containing swimming pools, gyms and sports halls. Many of the Council's existing leisure facilities, including those operating under Joint Use Agreements, are older buildings with ageing mechanical systems and limited energy efficiency, which can result in higher energy consumption and operational costs.
- 13.3 New facilities being developed through the programme, including Carlton Active, are being designed to incorporate modern low-carbon technologies, improved building fabric, energy-efficient plant and sustainable construction principles. These improvements are expected to significantly reduce energy consumption compared with older leisure buildings.
- 13.4 Over time, the transition from an ageing leisure estate to modern energy-efficient facilities has the potential to contribute to the Council's wider climate

objectives by reducing the environmental impact of leisure provision across the Borough.

- 13.5 Any changes to the operation of the existing joint use leisure centres will therefore be considered within the context of supporting long-term environmental sustainability.
- 13.6 The full Climate Impact Assessment can be found in Appendix C.

14 Appendices

- 14.1 Appendix A: Joint Use Consultation Report
- 14.2 Appendix B: Equality Impact Assessment
- 14.3 Appendix C: Climate Impact Assessment

15 Background Papers

- 15.1 Leisure Strategy 2025
- 15.2 September 2025- Leisure Transformation Report
- 15.3 February 2026 - Leisure Transformation RIBA 2 Cabinet report

16 Reasons for Recommendations

- 16.1 The recommendations enable Cabinet to consider the findings of the Joint Use Leisure Centre consultation undertaken between November and December 2025, alongside the strategic, financial and operational information presented within this report.
- 16.2 They also enable Cabinet to determine the future of the Council's Joint Use Agreements at Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre, in the context of the Leisure Strategy (2025), the Leisure Transformation Programme and the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by: Tina Adams

Date: 18/3/2026

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by: Francesca Whyley

Date: 18/3/2026

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer

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Leisure Transformation – joint use agreement for leisure centres

Survey results

Natasha Radovanovic

Performance and Insight Manager

Background and methodology

Gedling Borough Council is reviewing how leisure services are delivered across the borough, due to the financial pressures and ageing assets. A strong evidence base is necessary to make decisions that protect essential services for the future, while ensuring financial sustainability.

Redhill, Carlton Forum and Calverton Leisure Centres are not owned by the Council. They operate under joint use agreements with local schools and Nottinghamshire County Council, allowing us to run leisure services from those sites. These centres are, however, becoming increasingly expensive to run and maintain. Without change, the cost of keeping them open could threaten the future of leisure services across all of Gedling.

At the start of this year, the Council commissioned specialist leisure consultants to update Gedling's Leisure Strategy and to give an independent view of the Borough's leisure services considering the need to make services more financially sustainable.

The updated Leisure Strategy found that the current set of centres is no longer sustainable. It recommended focusing investment in two modern hubs at Carlton (Carlton Active) and Arnold, while reviewing the Council's role at joint use sites. Any decision to withdraw from joint use sites requires the Council to consult with the public.

Should the Council consider withdrawing from joint use agreements a two-year notice period would be required. Protecting community access will remain a priority to keep leisure access available in those communities.

To secure leisure services for the long term, the Council is considering focusing investment in fewer, modern and energy-efficient facilities - such as the proposed new Carlton Active and Ambition Arnold.

The survey to help shape the future of joint use leisure provision in Gedling was conducted for a period of six weeks from 6 November to 18 December.

The Council undertook a structured consultation and engagement process. This included:

- Paper copies of the consultation made available at all leisure centres
- A digital survey promoted via the Council website and social media channels
- Distribution through community and partner hubs
- Engagement through health and wellbeing co-production meetings

Main findings

Overall results

- There were 933 responses to this survey
- Calverton Leisure centre was the most frequently selected (46%) to be used by the respondents, followed by Carton Forum Leisure centre (35%), Redhill Leisure centre being in third place (21%) and the smallest proportion (16%) of respondents did not use any of these leisure centres.
- The majority of respondents of 24% use the school site leisure facilities once a week, followed by the second highest proportion of respondents (22%) that use these facilities more than three times a week.
- The majority of respondents travel to leisure facilities either by car or they walk. The highest percentage of respondents (56%) travel by car, followed by the second highest percentage (41%) of those that walk to the facilities.
- The top three most frequently selected facilities that the respondents currently use are: main pool (68%), gym (52%) and exercise classes (39%).
- The majority of respondents (53%) are willing to travel less than 10 minutes to a leisure facility, and the second highest group of respondents (38%) selected 10 to 20 minutes of travelling to the leisure facilities.
- 45% and the highest proportion of respondents would not support Gedling Borough Council withdrawing from managing the local centres on a school site. The second highest percentage of respondents (36%) would support this if it helps deliver two new, modern leisure centres at Carlton and Arnold.
- The top three facilities that respondents felt were important to protect if the new modern centres were developed are: swimming pool (79%), fitness gym (53%) and sports hall (39%).

The most significant similarities and differences in responses between specific users regarding the council's withdrawal from managing the leisure centres

Carton Forum Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure centre users provided similar responses:

Carlton Forum Leisure centre users

- The highest proportion of this user group (67%) would support the council withdrawal from managing their local centre if it helps deliver the two new centres. 31% and the second highest proportion of this user group would support this if facilities on the site remain available for community use.

Redhill Leisure Centre users

- More than a half of the respondents (57%) would support the council withdrawal from managing their leisure centres if it helps deliver two new centres. The second highest percentage (36%) would support the same if school sites remain available for community use.

Calverton Leisure Centre and those who declared that they did not use any of the listed leisure provided similar responses:

Calverton Leisure centre users

- The highest proportion of this user group (71%) would not support the council's withdrawal from managing their leisure centre on a school site. The second highest percentage of this user group (27%) would support this if the facilities on the school site remain available for community use.

Respondents who declared that they did not use any of the listed leisure centre in the questionnaire (Calverton, Carlton and Redhill Leisure centres)

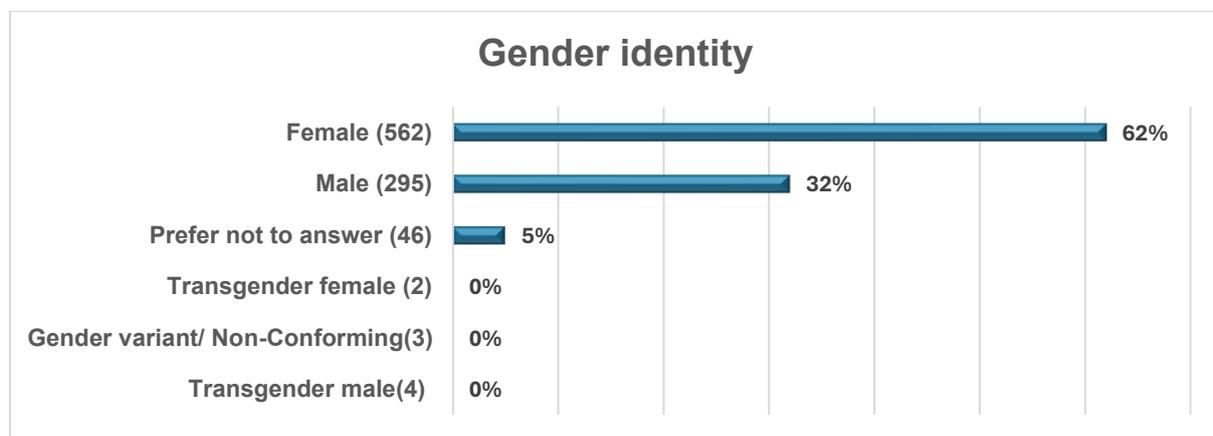
- The highest proportion of the respondents (46%) that belong to this group would not support the council's withdrawal from managing the local centres, followed by slightly fewer of those (39%) who will support this if it helps deliver two new centres.

Profile of the respondents

There were 933 responses to this survey. The highest proportion of the respondents for each protected characteristics to this survey are female (62%), belong to 35 to 44 age group (23%), White British (85%), do not belong to any religion (52%), did not declare disability (77%) and declared themselves as Straight /Hetrosexual (80%).

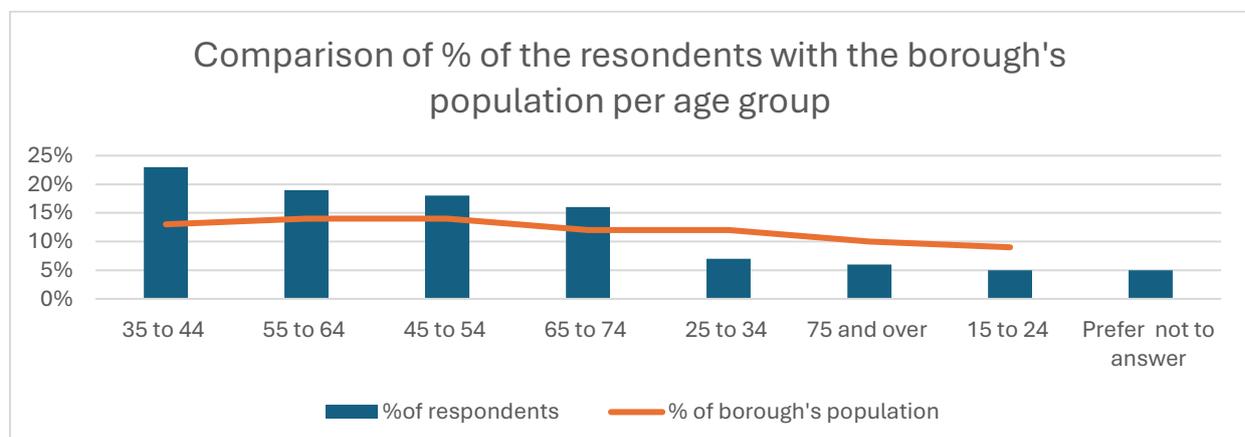
Gender identity

62% of respondents declared themselves as female, 32% as male, 5% preferred not to answer and comparatively smaller groups declared themselves as transgender female or male and gender variant/non-conforming.



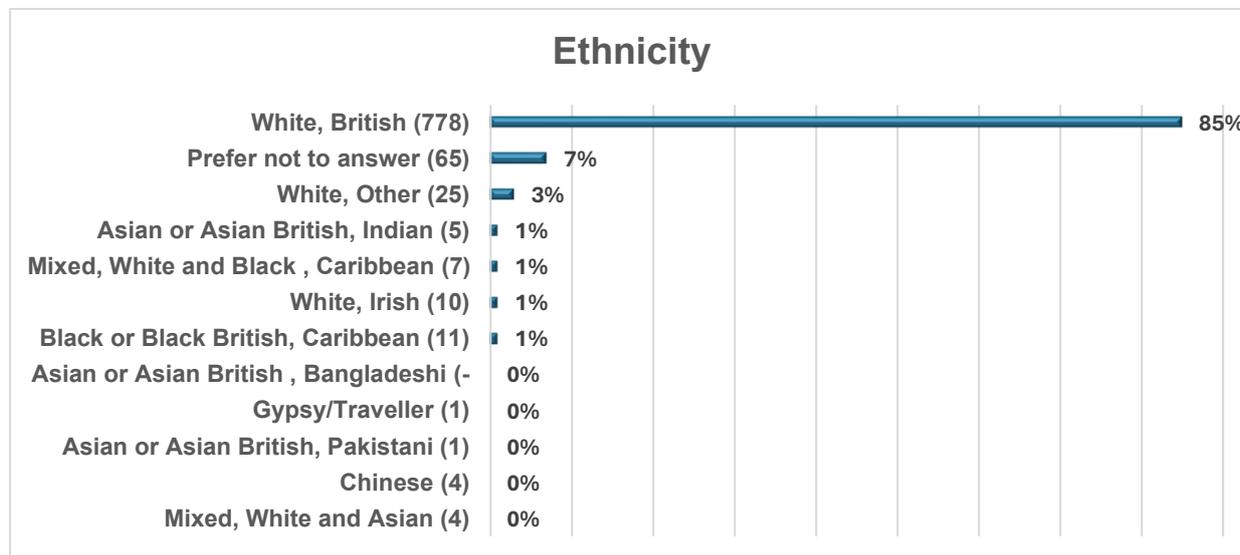
Age

When compared to the borough's profile, the profile of respondents related to their age is overrepresented by the age group from 35 to 74 by 6% on average. Those respondents from 15 to 34 and 75 and over were underrepresented by 4% on average.



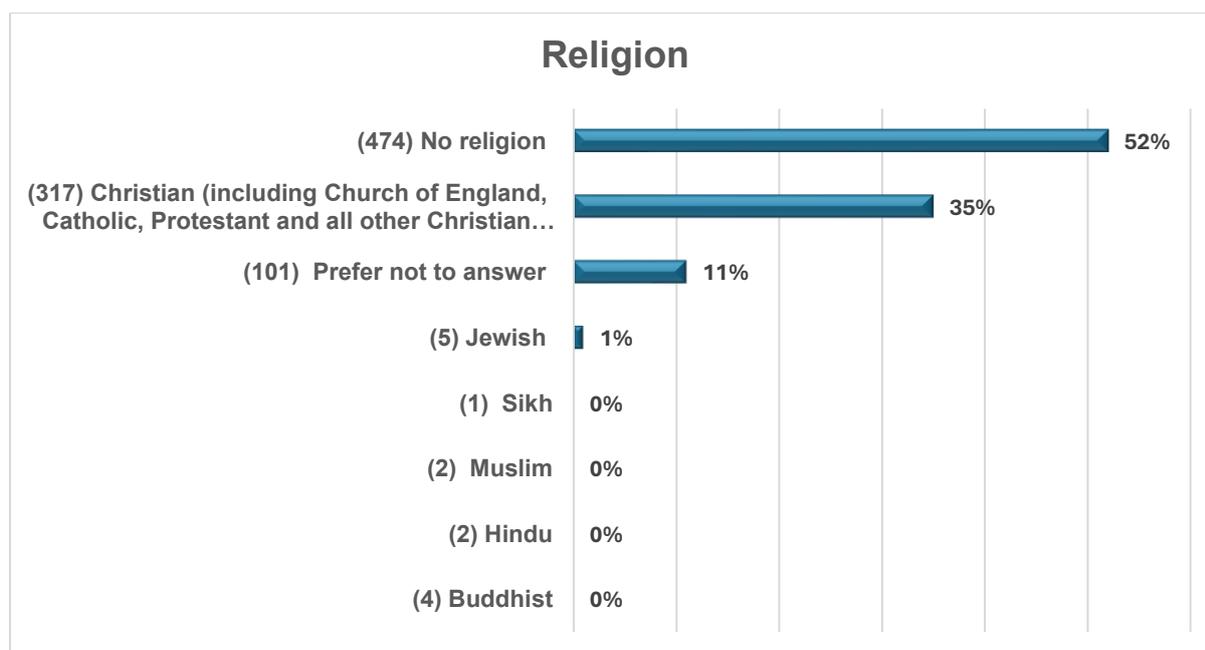
Ethnicity

85% of respondents declared themselves as 'White, British', followed by 7% of those who did not want to answer. 3% declared themselves as 'White, Other'. The rest of the groups had a comparatively small volume of respondents.



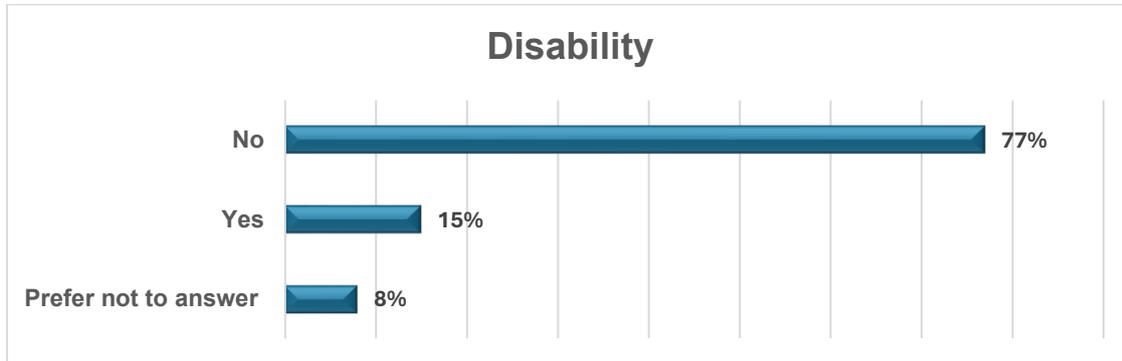
Religion

52% of respondents selected that they were not religious. 35% declared themselves as Christians and 11% preferred not to answer. A comparatively smaller proportion of respondents belonged to other religions.



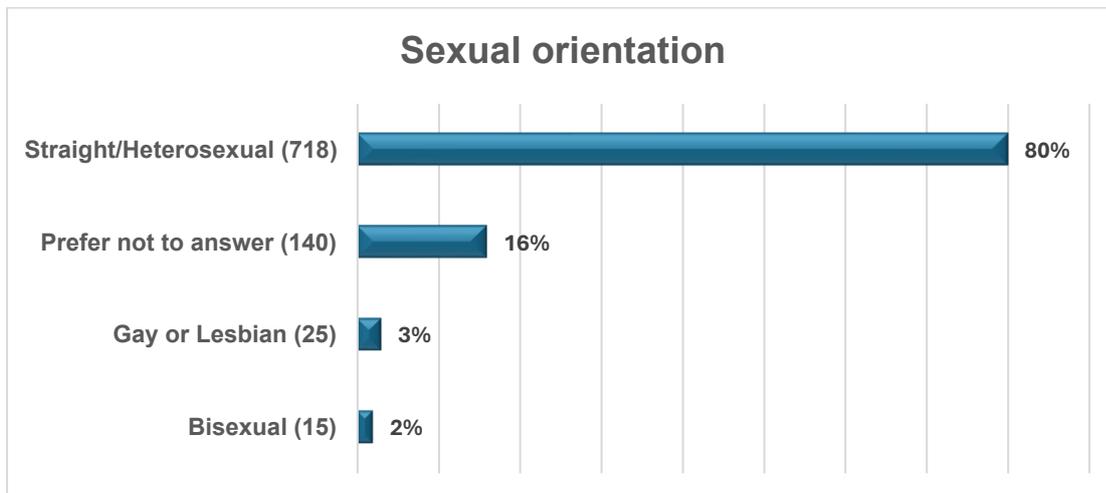
Disability

77% of respondents declared no disability and 15% of respondents declared themselves as disabled. 8% of respondents preferred not to answer.



Sexual orientation

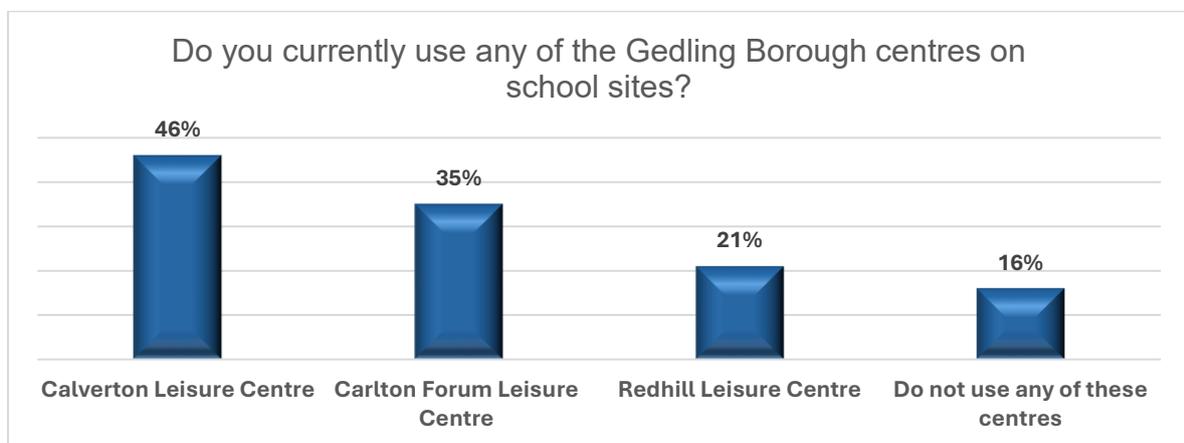
80% of respondents declared themselves as straight/heterosexual, 16% do not want to answer, 3% respondents declared themselves as Gay or Lesbian and 2% as bisexual.



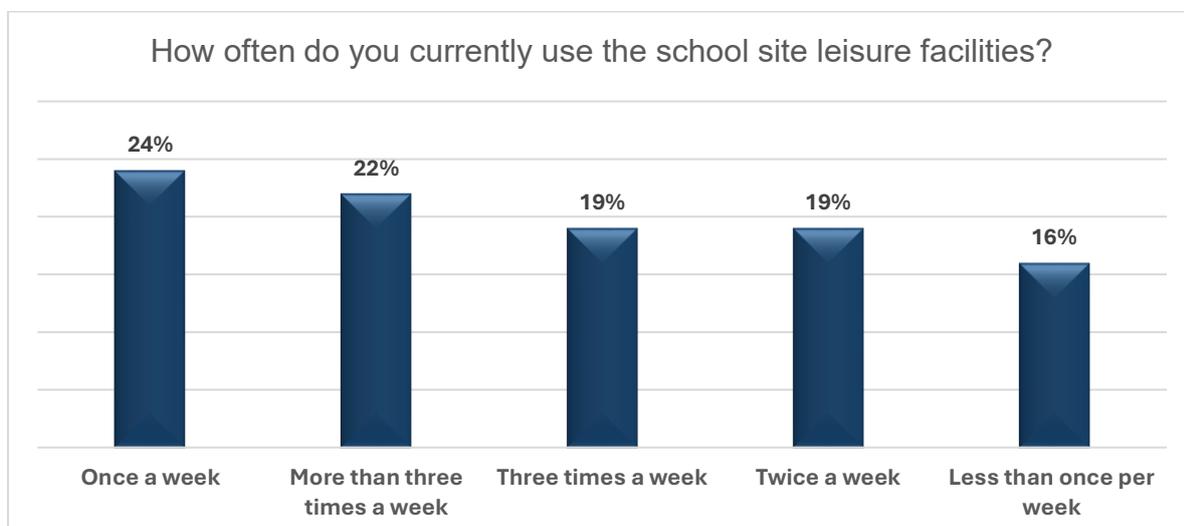
Overall survey results

933 respondents took part in this survey. The questionnaire included a mixture of quantitative questions and also a few open-ended questions, so that the residents could include any additional comments that they might have had.

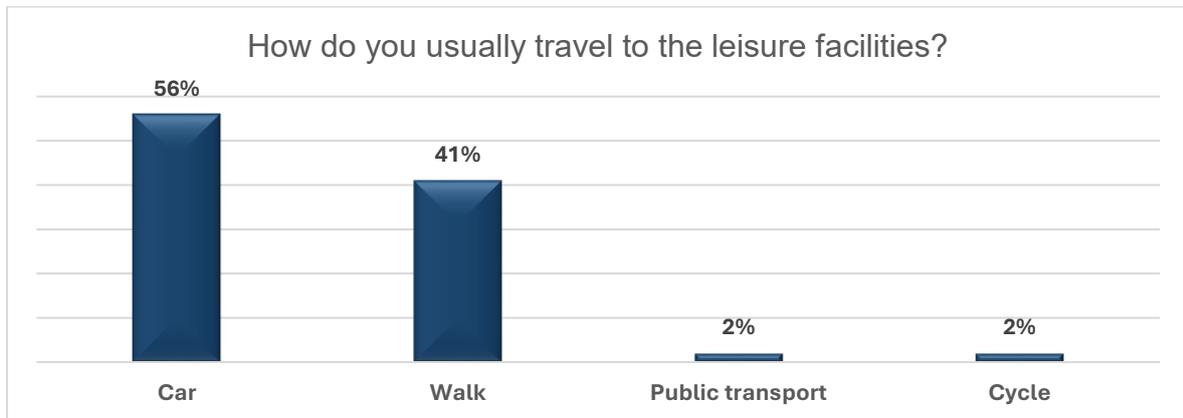
- Calverton Leisure centre and Carlton Forum Leisure centre were the most frequently selected to be used by the respondents. Redhill Leisure centre was on the third place, based on the proportion of respondents that use this leisure centre. 16% of respondents do not use any of these leisure centres.



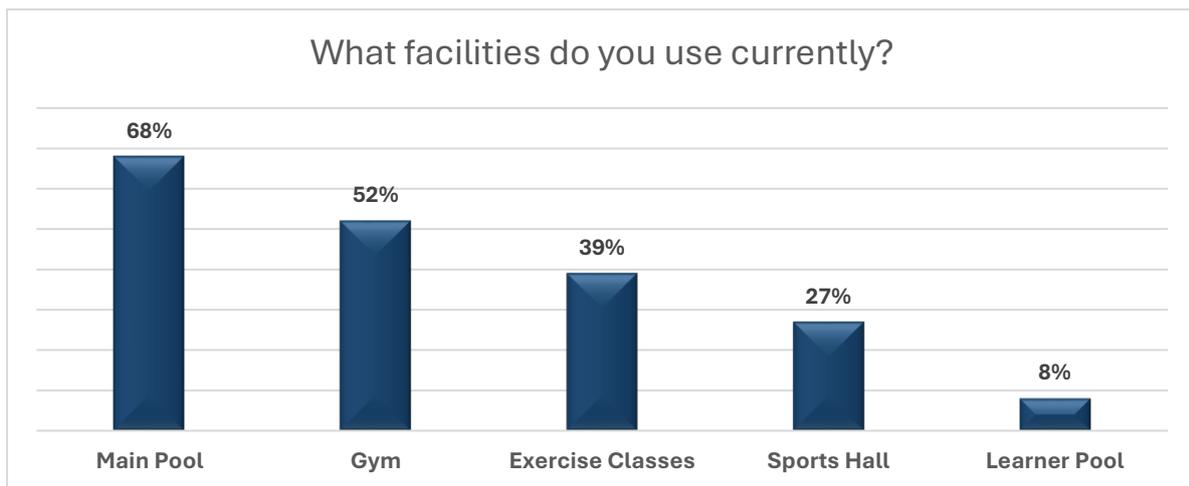
- The majority of respondents of 24% use the school site leisure facilities once a week, followed by the second highest proportion of respondents (22%) that use these facilities more than three times a week.



- The majority of respondents travel to leisure facilities either by car or they walk: the highest percentage of respondents (56%) travel by car, followed by the second highest percentage (41%) of those that walk to the facilities.



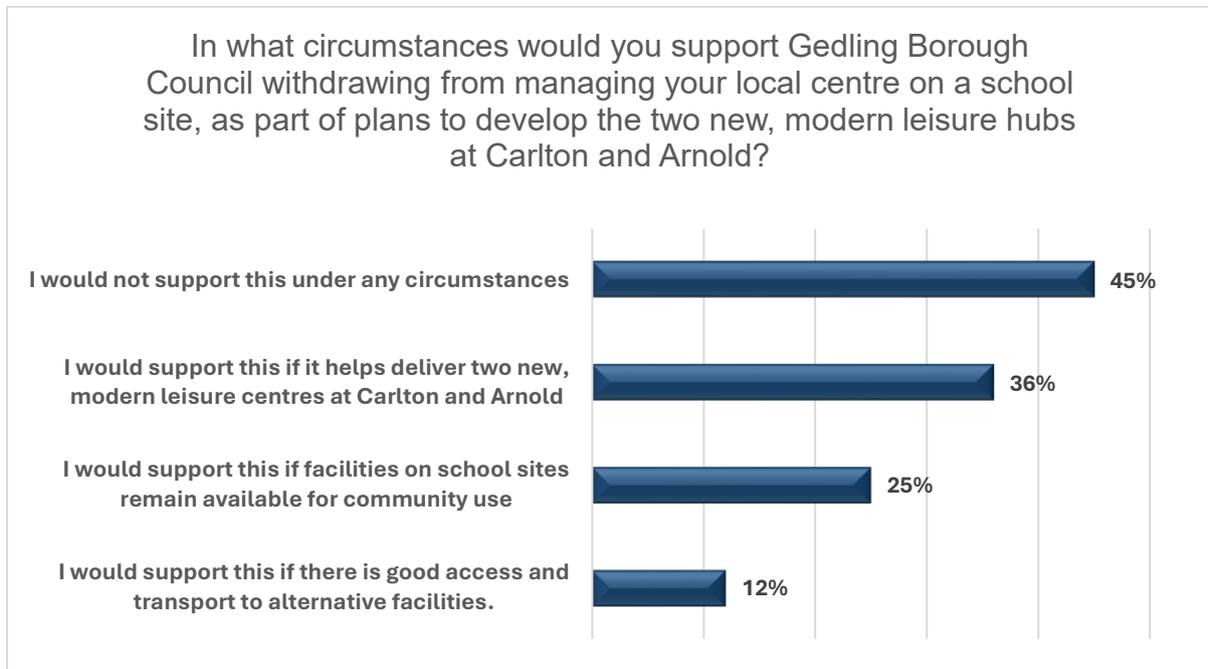
- The top three most frequently selected facilities that the respondents currently use are: Main pool, gym and exercise classes.



- The majority of respondents (53%) are willing to travel less than 10 minutes to a leisure facility, and the second highest group of respondents (38%) selected 10 to 20 minutes.



- 45% and the highest proportion of respondents would not support Gedling Borough Council withdrawing from managing the local centres on a school site. The second highest percentage of respondents (36%) would support this if it helps deliver two new, modern leisure centres at Carlton and Arnold.



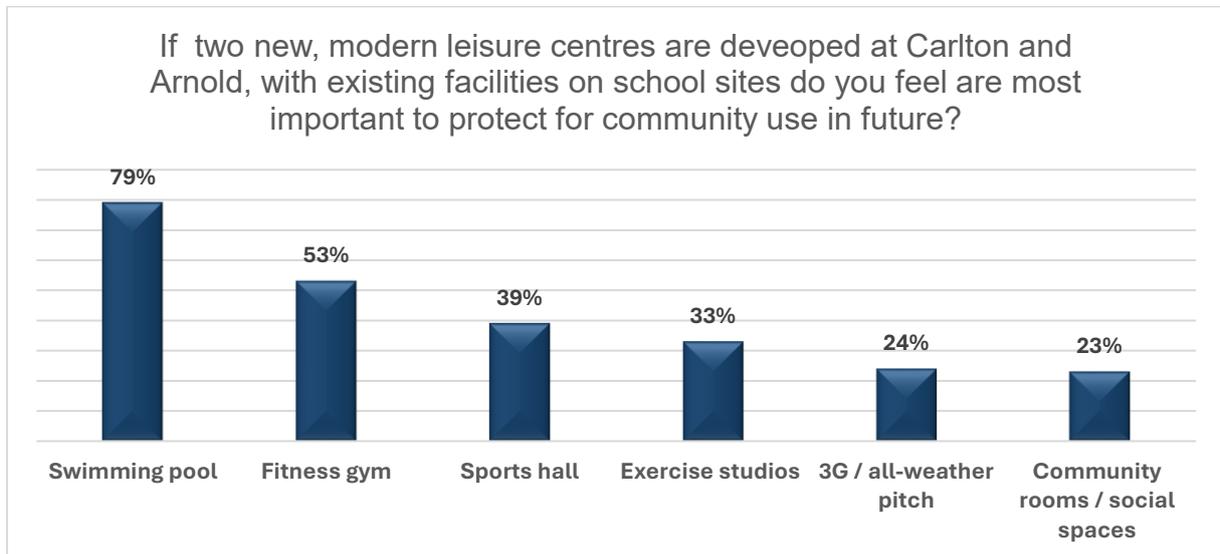
The highest number of comments from the respondents that would not support the council's withdrawal from managing the local leisure centres, refer to Calverton Leisure centre. They are concerned that the potential closure of the Calverton Leisure will cause a lot of disadvantages for the local residents, such as:

- Longer travel to a leisure centre
- Causing more difficulties for disabled people to reach a new leisure centre
- More difficult for children to attend swimming lessons, including the children with special needs
- Housing expansion in Calverton would need a local leisure centre
- The small facilities at Calverton leisure centre are more convenient for elderly residents.

The second highest number of residents who oppose this option are those that are against the potential closure of Richard Herrold and the loss of indoor bowling. Some respondents, however, would support the new modern centre if the indoor bowling is available.

Other frequently mentioned comments refer to the responders' concerns that the changes will increase in the cost, including travel expenses, they might not be able to afford.

- The top three facilities that respondents felt were important to protect if the new modern centres were developed are: swimming pool, fitness gym and sports hall.



‘Any other comments’ included:

Positive comments to a new and modern leisure facilities:

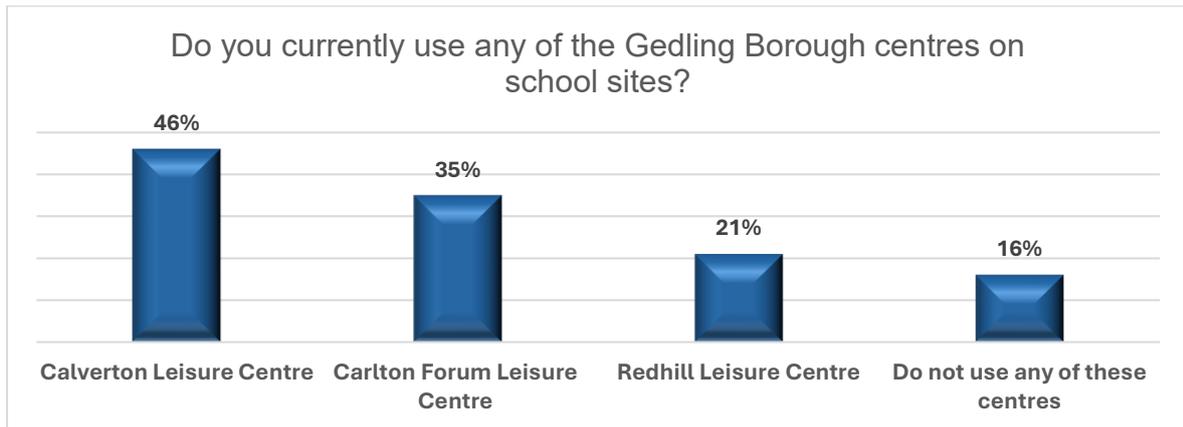
“I look forward to the new and fresh facility. It is so valuable to my mental, and physical health plus my social health too”

Also, suggestions and opportunities for the new centres such as:

- More fitness options for young adults/teens.
- Cinema, bar, social area including the inside and outside areas
- A new childcare creche
- Ensure that disability access is of a high standard
- Bowling
- Better swimming experience, including the changing room
- Better accessibility for Special Educational Needs (SEN) children
- A cafe
- Facilities for mothers and babies including mother/baby massage and mother/baby yoga
- Classes for vulnerable/elderly and those with dementia
- Ensure a good parking area
- Learn how to swim to be a priority
- Advertising of sessions and events to be improved
- The App to be improved

3. Survey results analysis per each leisure centre user group

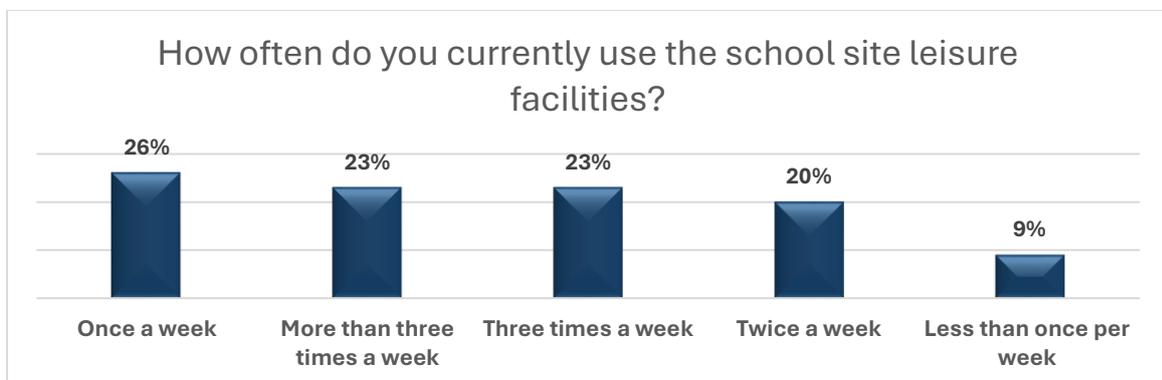
The following analysis presents responses of the users of each leisure centre and also those who declared that they did not use any of the listed leisure centres in the questionnaire.



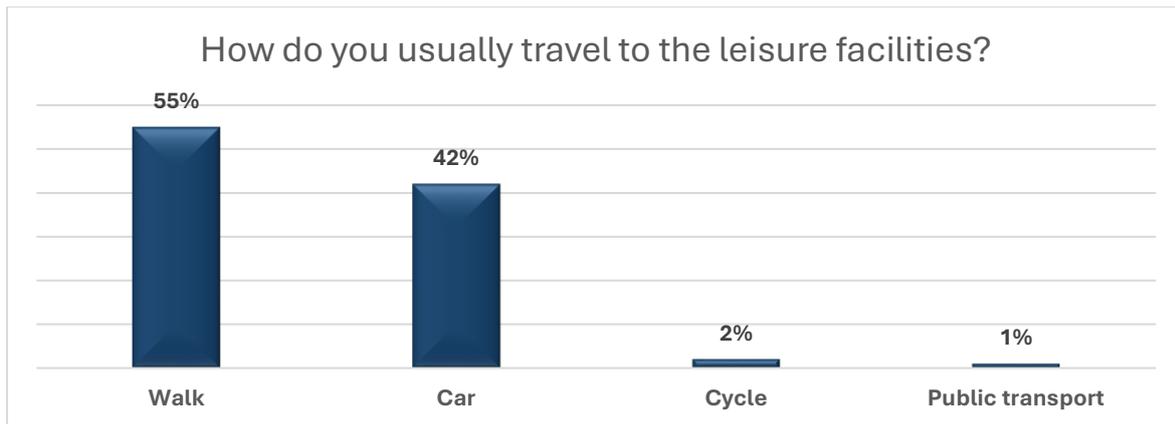
Response analysis of the Calverton Leisure Centre Users

Calverton Leisure centre was the most frequently selected to be used by the respondents.

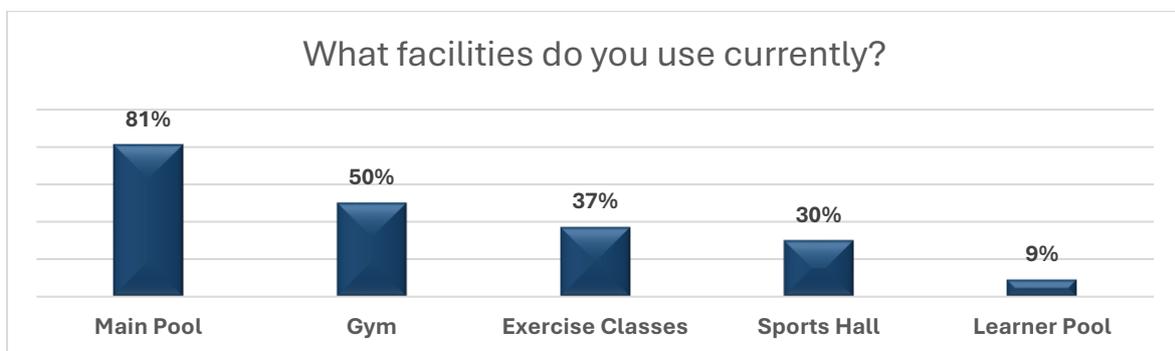
- 26% of the Calverton Leisure centre user group used the school site leisure facilities once a week. The second highest percentage (23%) of this user group used the school site leisure facilities either three times a week and more than three times a week.



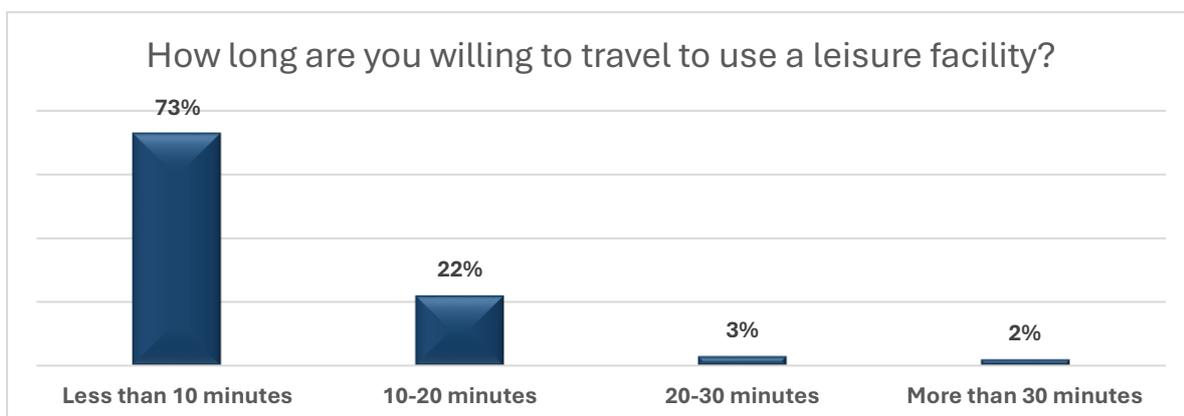
- More than a half of this user group (55%) usually walk to the leisure facilities and 42% of the same group usually travel by car.



- The top three facilities that this user group uses most are: swimming pool (81%), gym (50%), and exercise classes (37%).

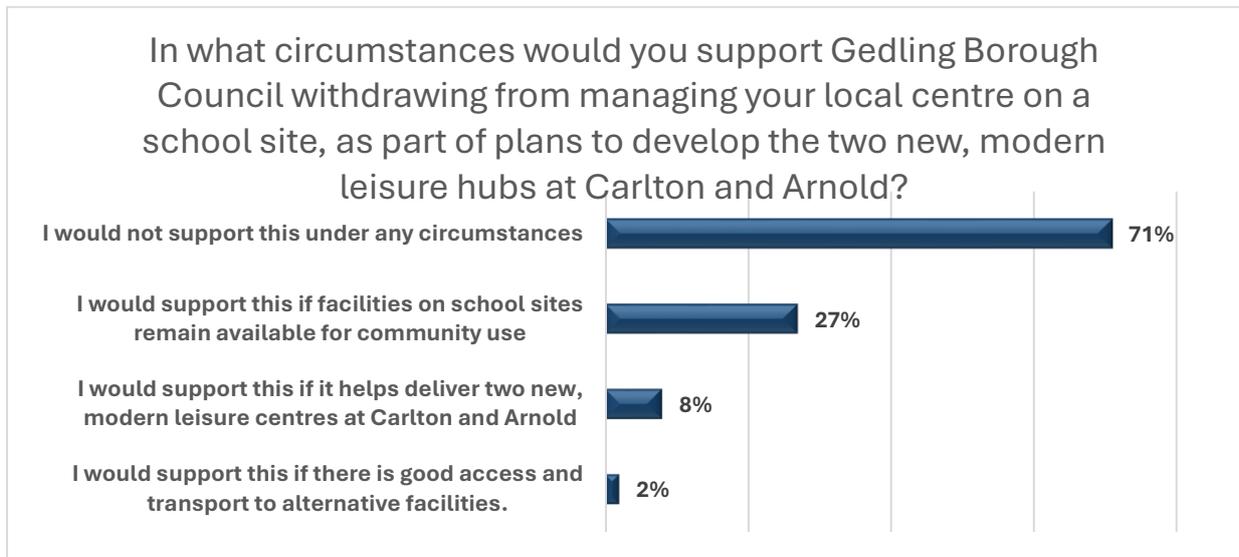


- The majority of this user group (73%) is willing to travel less than 10 minutes to use leisure facilities. The second highest percentage of this user group (22%) 20 to 30 minutes.

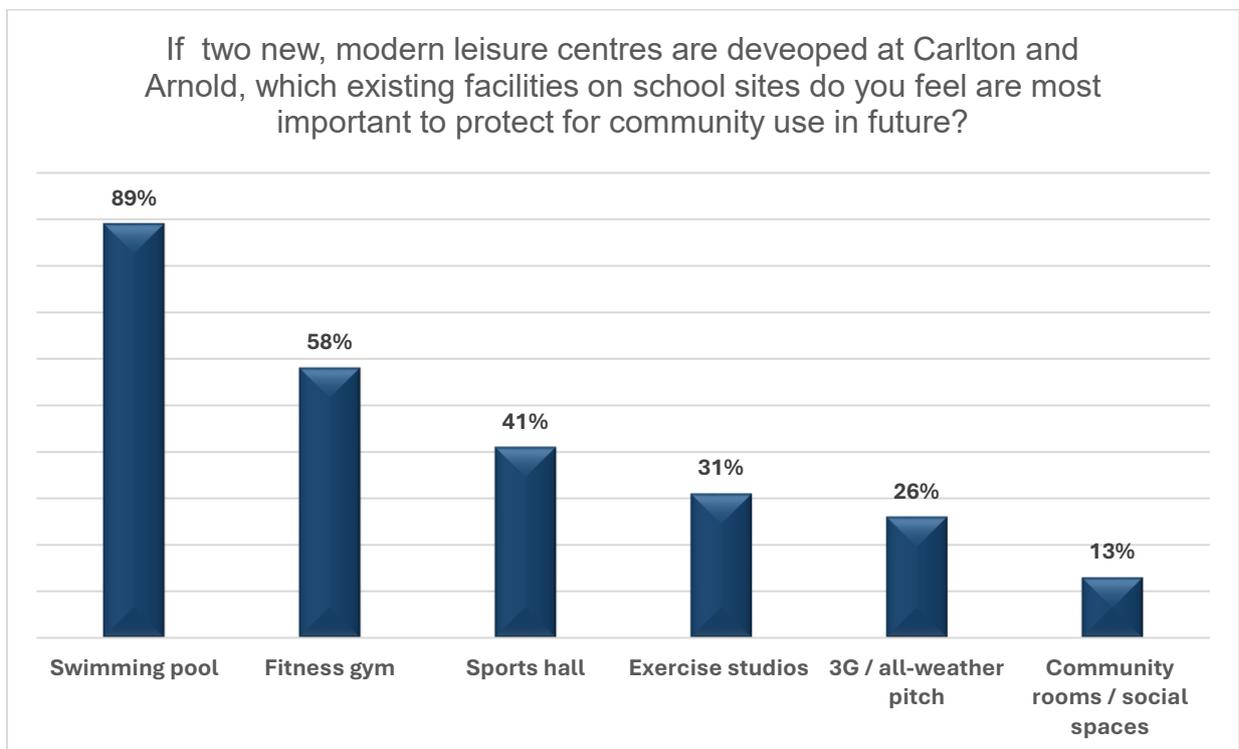


- The highest proportion of this user group of 71% would not support the council's withdrawal from managing their leisure centre on a school site. The

second highest percentage of this user group (27%) would support this if facilities on the school site remain available for community use.

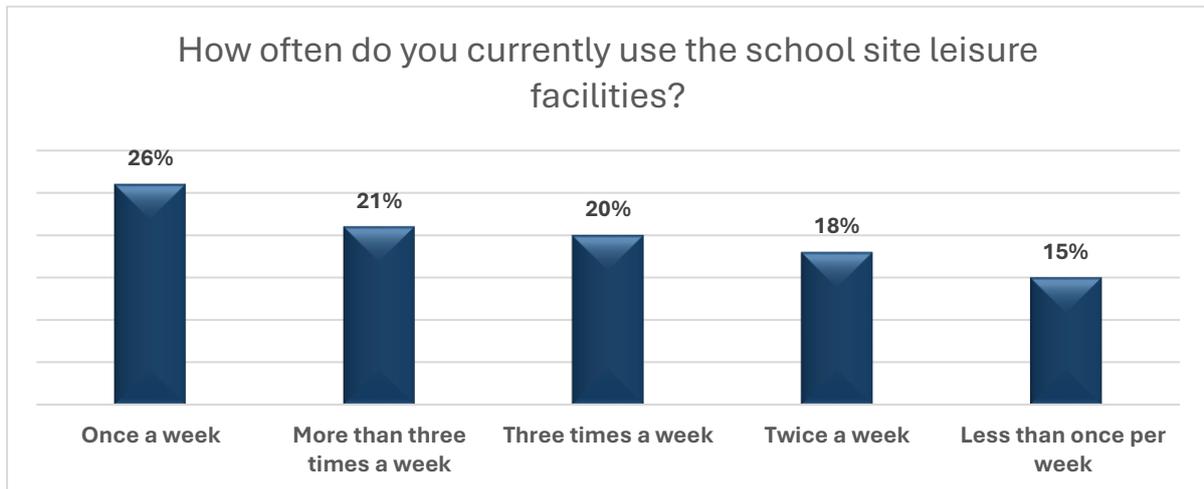


- The top three facilities that this user group considered the most important to protect if the two new modern leisure centres were developed are: Swimming pool (89), fitness gym (58%) and Sports hall (41%).

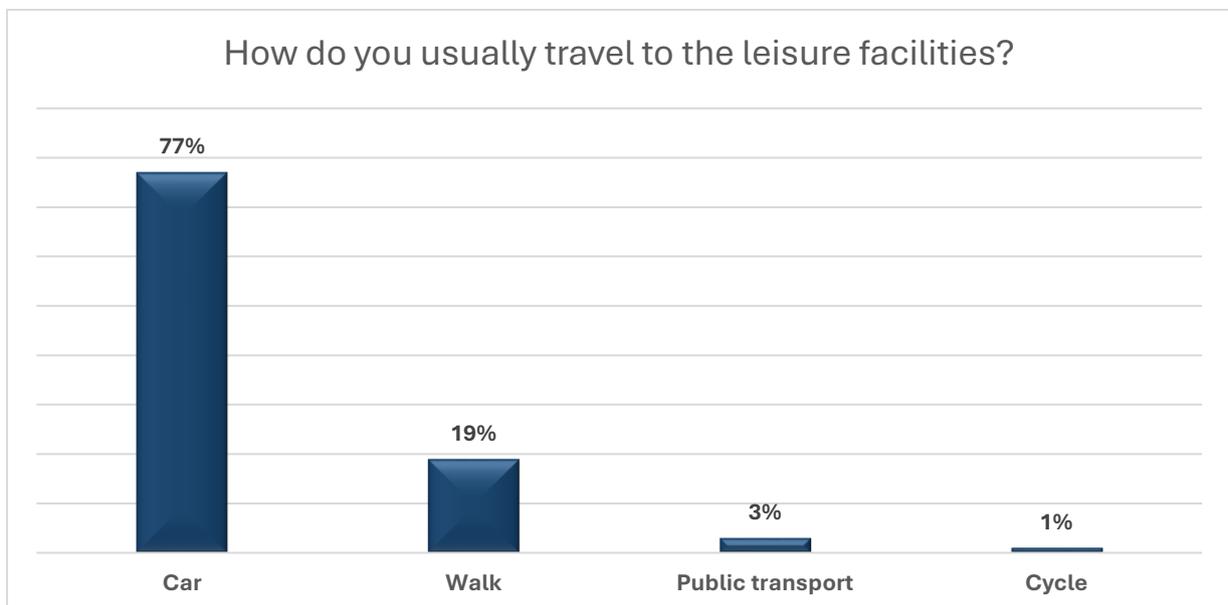


Response analysis of the Carlton Forum Leisure Centre Users

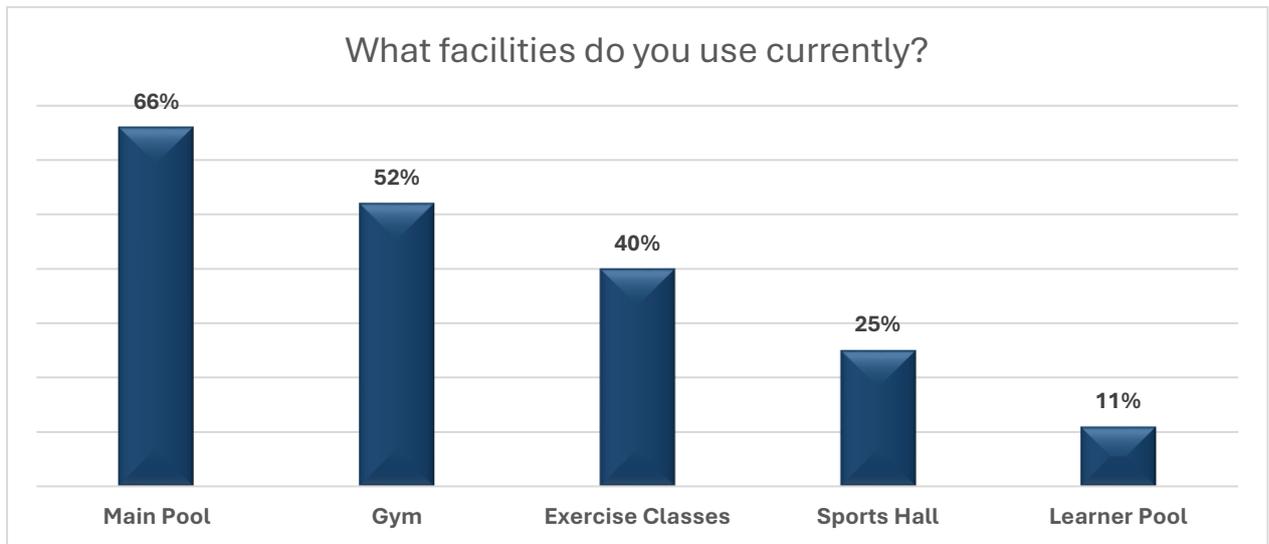
- The highest percentage (26%) of this user group, use the school site leisure facilities once a week, 21% more than three times a week and 20% three times a week.



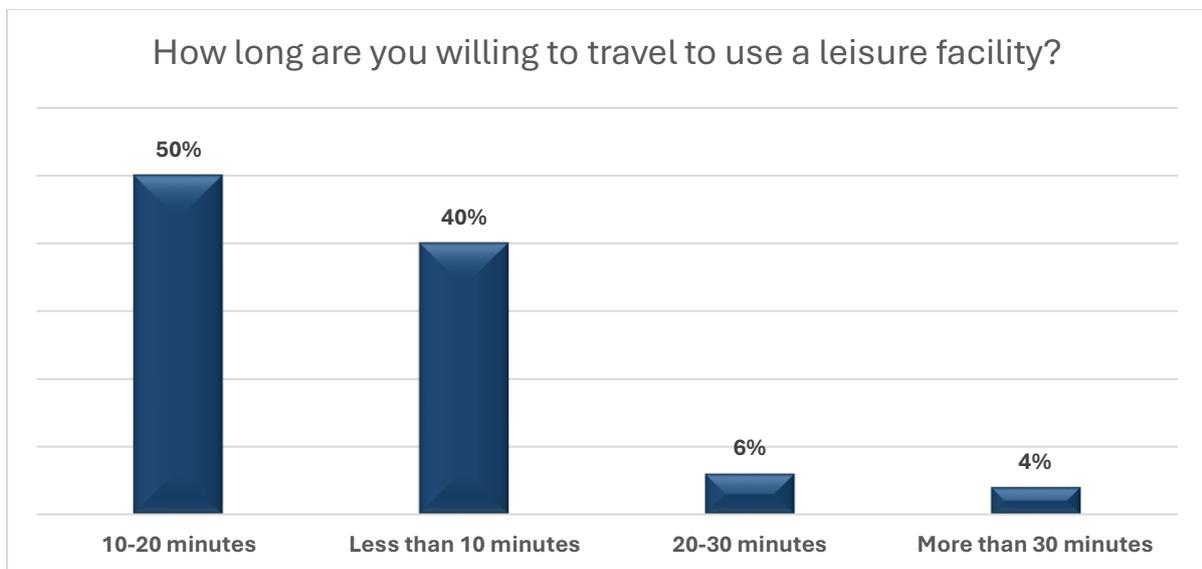
- The highest percentage of this user group of 77% travel to the leisure facilities by car. 19% of this user group walk to the leisure facilities.



- The top three facilities that this user group uses most are: Main pool (66%), Gym (52%) and exercise classes (40%).

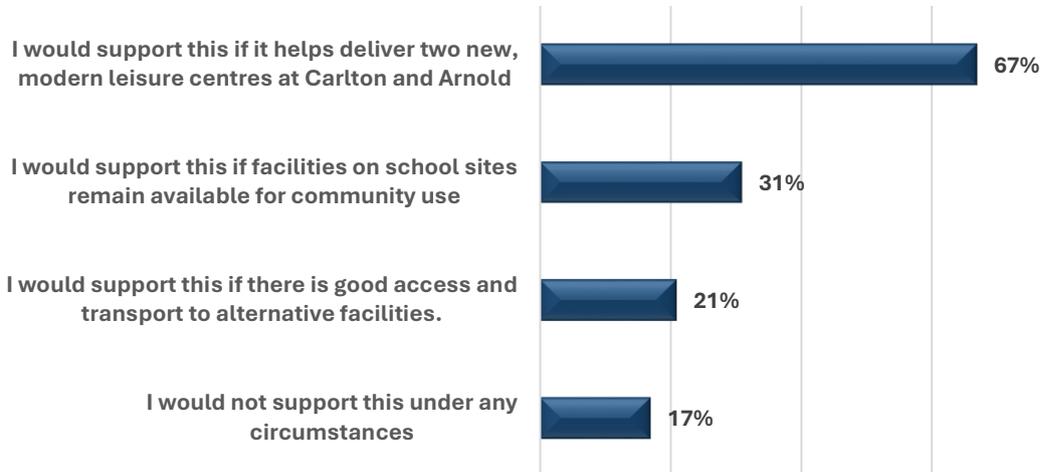


- A half of this user group are willing to travel 10 to 20 minutes to a leisure facility. 40% of this user group are willing to travel less than 10 minutes.



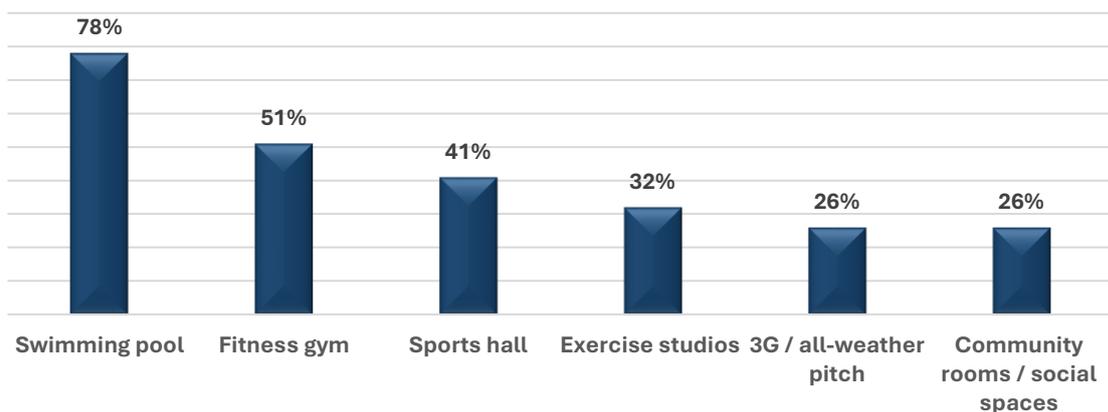
- The highest proportion of this user group (67%) would support the council withdrawal from managing their local centre if it helps deliver the two new centres. 31% and the second highest proportion of this user group would support this if facilities on the site remain available for community use.

In what circumstances would you support Gedling Borough Council withdrawing from managing your local centre on a school site, as part of plans to develop the two new, modern leisure hubs at Carlton and Arnold?



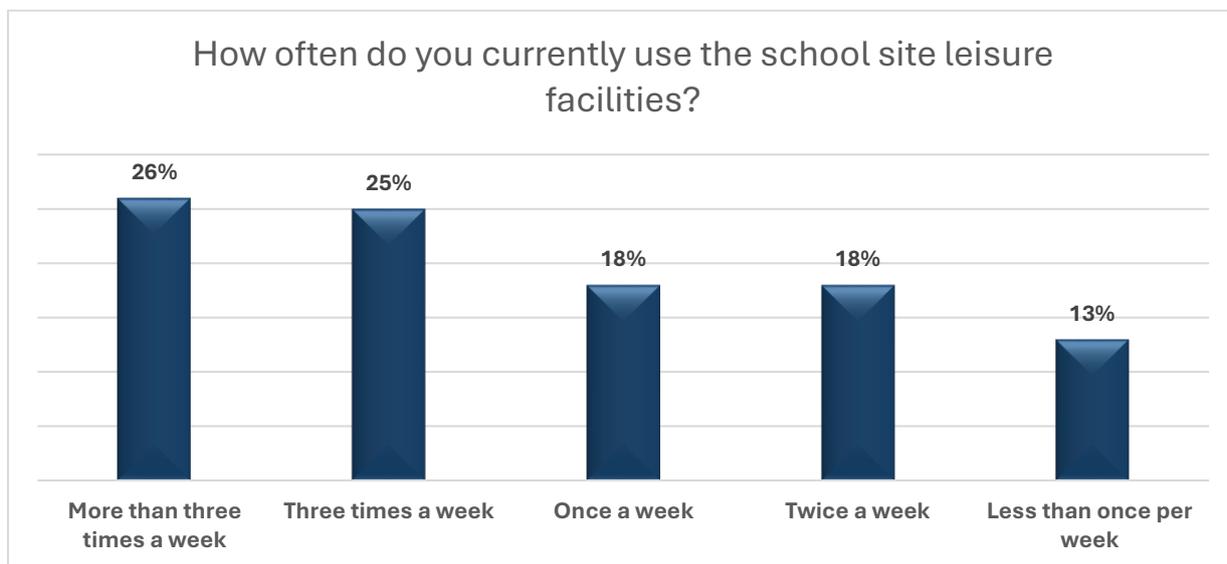
- The top three facilities that this user group considered the most important to protect if the two new modern leisure centres were developed are: Swimming pool (78), fitness gym (51%) and Sports hall (41%).

If two new, modern leisure centres are developed at Carlton and Arnold, which existing facilities on school sites do you feel are most important to protect for community use in future?

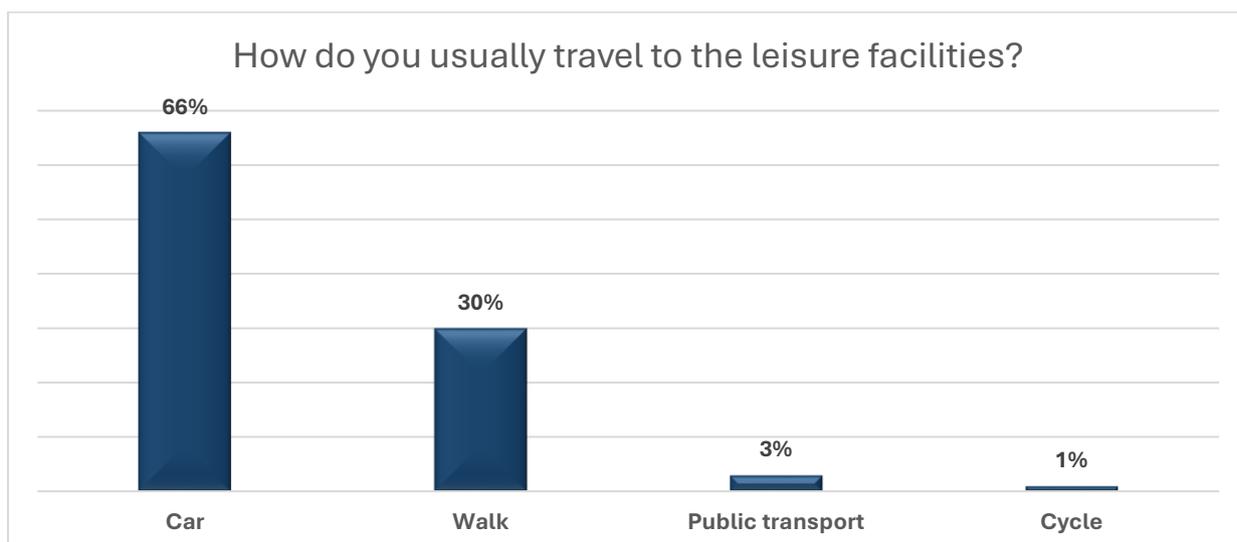


Response analysis of the Redhill Leisure Centre Users

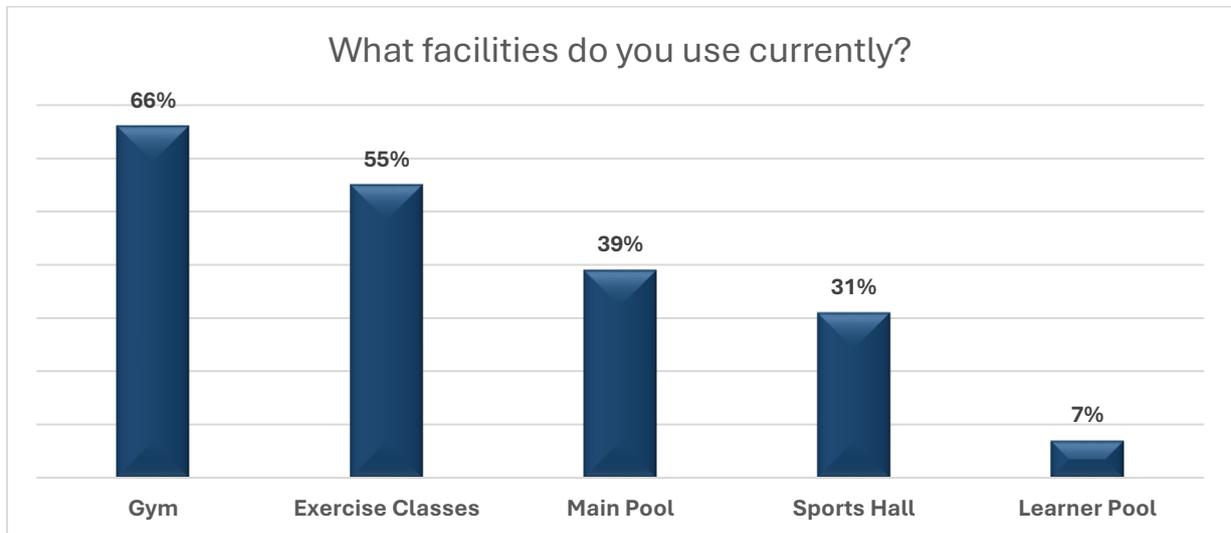
- The highest percentage (29%) of respondents of this user group use the leisure facilities more than three times a week, followed by those that use the leisure facilities three times a week (25%).



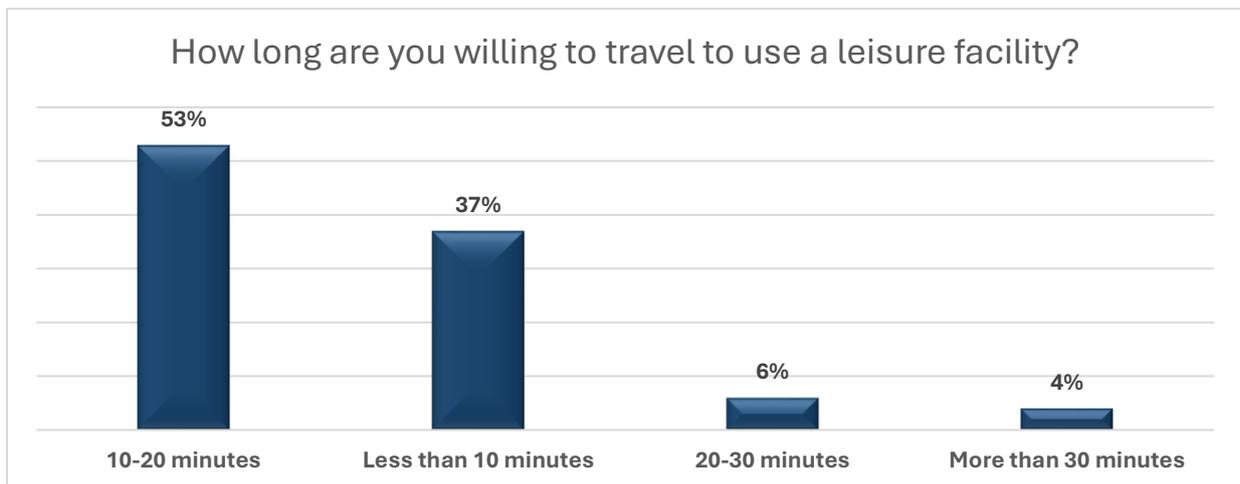
- The highest percentage of this user group travel to their leisure facilities by car (66%), followed by the second highest percentage (30%) of those that walk to the leisure facilities.



- The top three facilities that the respondents of this user group use are: gym (66%), Exercise classes (55%) and the main pool (39%).

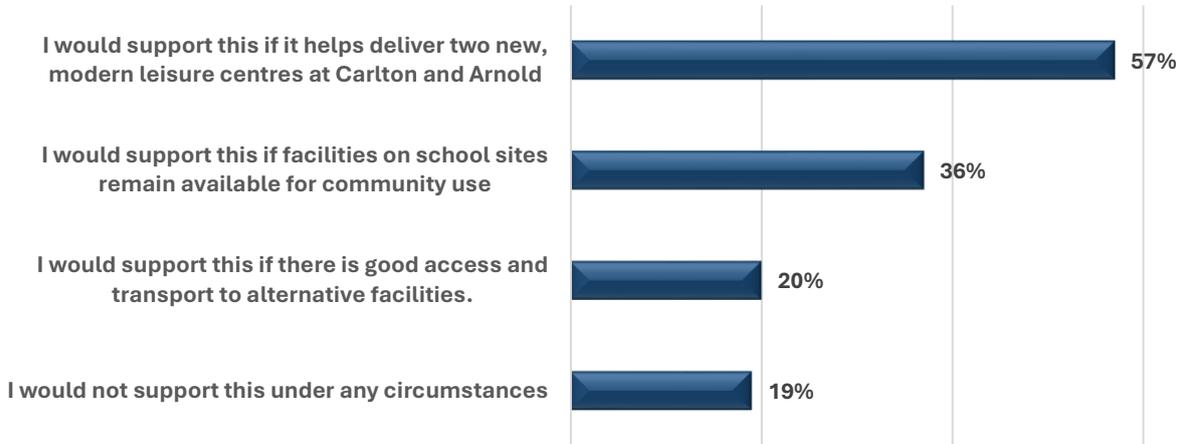


- Slightly more than a half of this user group (53%) are willing to travel 10 to 20 minutes to a leisure facility, followed by the second highest proportion of those respondents (37%) who are willing to travel less than 10 minutes.



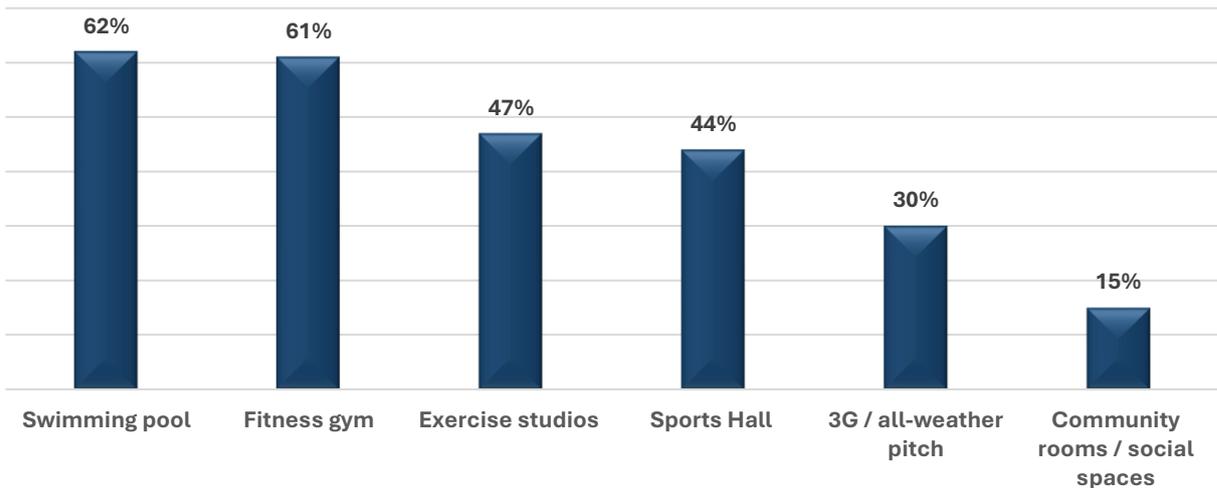
- More than a half of the respondents (57%) would support the council withdrawal from managing their leisure centres if it helps deliver two new centres. The second highest percentage (36%) would support the same if school sites remain available for community use.

In what circumstances would you support Gedling Borough Council withdrawing from managing your local centre on a school site, as part of plans to develop the two new, modern leisure hubs at Carlton and Arnold?



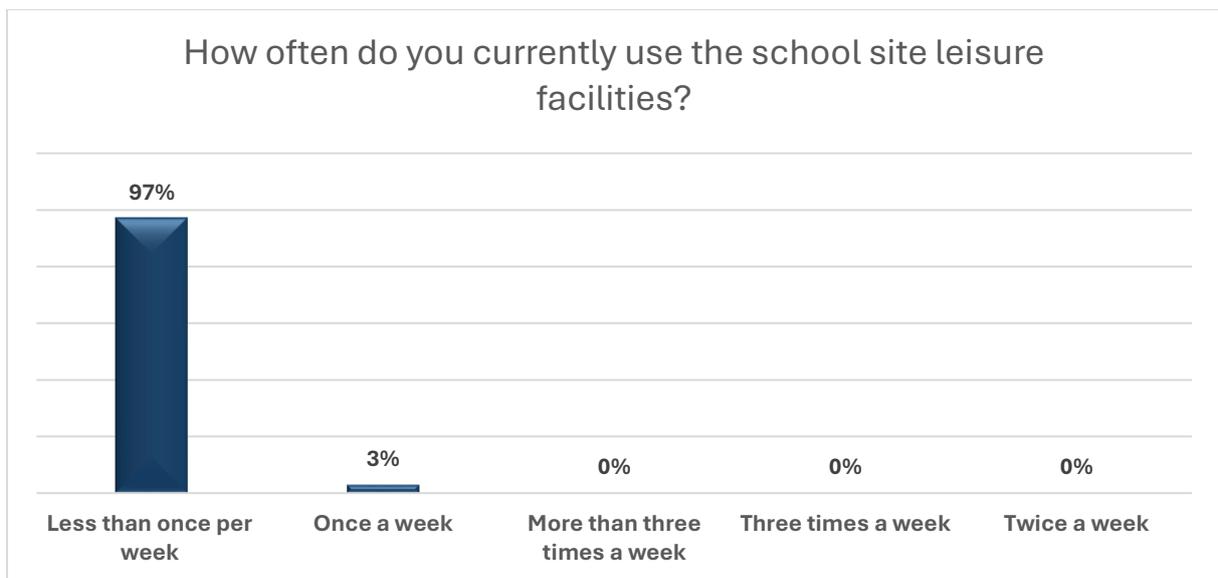
- The top three facilities selected by this user group they felt should be protected, if the new centres were developed are: Swimming pool (62%), fitness gym (61%) and sports hall (44%).

If two new, modern leisure centres are developed at Carlton and Arnold, which existing facilities on school sites do you feel are most important to protect for community use in future?

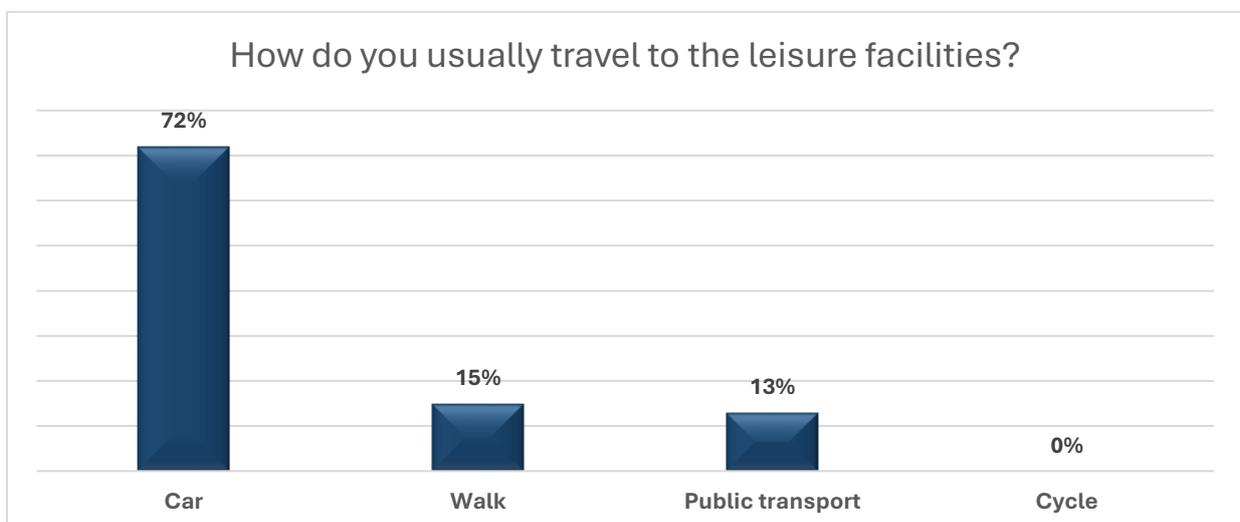


Respondents who do not use any of the listed leisure centres in the questionnaire (Calverton, Carlton Forum and Redhill Leisure centres)

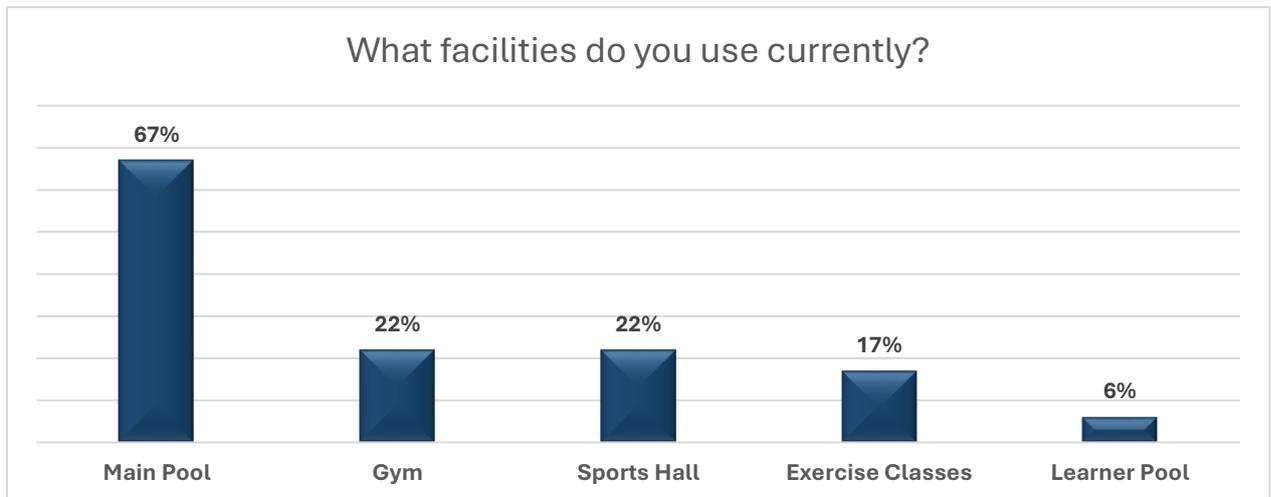
- The highest percentage (97%) of respondents of this user group use the leisure facilities less than once per week, followed by those that use the leisure facilities once per week (3%).



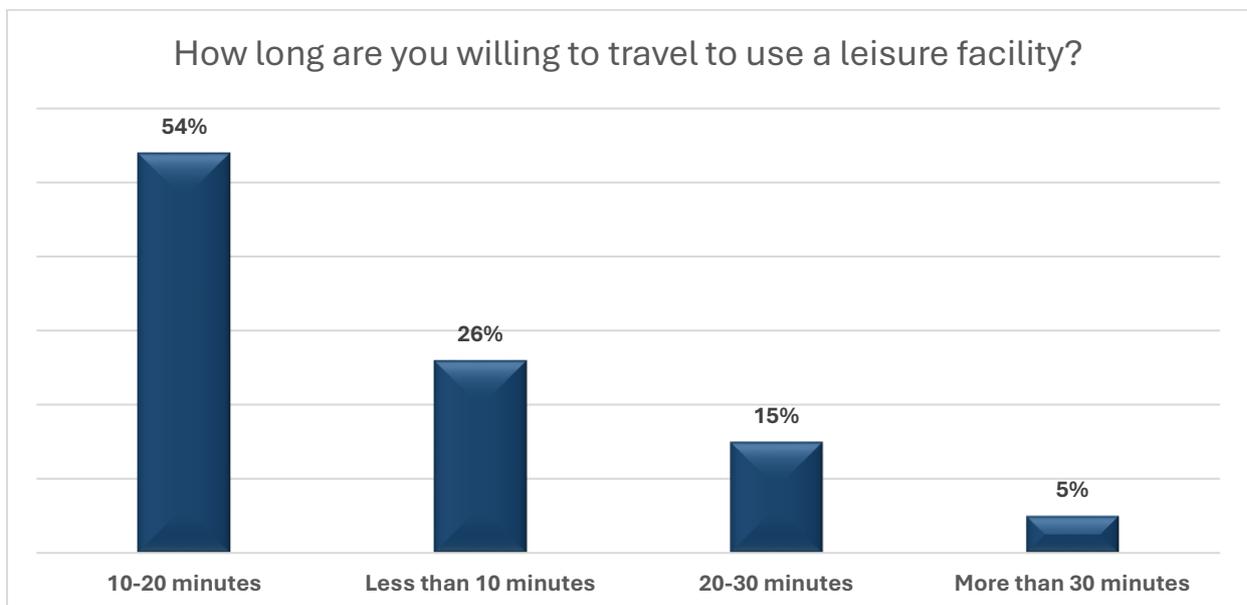
- The majority of this group of respondents (72%) travel by car to their leisure facilities, followed by the second highest proportion (15%) of those who walk to the facilities.



- The top three most frequently selected facilities that this group of respondent use are: Main pool, gym and sports hall.

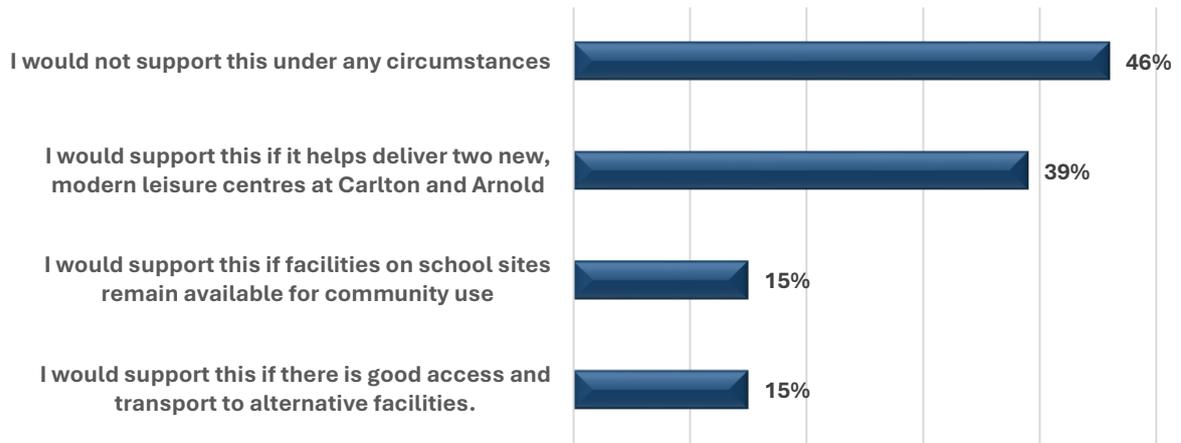


- Slightly more than a half of the respondents (54%) are willing to travel 10 to 20 minutes to their leisure facilities, followed by the second highest proportion (26%) of those that are willing to travel less than 10 minutes.



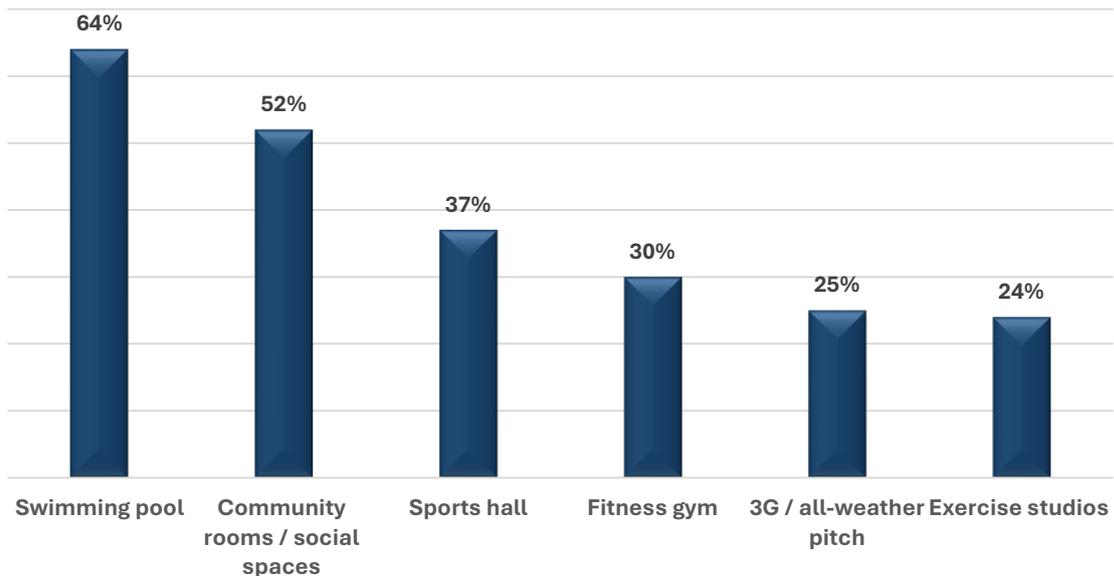
- The highest proportion of the respondents (48%) that belong to this user group would not support the council's withdrawal from managing the local centres, followed by slightly fewer of those (39%) who will support this if it helps deliver two new centres.

In what circumstances would you support Gedling Borough Council withdrawing from managing your local centre on a school site, as part of plans to develop the two new, modern leisure hubs at Carlton and Arnold?



- The top three facilities selected by this group that they felt should be protected, if the new centres were developed are: Swimming pool (64%), fitness gym (52%) and sports hall (37%).

If two new, modern leisure centres are developed at Carlton and Arnold, which existing facilities on school sites do you feel are most important to protect for community use in future?



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<p>Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:</p>	<p>Future Management of Joint Use Leisure Centres</p>				
<p>The main objective of Joint Use Agreements at Redhill, Calverton, and Carlton Forum Leisure</p>	<p>The objective of the proposal is to determine the future management arrangements for the Joint Use leisure centres at Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre as part of Gedling Borough Council’s Leisure Transformation Programme.</p> <p>The programme seeks to ensure that leisure provision across the Borough remains financially sustainable, accessible and aligned with the Council’s health and wellbeing priorities. The proposal recommends that the Council continues operating leisure services at both Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre under the existing Joint Use Agreements.</p> <p>The assessment therefore considers the potential equality impacts associated with the review of the Joint Use arrangements and the outcomes of the public consultation undertaken between November and December 2025.</p>				
<p>What impact will this Joint Use Agreement report have on the following groups? Please note that you should consider both external and internal impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External (e.g. stakeholders, residents, local businesses etc.) • Internal (staff) 					
<p>Please use only ‘Yes’ where applicable</p>		<p>Negative</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Comments</p>
<p><u>Gender</u></p>	<p>External</p>			<p>X</p>	<p>Leisure facilities provide access to sport, exercise and recreation opportunities for all genders. The proposal does</p>

					not introduce any changes that would affect access based on gender.
	Internal			X	There is no evidence of differential impact by gender among staff.
<u>Gender Reassignment</u>	External			X	No specific impacts have been identified. Leisure services will continue to be accessible to all residents.
	Internal			X	No disproportionate impact identified. The Council's equality and dignity policies ensure a safe and inclusive workplace.
<u>Age</u>	External		X		Leisure facilities play an important role in supporting physical activity, health and wellbeing across all age groups. The continued operation of Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre will ensure that residents of all ages retain access to local leisure opportunities. Calverton Leisure Centre in particular functions as an important community hub for residents in the northern rural area of the Borough. The facility provides accessible opportunities for

					<p>swimming, fitness and social activity which can support the health and wellbeing of both older residents and young people.</p> <p>Local leisure facilities can also help reduce social isolation, particularly for older residents who may rely on nearby facilities for physical activity, social interaction and structured activities. Maintaining local provision ensures that residents who may not be able to drive or easily access public transport can continue to participate in leisure activities within their community.</p> <p>The continued operation of the centres therefore supports the Council's wider objectives around active ageing, community wellbeing and increasing participation in physical activity.</p>
	Internal			X	<p>The leisure workforce spans a wide age range. No age group will be disadvantaged by the proposed changes. Training and redeployment will be</p>

					open to all, all staff will receive appropriate HR and wellbeing support
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Equality Impact Assessment



<u>Marriage and civil partnership</u>	External			X	No differential impact identified. Services remain open and accessible to all residents regardless of marital or partnership status.
	Internal			X	No specific impacts identified. Workforce policies are applied equally to all staff.
<u>Disability</u>	External		X		<p>Accessible leisure facilities play an important role in supporting the health, wellbeing and social inclusion of disabled residents. Access to local leisure provision enables disabled individuals to participate in physical activity, maintain independence and engage in social and community activities.</p> <p>The continued operation of Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre ensures that disabled residents across the Borough retain access to local leisure opportunities, including swimming, fitness activities and indoor sport. These facilities provide accessible environments</p>

				<p>where individuals can participate in physical activity in a safe and supportive setting. Swimming facilities in particular can provide significant health and rehabilitation benefits for disabled residents, offering opportunities for low-impact exercise that may not be available in other environments. Calverton Leisure Centre also hosts a number of Special Educational Needs (SEN) swimming sessions, which provide inclusive opportunities for children and young people with additional needs to participate in swimming in a supportive environment. Local leisure facilities are also important in reducing barriers to participation for disabled residents who may face challenges travelling longer distances or accessing public transport. Continuing to operate the joint use centres ensures that residents have access to leisure opportunities within their local communities,</p>
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					<p>reducing the need for longer journeys to alternative facilities. Leisure centres also provide opportunities for structured programmes, inclusive fitness activities and community participation which can support physical health, mental wellbeing and social inclusion for disabled residents.</p> <p>By continuing to operate both facilities, the Council is supporting inclusive access to leisure provision and helping ensure that disabled residents can continue to benefit from opportunities to remain active, socially connected and engaged within their local communities.</p>
	Internal			X	No specific impacts identified. Workforce policies are applied equally to all staff.
<u>Race & Ethnicity</u>	External			X	No direct disproportionate impact identified. All employment processes will continue to apply the Council's equality and diversity principles.

	Internal			X	No evidence of disproportionate impact. All employment processes will continue to apply the Council's equality and diversity principles.
<u>Sexual Orientation</u>	External		X		<p>Leisure facilities provide opportunities for physical activity, recreation and community participation that are accessible to residents of all sexual orientations. The continued operation of Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre ensures that inclusive leisure opportunities remain available within local communities across the Borough.</p> <p>Leisure centres can also provide safe and welcoming community environments where individuals are able to participate in sport, fitness and recreational activities regardless of sexual orientation. Access to local leisure facilities supports wider health and wellbeing outcomes, including physical activity, social connection and community engagement.</p>

					By maintaining the operation of both facilities, the Council is supporting the continued availability of inclusive leisure provision that is accessible to all residents and aligns with the Council's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.
	Internal			X	No specific impacts identified. The Council maintains zero tolerance for discrimination and promotes inclusion for all staff.
<u>Religion or Belief (or no Belief)</u>	External			X	No adverse impacts identified.
	Internal			X	No differential impact identified. The Council's flexible working arrangements will continue to accommodate staff observing religious practices.
<u>Pregnancy & Maternity</u>	External		X		Leisure facilities provide important opportunities for physical activity and wellbeing for individuals during pregnancy and after childbirth. Activities such as swimming and low-impact exercise can be particularly beneficial for maintaining physical health during

					<p>pregnancy and supporting postnatal recovery.</p> <p>The continued operation of Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre ensures that local leisure facilities remain available for expectant parents and families with young children. Access to local swimming pools and fitness facilities provides opportunities for safe physical activity, which can support both physical and mental wellbeing during pregnancy and the postnatal period.</p> <p>Leisure centres also support families through opportunities for children's activities such as swim school provision, which can be particularly important for parents with young children. Maintaining access to local leisure facilities reduces the need for families to travel longer distances to access leisure opportunities, which can be particularly beneficial during pregnancy or when caring for young children.</p>
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	Internal			X	No negative impact anticipated. HR policies ensure staff on maternity or shared parental leave remain fully informed and supported throughout any organisational change.
<p>Other Groups (e.g. any other vulnerable groups, rural isolation, deprived areas, low income staff etc.)</p> <p>Please state the group/s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income households • Rural Residents • Carers • Parents with young children 	External		X		<p>Leisure facilities play an important role in supporting the health, wellbeing and social connectivity of local communities. The continued operation of Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre ensures that accessible leisure opportunities remain available for a wide range of residents across the Borough.</p> <p>Calverton Leisure Centre in particular serves residents in rural communities within the northern part of Gedling Borough, where access to alternative leisure facilities may require longer travel distances. Consultation responses highlighted that many users of the facility live locally, with a significant proportion of users reporting that they walk to the centre. Maintaining</p>

					<p>local leisure provision therefore helps ensure that residents without access to private transport can continue to access physical activity and recreation opportunities within their community.</p> <p>Access to local leisure facilities can also be particularly important for low income households, where the cost of travelling to alternative facilities may create barriers to participation. Continuing to operate local facilities helps ensure that affordable opportunities for sport, swimming and physical activity remain available to residents.</p> <p>Leisure centres also support families with children and young people through access to swimming lessons, junior sports activities and recreational facilities. Swim school provision and other structured activities provide opportunities for children and young people to develop physical skills, confidence in water and</p>
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					<p>healthy lifestyle habits from an early age. In addition to supporting physical activity, leisure centres can act as community hubs, providing opportunities for social interaction, recreation and community engagement. Maintaining access to these facilities therefore supports wider community wellbeing and helps ensure that residents across different communities can continue to benefit from local leisure provision.</p>
	Internal		X		<p>The proposal supports the continued operation of leisure services at Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre and therefore provides stability for staff currently employed at these facilities. Continuing to operate the centres under the existing Joint Use Agreements helps maintain employment opportunities within the leisure service and supports the ongoing delivery of community</p>

					leisure provision by Council staff.

<p>Is there is any evidence of a high disproportionate adverse or positive impact on any groups?</p>			<p>No evidence of a high disproportionate adverse impact has been identified as a result of the proposal.</p> <p>The Equality Impact Assessment has identified a number of positive impacts for certain groups, particularly in relation to continued access to local leisure facilities. The decision to continue operating leisure services at Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre ensures that residents across the Borough retain access to opportunities for physical activity, recreation and community participation.</p> <p>The continued operation of Calverton Leisure Centre in particular supports residents in rural communities, where travel to alternative facilities may present barriers for those without access to private transport. Maintaining local leisure provision therefore supports accessibility for residents who rely on nearby facilities.</p> <p>The facilities also provide opportunities that support older residents, disabled residents, families with children and young people, including activities such as swimming, fitness and community sport programmes. Calverton Leisure Centre also hosts Special Educational Needs (SEN) swimming sessions, which support inclusive participation in physical activity.</p>
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			Overall, the proposal supports the continued availability of accessible leisure opportunities and therefore has positive equality outcomes for a number of groups within the community.
Is there an opportunity to mitigate or alleviate any such impacts?			N/A
Are there any gaps in information available (e.g. evidence) so that a complete assessment of different impacts is not possible?			<p>While detailed demographic information relating to all protected characteristics of leisure centre users is not fully available, the Council has used a range of available evidence to inform this assessment.</p> <p>This includes participation and membership data from the Council's leisure facilities, information contained within the Leisure Strategy (2025), and the results of the public consultation undertaken between November and December 2025, which received 933 responses from residents, users and stakeholders.</p> <p>The consultation and participation data provide a reasonable evidence base to understand how the facilities are used and the importance of local leisure provision to different groups within the community.</p> <p>Based on the available evidence, no disproportionate adverse impacts have been identified as a result of the proposal to continue operating leisure services at Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre.</p>
In response to the information provided above please provide a set of proposed action including any consultation that is going to be carried out:			

Deliver a formal consultation	November– December 2025	Minimum of 500 responses; representation across all protected groups; equality data analysed and reported	Leisure Transformation Team
Data Analysis and EIA Review	Late December 2025 – February 2026	Revised EIA and full equality analysis included in Cabinet report.	Leisure Transformation Team.
Cabinet Reporting and Decision-Making	March 2026	Cabinet report approved by Cabinet	Assistant Director - Communities, Leisure & Wellbeing

Authorisation and Review

Completing Officer	Tom Fletcher
Authorising Head of Service/Director	Lance Juby
Date	March 2026
Review date (if applicable)	

Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:	Future Management of Joint Use Leisure Centres			
The main objective of (please insert the name of accessed document stated above):	<p>The objective of this proposal is to determine the future management arrangements for the Joint Use leisure centres at Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre as part of Gedling Borough Council's Leisure Transformation Programme.</p> <p>The proposal recommends that the Council continues operating leisure services at both facilities under the existing Joint Use Agreements. The assessment therefore considers the potential environmental and climate impacts associated with the continued operation of these facilities within the Council's wider leisure estate.</p>			
What impact will this have on the following Please read guidance before completing.				
Category	Negative	Positive	No impact/ Negligible change	Mitigation/ Comments
Behaviour & Culture Change		X		The continued operation of Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre supports opportunities for residents to access leisure facilities within their local

			<p>communities. Consultation responses indicated that a significant proportion of users, particularly at Calverton Leisure Centre, travel to the facility by walking due to its location within the community.</p> <p>By continuing to operate these local leisure facilities, the proposal reduces the need for residents to travel to alternative leisure centres further away. This supports more sustainable travel behaviours and helps encourage walking and local participation in leisure activities.</p> <p>Maintaining accessible local leisure provision therefore contributes to positive behaviour and culture change by promoting active lifestyles and</p>
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				<p>reducing reliance on car travel to access leisure opportunities.</p>
<p>Built Environment</p>			<p>X</p>	<p>The proposal supports the continued operation of the existing leisure facilities at Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre. Maintaining these facilities ensures that the buildings continue to provide leisure and wellbeing services for the local community.</p> <p>The Council will continue to undertake maintenance and investment in the facilities to support their ongoing operation. This includes improvements to plant and building infrastructure where required to ensure the facilities remain operational and efficient.</p> <p>Where appropriate, the Council will continue to explore opportunities to improve energy efficiency within the buildings, for</p>

				<p>example through operational Improvements and measures such as pool covers and plant upgrades which can help reduce energy consumption associated with leisure facilities.</p>
<p>Transport</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>The continued operation of Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre supports access to leisure facilities within local communities and reduces the need for residents to travel longer distances to access similar provision. Consultation responses indicated that many users of Calverton Leisure Centre travel to the facility by walking due to its location within the village and its role as a local community facility. Maintaining the operation of the centre therefore supports sustainable travel behaviours and reduces reliance on car travel. By retaining local leisure provision within both</p>

				<p>communities, the proposal helps minimise additional travel that may otherwise occur if residents were required to access alternative facilities further away. This may help reduce transport-related emissions associated with leisure travel.</p>
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Climate Impact Assessment



Energy, Natural Resources & Climate Change		X		<p>Leisure facilities, particularly those containing swimming pools and fitness equipment, are energy intensive buildings due to the requirements associated with pool heating, ventilation and plant operation. The proposal relates to the continued operation of the existing leisure facilities at Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre. As part of the ongoing management of these sites, the Council will continue to review opportunities to improve operational efficiency and reduce energy consumption where possible. This may include improvements to plant equipment, operational practices and energy efficiency measures such as the use of pool covers and other plant upgrades which can help reduce heat loss and energy</p>
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				<p>usage associated with swimming pool facilities. The continued management of the facilities by the Council ensures that opportunities to improve energy efficiency can continue to be explored as part of the ongoing operation and maintenance of the leisure estate.</p>
<p>Waste Reduction & Recycling</p>			<p>X</p>	<p>The proposal relates to the continued operation of the existing leisure facilities at Calverton Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre and does not introduce significant changes to waste generation at the sites.</p> <p>The Council will continue to manage waste generated through the operation of the leisure facilities in line with existing waste management and recycling practices. This includes the appropriate disposal and recycling of operational waste</p>

				<p>associated with the day-to-day running of the centres.</p> <p>Where possible, opportunities to reduce waste and improve recycling practices will continue to be considered as part of the ongoing management of the leisure facilities.</p>
Blue-Green Infrastructure/Biodiversity			X	<p>The proposal is not expected to have any direct impact on blue-green infrastructure, biodiversity or natural habitats.</p> <p>The operation of the facilities will continue within the existing site boundaries and therefore no additional mitigation measures are required in relation to biodiversity.</p>
Procurement & Purchasing			X	<p>The Council will continue to procure goods, services and equipment required for the operation and maintenance of the facilities in accordance with the Council's</p>

				<p>procurement policies and procedures.</p> <p>Where possible, procurement decisions will continue to consider sustainability and value for money, including opportunities to purchase energy efficient equipment, materials and services that support the efficient operation of the leisure facilities.</p>
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In response to the information provided above please provide if there is any proposed action including any consultation that is going to be carried out

Planned Actions	Timeframe	Success Measure	Responsible Officer
Deliver a formal consultation	November– December 2025	Minimum of 500 responses; representation across all protected groups; equality data analysed and reported	Leisure Transformation Team
Data Analysis and EIA Review	Late December 2025 – February 2026	Revised EIA and full equality analysis included in Cabinet report.	Leisure Transformation Team.
Cabinet Reporting and Decision-Making	March 2026	Cabinet report approved by Cabinet	Assistant Director - Communities, Leisure & Wellbeing

Authorisation and Review

Completing Officer	Tom Fletcher
Authorising Head of Service/Director	Lance Juby
Date	10/03/26
Review date (if applicable)	



Report to Cabinet

Subject Council Tax Support | Households with Terminally Ill Members

Date 26th March 2026

Author Assistant Director | Revenues & Welfare Services

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to introduce a council tax discount to support households living with a terminally ill family member.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- 1) Cabinet approves guidance at appendix 1 to this report for determining applications for a reduction in council tax for households living with a terminally ill family member.
- 2) Cabinet approves a delegation to the Chief Finance and s151 Officer to determine applications for discretionary reduction in council tax under section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 in relation to households living with a terminally ill family member in the Borough of Gedling, in line with the guidance at appendix 1 to this report.
- 3) That Cabinet approves an additional budget of £25,000 for this year and an equivalent budget in future years for this purpose, with the level of future budget to be determined based on requirement.

1 Background

- 1.1 In June 2024, Marie Curie, the UK's leading end of life charity, [published a report](#) that explored poverty and fuel poverty at the end of life in the UK. The report identified that in 2023, 111,000 people died in poverty, more than one in six deaths registered in England, Scotland and Wales.

- 1.2 In the report the charity recommended that local authorities should review council tax and discretionary support schemes to provide support to households on a low income that include someone living with a terminal illness.
- 1.3 Council tax exemptions and discounts are set in legislation and cannot be amended by the Council. There is currently no statutory council tax exemption or relief that can be awarded to residents living with a terminal illness.
- 1.4 The Council has the discretion to reduce the council tax liability for individuals or prescribed groups as it thinks fit. This discretion is exercised in accordance with section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 1.5 The Council currently uses this discretion to reduce or remove the council tax paid by residents between the ages of 18 and 25 who have left care.
- 1.6 An options appraisal was presented to the Council's Senior Leadership Team outlining the potential options available to the Council on 3rd December 2025. The options explored are detailed below (from paragraph 1.10).
- 1.7 Information obtained from the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust identified that, as at 12th November 2025, there were **520 people** in the Borough of Gedling with an end-of-life diagnosis.
- 1.8 It is not possible to confirm how many of these people are resident in hospitals, care or residential homes and how many are receiving care in the homes of family members. There is also no address information which would enable assessment of council tax banding and eligibility to other council tax exemptions or discounts.
- 1.9 The lack of definitive information means accurate costing is difficult. It is possible however, to make some assumptions to provide costed options. Four options have been considered and are set out below:

Option 1

- 1.10 Develop a scheme to provide 100% council tax relief to all households in the Borough of Gedling impacted by having a relative who is receiving end-of-life care. This would be provided irrespective of where in the Borough the individual receiving care lives.

- 1.11 It is not possible to cost this option as the provided data only details those residents in the Borough identified as being in the last year of life. This option could provide relief to multiple households, where adult children of the patient reside in the Borough.
- 1.12 It is considered that this option would potentially provide support to significantly high numbers with no real limit in place to ensure affordability.

Option 2

- 1.13 Develop a scheme to provide 100% council tax relief to all households in the Borough of Gedling impacted by having a relative living in the household who is receiving end-of-life care. This option limits the exposure to provision of the relief to the direct household.
- 1.14 Information provided suggests 520 residents in the district are living with an end-of-life diagnosis. What is not known is how many of those 520 residents are living in private accommodation and therefore eligible. The table below gives an estimate of the cost of this scheme on the assumption of relief to 520 households dependent upon the council tax band of the property in which the resident resides.

Property Band	Band Charge in 2025/26 (£)	Cost of Relief (520 households) (£)
Band A	1,654.91	860,553
Band D	2,482.35	1,290,822

- 1.15 This means the estimated cost of option 2 is between £860k and £1.3m.

Option 3

- 1.16 Develop a scheme to provide 100% council tax relief to all households in the Borough of Gedling that are in receipt of relief through the local council tax reduction scheme (CTRS) and are impacted by having a relative living in the household who is receiving end-of-life care.
- 1.17 This option limits the exposure to provision of the relief to the direct household, but only where the occupants of the household have limited finances and are supported through the CTRS.
- 1.18 In the Borough, there are 55,638 residential properties, 6,100 of those households receive support through the CTRS which is around 11% of households.

- 1.19 It is assumed that an end-of-life diagnosis is not linked to CTRS eligibility (i.e. not linked to income), applying the same percentage as the percentage of CTRS claimants (11%) to the 520 end-of-life residents reduces this likely eligible households to 57.
- 1.20 Gedling Borough Council's CTRS discounts households up to 100% of the council tax liability depending on income. However, not all households receive 100% discount meaning that financial support may still be required where a relative living in the household is receiving end-of-life care.
- 1.21 Currently 57% of CTRS claimants (32 households) receive 100% discount, therefore will have no requirement for support under this initiative.
- 1.22 The remaining 43% of CTRS claimants (25 households) receive less than 100% support and will be eligible for an amount of discount under this initiative.
- 1.23 It is difficult to anticipate how much discount might be required by these 25 households as the amount of CTRS already applied to the household will always vary. The table below shows the **average amount of CTRS applied to all households currently receiving less than 100% CTRS.**

Average Type	Average Value (%)
Mean	60
Median	50
Mode / modal	98

- 1.24 The mode / modal average council tax band for all households in receipt of CTRS is band A. The national average council tax band is band D. The table below details the estimated budget requirement to fund option 3 based on **households in receipt of CTRS at less than 100%** multiplied by **the annual council tax charge** divided by the **amount of charge remaining** after applying the **mean average CTRS award** of 60%.

Property Band	Band Charge in 2025/26 (£)	Charge remaining after CTRS award (£)	Number of eligible households	Total (£)
Band A	1,654.91	661.96	25	16,549.10
Band D	2,482.35	992.94	25	24,823.50

- 1.25 This means the estimated cost of option 3 is between £17k and £25k.

Option 4

- 1.26 The option remains to do nothing. This would mean that no changes are made to the council tax discounts currently offered and no cost would be incurred.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the guidance at appendix 1 (termed Terminally Ill Council Tax Support Guidance) is approved for use in the determination of applications for reduction in council tax for households living with a terminally ill family member. This is option 3 in this report.
- 2.2 It is proposed that Cabinet allows the determination of applications in line with the guidance at appendix 1, to be delegated to the Chief Finance & s151 Officer.
- 2.3 It is proposed that Cabinet approves the creation of a budget in the sum of £25,000 For 2026/27 and increasing in-line with council tax increases in subsequent years for the purpose of administering the proposed council tax discount.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 An alternative to the proposal would be to consider option 1 or option 2 detailed in paragraph 1 of this report. These options are not recommended due to their potential significant financial impact.
- 3.2 Another alternative option would be to consider option 4 detailed in paragraph 1 of this report and do nothing.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Any decision to award relief under section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 must be met entirely by the Council's general fund. This means that precepting authorities do not share the burden of payment and the whole cost of any discount is met by the Council's taxpayers.

- 4.2 Any decision to adopt one of the options in this options report will require the Council to establish a budget to accommodate the anticipated discounts awarded under the scheme.
- 4.3 Options 1 and 2 are considered to be financially unviable for the Council simply as the cost would be too great.
- 4.4 Option 3 is recommended and, if approved, would require an increase to the general fund budget for 2026/27 of £25,000. This requirement would also continue in each subsequent year.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council has the discretion to reduce the council tax liability for individuals or prescribed groups as it thinks fit. This discretion is exercised in accordance with section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 5.2 Cabinet is the appropriate body to consider and approve guidance for use in the administration of the proposed discount, as well as to approve the establishment of a budget and a delegation to the appropriate officer for administration.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 An equalities impact assessment has been carried out and is attached to this report at appendix 2.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 It is not considered that the proposals in this report will have any positive, or negative impact on the Council's carbon reduction goals nor any wider implications on environmental sustainability.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Terminally Ill Council Tax Support Guidance
- 8.2 Appendix 2 - Equalities Impact Assessment

9 Background Papers

9.1 [Marie Curie Press Release.](#)

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by: Tina Adams

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by: Francesca Whyley

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer

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Council Tax Reduction for Terminal Illness Guidance

Serving people, Improving lives

DOCUMENT CONTROL	
Version control number: 1.0	
Date approved: 26/03/2026	Approved by: Cabinet
Date of next review: April 2027	
Responsible officer: Assistant Director Revenues & Welfare Services	

1. Introduction

Gedling Borough Council has the discretion to reduce or remit the council tax of any taxpayer as it considers appropriate. This discretion is allowed by section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The Council has determined that with effect from 1st April 2026, it will provide a reduction in council tax to households that are in receipt of relief through the local council tax reduction scheme (CTRS) where a resident living in the household has been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

The aim is to provide timely, proportionate and compassionate support that relieves council tax pressure during end-of-life care.

2. Eligibility

You will be eligible for relief where:

- Your residence is in the Borough of Gedling.
- You, your partner or a family member in your household is terminally ill.
- Your household is in receipt of council tax support through CTRS.
- The terminally ill member of your household is in receipt of a clinician completed **SR1 form**, which advises that the named person:
 - has a progressive disease, and
 - because of that disease, the expected remaining life of the patient is fewer than 12 months.

[Find more about the SR1 form on the Marie Curie website.](#)

3. Period of Relief

Relief will be awarded from the date the **SR1** applies (or 1st April 2026 where the date of the SR1 is earlier) and will continue until three months after the date of death of the terminally ill resident.

If the terminally ill resident vacates the property to reside elsewhere, relief will end from the vacation date.

If the household ceases to be eligible for CTRS, relief will cease from the date the CTRS award ends.

4. Amount of Relief

The relief is intended to be complementary support. Relevant statutory discounts or exemptions will be calculated before an award under this scheme is made.

The level of relief will be up to 100% of the council tax liability, after any entitlement to statutory discounts, exemptions and CTRS have been calculated and awarded.

5. How to apply and evidence requirements

Applications can be submitted by a liable council taxpayer or an authorised representative (including the medical professional or support worker submitting the SR1).

Applications may be made online, by email or in writing and the applicant will be required to provide a copy of the **SR1 medical report** completed by a GP, hospice doctor, hospital consultant or senior specialist nurse.

6. Decision-making

The authority to determine applications for council tax reduction for terminal illness is delegated to the Director responsible for Revenues & Welfare Support services.

Decisions will be confirmed in writing, either detailing the award for successful applicants, or the reasons for a rejected application.

Successful applicants will also be issued with a revised council tax bill showing the reduced amount owed.

7. Right of appeal

Under section 16 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, a person applying for a reduction in council tax who is not happy with the decision of the Council may appeal the decision.

This appeal in the first instance should be made to the Council's Revenues and Welfare Services team. If after this, the person making the request for reduction is still not satisfied, they may then make an appeal to the Valuation Tribunal for England (VTE).

The VTE is an independent body which adjudicates between taxpayers and the Council. Appeals to the VTE must be made directly to the VTE.

8. Changes of circumstances, errors and fraud

You must tell the Council promptly about any change in circumstances that may affect your council tax liability, including:

- The terminally ill person no longer resides at the property
- Your household changes
- You move home

Awards made in error or on misrepresented facts may be adjusted; suspected fraud will be handled under the Council's counter-fraud procedures.

9. Definition of a Family Member

For the purposes of this scheme a family member is a member of another person's family if:

- he or she lives with that person as a couple
- one of them is related to the other
- or is a relative of one member of the couple

and where:

- 'Couple' means two people who are married to each other or live together as husband and wife (or equivalent same sex partnership)
- 'Relative' means a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece or first cousin (a child of a parent's sibling; nephew or niece of a parent; a child of an uncle or aunt; someone who shares common grandparents but not parents)
- a half-blood relationship is treated the same as a whole blood relationship
- a stepchild or adopted child of a person is to be treated as his/her child

Appendix 2 | Council Tax Support | Households with Terminally Ill Members

Council Tax Support Households with Terminally Ill Members						
The main objective of Council Tax reduction Scheme report	The report proposes the application of a discretionary council tax discount to households with a terminally ill resident					
<p>What impact will this Council Tax Reduction Scheme report have on the following groups? Please note that you should consider both external and internal impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External (e.g. stakeholders, residents, local businesses etc.) • Internal (staff) 						
Please use only 'Yes' where applicable		Negative	Positive	Neutral	Comments	
Gender	External			✓		
	Internal			✓		
Gender Reassignment	External			✓		
	Internal			✓		
Age	External			✓		
	Internal			✓		
Marriage and civil partnership	External			✓		
	Internal			✓		

Disability	External			✓	
	Internal			✓	
Race & Ethnicity	External			✓	
	Internal			✓	
Sexual Orientation	External			✓	
	Internal			✓	
Religion or Belief (or no Belief)	External			✓	
	Internal			✓	
Pregnancy & Maternity	External			✓	
	Internal			✓	
Other Groups (e.g. any other vulnerable groups, rural isolation, deprived areas, low-income staff etc.). Please state the group/s:	External			✓	
	Internal			✓	

Is there is any evidence of a high disproportionate adverse or positive impact on any groups?		No	
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Is there an opportunity to mitigate or alleviate any such impacts?			N/A
Are there any gaps in information available (e.g. evidence) so that a complete assessment of different impacts is not possible?		No	
In response to the information provided above please provide a set of proposed action including any consultation that is going to be carried out:			
Planned Actions	Timeframe	Success Measure	Responsible Officer

Authorisation and Review

Completing Officer	Andrew Solley
Authorising Service Manager	Tina Adams
Date	08/03/2026
Review date (if applicable)	April 2027

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Report to Cabinet

Subject: Gedling Borough Council Biodiversity Report

Date: 26th March 2026

Author: Assistant Director – Development

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

To present the Local Authority Biodiversity Report for the period 01/01/2024 – 01/01/2026 and to seek approval to publish the report within 12 weeks of the end of the reporting period, in accordance with section 40A of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021).

Key Decision

This is not a key decision

Recommendation(s)

THAT Cabinet

- 1) **Notes the contents of the Local Authority Biodiversity Report for 01/01/2024 – 01/01/2026**
- 2) **Approves publication of the Local Authority Biodiversity Report on the Council's website in accordance with section 40A(6)(b) NERC Act 2006 (as amended)**

1 Background

- 1.1 Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) establishes the strengthened biodiversity duty: public authorities must from time to time consider what

action they can properly take to further the general biodiversity objective (to conserve and enhance biodiversity), then determine policies and specific objectives and take action accordingly (sections 40(1) and 40(1A)).

- 1.2 Section 40A requires specified authorities, including local authorities and local planning authorities, to publish biodiversity reports. Reports must specify the reporting period and be published within 12 weeks of the period end. The report must include (a) a summary of actions taken to comply with section 40 during the period; (b) a summary of plans for the next five years; (c) any quantitative data required by regulations; and (d) any other appropriate information. For local planning authorities, it must also summarise actions under Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (biodiversity gain), information about biodiversity gains from approved biodiversity gain plans, and plans for carrying out those functions over the next five years.
- 1.3 Government guidance 'Reporting your biodiversity duty actions' sets out expectations on who must report, when to publish, and what to include, and confirms the 12 week publication window. As of January 2026, no regulations have been made under section 40A(8)(b) prescribing quantitative data for inclusion within the report.
- 1.4 The guidance states that by law, the report must include:
 - A summary of the action you've taken to comply with the biodiversity duty
 - How you plan to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period
 - Any other information you consider appropriate

Reports from local planning authorities must also include the following biodiversity net gain (BNG) information:

- The actions you've carried out to meet BNG obligations
- Details of BNG resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans you've approved
- How you plan to meet BNG obligations in the next reporting period

2. Proposal

- 2.1 To approve the Local Authority Biodiversity Report for 01/01/2024 – 01/01/2026 and to publish it within the statutory deadline. The report structure follows DEFRA guidance and includes required Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) information relating to the Council's Local Planning Authority functions.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 None. As described, Section 40A of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 requires publication within 12 weeks of the end of the reporting period. Failure to publish would be contrary to statute.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The only financial implication is staff time to produce the report. This cost will be met from within existing budgets and council functions.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The duty to report is set out in section 40A NERC Act 2006 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021). Reports must be published within 12 weeks of the end of the reporting period and must include the matters specified in section 40A(3)–(5).

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. Opportunities to improve public access to open spaces and reduce health inequalities will be considered when implementing actions.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 The actions described support the actions set out within the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and aligns with the Place priority within the Gedling Plan.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Gedling Borough Council Local Authority Biodiversity Report 2026 (reporting period 01/01/2024 – 01/01/2026).

9 Background Papers

9.1 DEFRA guidance: Reporting your biodiversity duty actions
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reporting-your-biodiversity-duty-actions>

9.2 Environment Act 2021 (Part 6)
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/part/6>

9.3 NERC Act 2006 (sections 40 and 40A)
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/40>

9.4 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Schedule 7A)
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/schedule/7A>

10 Reasons for Recommendations

10.1 To ensure the Council meets its statutory obligation to publish a biodiversity report within 12 weeks of the end of the reporting period and to communicate actions and planned activity to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in accordance with section 40A(6)(b) NERC Act 2006 (as amended).

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Biodiversity Report for Period Ending 1st Jan 2026

March 2026

Serving people, Improving lives

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1. Introduction

Gedling Borough is located in the heart of Nottinghamshire, bordering Sherwood Forest to the north and the River Trent to the south-east. The borough has a distinctive mix of urban and rural areas, covering an area of 120 km². Gedling Borough spans across three National Character Areas (NCAs); the Southern Magnesium NCA, Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA and Sherwood NCA, each of which is characterised by different natural habitats and terrain. Within our borough we have a number of sites identified in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham as areas of particular importance to biodiversity, including five Local Nature Reserves (LNRS) and six Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) located either partly or wholly on Gedling Borough Council land.

As a public authority, Gedling Borough Council must comply with the ‘Biodiversity Duty’¹, introduced by the Environment Act². To comply with this duty, we must:

1. Consider what we can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on these considerations.
3. Act to deliver our policies and achieve our objectives.

We completed our first consideration of actions to take for biodiversity by 1st January 2024, as required by the Biodiversity Duty, by looking at each of our functions and determining opportunities and actions that could be taken to conserve and enhance biodiversity in Gedling Borough. Details of the actions, policies and objectives that have resulted from these considerations are provided within Section 2 of this report.

As part of our ‘Biodiversity Duty’, we are required to publish a report within 12 weeks of the end of each ‘Biodiversity Duty’ reporting period. The first period ended on 1st January 2026. Subsequent periods will cover the 5 years following the end of the previous reporting period. This report covers the period from our first consideration of our biodiversity duty, 1st January 2024 to 1st January 2026.



¹ Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (2025). *Complying with the biodiversity duty*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty>

² *Environment Act 2021*, c. 30. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents>

2. Our Policies, Objectives and Actions

2.1. Gedling Plan

The Gedling Plan³ sets out the vision and priorities for Gedling Borough which includes in a summarised form:

- Economy - encouraging and supporting healthy businesses; and supporting the visitor economy;
- Community - enabling resilient communities;
- Place - enabling a safe attractive, clean Borough that plays its part in tackling the climate emergency; and
- The Council - ensuring the Council is a healthy place to work.

These priorities are mutually inclusive and are to be addressed holistically. Environment and climate change are addressed under the “Place” priority for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment including waterways, parks and open spaces habitats and wildlife. This aim is to be addressed through the Council’s policies and strategies and individual Service Plans for departments.

2.2. Local Plan

The adopted Local Plan comprises Part 1 - Aligned Core Strategy⁴ for Gedling Borough and Part 2 – Local Planning Document⁵ for Gedling Borough, where relevant policies seek to protect and enhance biodiversity and seek biodiversity enhancements in new development where possible. Policies in the Local Plan:

- Ensure that development provides a minimum of 10% open space;
- Seek to protect and enhance biodiversity, wildlife sites, Local Nature Reserves and open space

The Local Plan is supported by the Open Space Provision for New Housing Development Supplementary Planning Document⁶ setting out more detail on developer requirements for open space and its management.

2.3. Interim Planning Guidance

Following, the enactment of the Environment Act and the coming into force of mandatory BNG targets, Gedling Borough Council adopted Interim Planning Guidance for Biodiversity net gain⁷ approved by the Council’s Cabinet at its meeting

³ Gedling Borough Council (2023). *Gedling Plan*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/democracy-and-elections/about-us/plans-priority-and-performance/gedling-plan>

⁴ Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council and Nottingham City Council (2014). *Greater Nottingham. Broxtowe Borough, Gedling Borough, Nottingham City. Part 1 - Aligned Core Strategy*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/adopted-plan-and-local-policy-documents/aligned-core-strategy-part-1-local-plan>

⁵ Gedling Borough Council (2018). *Gedling Borough. Part 2 – Local Planning Document*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/adopted-plan-and-local-policy-documents/local-planning-document-part-2-local-plan>

⁶ Gedling Borough Council (2001). *Open Space Provision for New Housing Development Supplementary Planning Document*. Available at: https://www.gedling.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-09/open_space_planning_guidance_document_%28final_edition%29.pdf

⁷ Gedling Borough Council (2024). *Gedling Borough Council Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-09/Bio%20Diversity%20Net%20Gain%20Guidance.pdf>

on 18th April 2024. This Guidance seeks to complement the Environment Act 2021 in relation to achieving Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) from the development of land. The purpose of the Guidance is to provide developers with more certainty particularly in relation to the development management process for the consideration of BNG as part of development proposals, the information needed in support of planning applications and for securing BNG in the long term. A key objective of the Guidance is to:

- Ensure that all qualifying development provides a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain in line with the Environment Act 2021

The Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the period up to 2043. Progress to date includes consultation on an Issues and Options document which sought views on adopting a similar policy to that set out in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan, which will include a biodiversity target for Gedling Borough and ensure that blue and green infrastructure provision also benefits biodiversity. A Publication Draft version is due to be published by July 2026.

2.4. Environmental Policy Statement

In 2019 Gedling Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency. Following this, we published an Environmental Policy Statement⁸ in 2023, setting out the Council's commitment to minimise our adverse environmental impacts while enhancing quality of life for people living in Gedling Borough, with a focus on the following core topics:

- Positive Environmental
- Built Environment & Transport
- Energy, Natural Resources & Climate Change
- Environmental Awareness
- Waste Reduction & Recycling
- Blue-Green Infrastructure/Biodiversity
- Procurement & Purchasing

2.5. Carbon Management Strategy

Alongside our declaration of a climate emergency in 2019, Gedling Borough Council Pledged to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. Our Carbon Management Strategy⁹, published in 2022, sets out our key priorities for carbon emission reduction and the actions we will take to achieve our net-zero carbon emission objective.

The plan focuses on the reduction of carbon emissions in six priority areas:

- Home building
- Transport
- Energy generation
- Behavioural change
- Waste reduction and recycling
- Improving infrastructure

⁸ Gedling Bough Council (2023). *Environmental Policy Statement*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/environment-and-climate/environmental-policy-statement>

⁹ Gedling Borough Council (2022). *Carbon Management Strategy*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/environment-and-climate/carbon-management-strategy>

Carbon emission reduction will benefit biodiversity in the borough by improving air quality and contributing towards reducing climate change.

2.6. Contaminated Land Strategy

The principal causes of land contamination in the UK are past industrial development and waste management. Common contaminants include tars, heavy metals, organic compounds, mining materials and landfill waste.

Gedling Borough Council's Contaminated Land Strategy¹⁰ details the problems of land contamination within Gedling Borough and sets out our aims, objectives, actions and timescales for the inspection of land within the borough, under regulations inserted into the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Amongst the aims of the strategy is the protection of designated ecosystems.

The Strategy employs a five-stage process to identify, prioritise and then inspect potentially contaminated sites. Receptor priorities for inspection in order are:

1. To protect human health.
2. To protect controlled waters.
3. To protect designated ecosystems.
4. To prevent damage to property and designated historic sites.

The Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) expect that the vast majority of Contaminated Land will be remediated via the planning system. As part of our planning process, our Scientific Officer is consulted on all relevant planning applications, to ensure that contaminated land is identified and remediation measures conditioned, where required.

2.7. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Air Quality strategy

Gedling Borough is covered by the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Air Quality Strategy¹¹, which was created with the aim to control and protect air quality throughout the county. The objectives of this strategy are as follows:

- Place Making and Development for Good Air Quality.
- Enable the Shift to Zero and Low Emission Transport to Reduce Emissions.
- Reduce, Minimise and Prevent Emissions from Industrial, Commercial, Agricultural and Domestic Sources and activity.
- Engagement and Communication for Behaviour Change.

The aims of the policy are “To reduce average concentrations of nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate matter in Nottinghamshire (which will ultimately lead to a reduction in Air Quality Management Areas in Nottinghamshire)” and “To reduce the estimated proportion of disease and deaths attributable to air pollution (encompassing fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and other air pollutants)”. Meeting these aims will reduce air quality impacts on the natural environment and local ecosystems within Gedling Borough. Gedling Borough Council's Air Quality Annual Status Reports are produced in alignment with this strategy.

¹⁰ Gedling Borough Council (2024). *Contaminated Land Strategy*. Available at <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/community-and-consultation/environmental-health/contaminated-land>

¹¹ *Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Air Quality Strategy 2020-2030*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/community-and-consultation/environmental-health/air-pollution-monitoring-and-reporting>

2.8. Green Space Strategy 2021 - 2026

Prepared within the context of the Gedling Plan 2020 – 2023, our Green Space Strategy 2021-2026¹² seeks to protect and improve Gedling Borough’s accessible parks and open spaces and to provide a strategic vision. A key part of the vision is to promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the Borough’s biodiversity. It also provides a robust evidence base for making development decisions and negotiating planning obligations with developers.

This strategy includes a specific objective to “Protect the biodiversity of the many habitats found in the borough’s urban and rural green spaces” and sets out a series of actions and the timescales for implementation. Some of these actions are summarised in section 2.10.

2.9. Waste and Recycling Policy

The Gedling Borough Council Waste & Recycling Policy¹³ aims to promote a sustainable environment through the following objectives:

- Provide an attractive and sustainable local environment that local people can enjoy.
- Promote and protect the environment by minimising pollution and waste and becoming carbon neutral.

Relevant policy aims include increasing rates of recycling and minimising the carbon impact of the Waste Service, including fleet mileage and route optimisation

2.10. Actions up to 1st January 2026

Section 40 NERC (2006) Act inserted by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021 came into force in January 2023 imposing a duty on local authorities to consider what action they may take to further the biodiversity objective which is to be reported on a regular basis. Table 1. below summaries the actions taken within the 1st January 2024 – 1st January 2026 reporting period.

Table 1. Biodiversity Duty Actions up to January 2026

Action	Outcome
Gedling Plan priorities for the environment, protection and enhancement of the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Included in Service plans

¹² Gedling Borough Council (2021). *Gedling Borough Council's Green Space Strategy 2021*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/leisure-culture-and-parks/parks-and-green-spaces/green-space-strategy>

¹³ Gedling Borough Council (2022). *Waste & Recycling Policy*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/waste-and-recycling-policy>

Action	Outcome
Collaboration between Council Services to manage and maintain green space and secure biodiversity net gain through the planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ecologist post established and shared between Planning Development Management and Parks and Street Care • Production of this report has strengthened links between departments • Monitoring systems established
Provision of more detailed planning guidance for Gedling Borough following the coming into force of the Environment Act and mandatory BNG.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of Interim Planning Guidance for BNG completed
Ensure that all qualifying development provides a minimum of 10% BNG in line with the Environment Act and Interim Planning Policy Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going through the development management process
Ensure that qualifying development provides new open space in line with the Local Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going through the development management process
Implement policies in the Local Plan to protect and enhance biodiversity, wildlife sites, Local Nature Reserves and open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going through the development management process
Preparation of new local plan commenced to include policies on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protection and enhancement of biodiversity, wildlife sites, Local Nature Reserves and open space • Blue and green infrastructure provision • Biodiversity net gain including target 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going through the Local Plan preparation process
We have used data produced by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) as part of a nationwide dataset of carbon emissions by local authority area for the period 2005-2018 and commissioned the APSE to establish our carbon baseline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These data will be used as a benchmark against which we can measure our carbon emission reductions going forward.

Action	Outcome
<p>Actions we have taken so far to reduce carbon emissions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacing our diesel fleet to hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO) fuel • Incorporating 'high carbon products' to the list of items unlikely to be accepted by the Council for advertising or sponsorship. • Installing LED lighting and energy efficient windows in the Civic Centre. • Installing 35 EV charging points across 10 council car parks with more planned. • Installing solar panels at several council-owned buildings. • Creating a solar park at Gedling Country Park that provides renewable energy to over 1,500 properties • Planting over 4,000 new trees across the borough. • Creating wildflower areas in our parks. • Promoting & encouraging active travel by installing secure cycle lockers at Redhill Leisure Centre & Arnot Hill Park. • Fully funding energy efficiency measures for 53 homes in the borough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced carbon emissions across the borough.
<p>Contaminated land assessment within the borough continues. Planning Applications reviewed to ensure adequate land contamination surveys have been completed and necessary remediation work conditioned for approved applications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce land contamination across the borough, protecting controlled waters and designated ecosystems.
<p>Air pollution monitoring and reporting conducted in accordance with the Environment Act 1995 and the National Air Quality Regulations 2000 the Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2002</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring allows comparison against objective levels • Annual reporting tracks actions and progress against objectives.

Action	Outcome
Work with 'Friends of' volunteer groups to maintain and enhance our Local Nature Reserves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitats within Local Nature Reserves maintained and enhanced for biodiversity.
Act on national guidance and best practice guidelines, e.g., DEFRA hedge cutting principals and review the specification accordingly in relation to aspects such as habitat piles from cuttings for invertebrates, reptiles and small mammals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide safe nesting and foraging habitat for birds and shelter for reptiles, amphibians and small mammals.
Where applicable, analyse grass cutting regimes and machinery used, review changes to accommodate best practice to encourage biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase biodiversity in grassland habitats. Provide additional foraging habitat for pollinator species. Provide habitat for birds, small mammals, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles.
Audit current practices to determine where pesticides are being used, for what purposes and which chemicals are used. Particular attention should be paid to fine turf areas, rose gardens and hard surfaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce harm to biodiversity by reducing pesticide use.
Over 4000 trees planted across the Borough through the Tree's for Climate Scheme and Urban Tree Challenge Fund during the reporting period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased tree coverage in the Borough and contribute to the aims of The Gedling Plan, Carbon Management Strategy and the Greenwood Community Forest - Forest Plan 2020 – 2050¹⁴
Ecological surveys commenced in Gedling Country Park Local Nature Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess impacts of habitat management and land use since surveys last undertaken Collect data on the valuable habitats and species present within the park Inform revision of the park's ecological management plan, to conserve and enhance biodiversity within the park

¹⁴ Greenwood Community Forest (2020) *Forest Plan 2020 – 2050*. Available at: [http://icm.greenwoodforest.org.uk/assets/Helping%20Greenwood%20Forest%20Plan%20\(2025-2050\)%20Full%20Version.pdf](http://icm.greenwoodforest.org.uk/assets/Helping%20Greenwood%20Forest%20Plan%20(2025-2050)%20Full%20Version.pdf)

3. How the Council has Considered Other Strategies

3.1. Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham

The LNRS for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire¹⁵ was published in November 2025, with preparation work taking place for much of the reporting period. Gedling Borough Council has worked closely with the Responsible Authority leading on the LNRS, Nottinghamshire County Council. As one of the Supporting Authorities, Gedling Borough have collaborated and cooperated in the preparation of the LNRS. Gedling Borough Council is represented on the Strategic Oversight Group, who are responsible for the monitoring and production of the LNRS; to ensure that there is buy-in from key stakeholders; and that the LNRS meets strategic priorities for Nottinghamshire.

There is a legal duty for local planning authorities to have regard to the LNRS in our planning policies and decisions, and in the fulfilment of our Biodiversity Duty.

The LNRS will provide part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan and set out priorities for determining how the Local Plan should contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural environment. The priorities and measures of the LNRS are now considered in all planning decisions. Where a planning application is subject to mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain, the strategic significance guidance for areas with a published LNRS is also now applied. Training has been delivered to all Planning Officers to support this.

3.2. Biodiversity Net Gain Framework for Nottinghamshire

The Council has collaborated with partners, including all Nottinghamshire Councils, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England, as part of the BNG Working Group for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, to collectively produce the Biodiversity Net Gain Framework for Nottinghamshire¹⁶. This provides a consistent planning framework for implementing BNG across Nottinghamshire and has been used to inform updates to our local planning application validation requirements¹⁷.

3.3. Greater Nottingham Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy

Gedling Borough Council, as part of the Greater Nottingham Planning Partnership, has participated in the preparation of the Greater Nottingham Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy. This strategy provides a detailed evidence base concerning existing strategic Blue and Green Infrastructure (BGI) assets and networks which should be protected, their functions and connectivity within Greater Nottingham and beyond. Critically, this strategy will inform the distribution and location of strategic

¹⁵ *Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (2025)*. Available at: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/local-nature-recovery-strategy-for-nottinghamshire>

¹⁶ BNG Working Group for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham (2024). *A Biodiversity Net Gain Framework for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham*. Available at: <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/cu0jjrr/final-nottingham-and-nottinghamshire-bng-framework-october-2024.pdf>

¹⁷ Gedling Borough Council (2025). *Local Requirements List*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/development-management-and-planning-applications/submit-planning-application/local-requirements-list>

development and the delivery of high quality BGI across Greater Nottingham, ensuring that strategic BGI and ecological networks are protected, created and enhanced, indicating where development should be sensitively managed for environmental reasons.

The Greater Nottingham BGI study identifies strategic and local corridors and provides part of the evidence base for informing local plan preparation and a basis for guiding planning decisions relating to developer contributions towards the provision of new BGI.

This strategy will inform the emerging Local Plan and facilitate contributions towards improved blue and green infrastructure focussing on the network of strategic and local blue and green infrastructure corridors within the Council's administrative boundaries and beyond.

3.4. Local Biodiversity Action Plan

The Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan¹⁸ (LBAP) identifies species and habitats of conservation concern in Nottinghamshire and sets out action plans to improve the conservation status of these habitats and species within Nottinghamshire. The LBAP has been produced and regularly updated by the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group, of which Gedling Borough Council is a member. Gedling Borough Council seeks opportunities to deliver against the action plans of the LBAP in the management of our land and considers impacts to the habitats and species identified in the LBAP as part of the planning process.

3.5. Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping

The Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Project¹⁹ includes a Biodiversity Opportunities Map for Gedling Borough (2021). This work was undertaken to support Gedling Borough Council in carrying out its services and functions to benefit biodiversity where relevant and also to underpin the work of the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group and implementation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Prior to the adoption of the LNRS it was also used to identify strategically significant sites which would benefit from the "Formally identified in a local strategy" (High category) multiplier in the statutory biodiversity metric.

The biodiversity mapping has informed the preparation of the LNRS, Greater Nottingham Blue and Green Infrastructure strategy and was used to help implement actions set out in the Gedling Borough Council Green Space Strategy.

3.6. Protected Sites Strategies

The Environment Act 2021 provided Natural England with the Power to prepare and publish Protected Sites strategies for 'a) improving the conservation and management of a protected site, and b) managing the impact of plans, projects or other activities...on the conservation and management of the protected site'. There are currently no Protected Sites Strategies covering Gedling Borough.

¹⁸ Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group. *Nottinghamshire's Local Biodiversity Action Plan*. Available at: <https://nottsbag.org.uk/lbap/>

1. ¹⁹ Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group. *Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping*. Available at: <https://nottsbag.org.uk/projects/biodiversity-opportunity-mapping/>

4. Future Actions

4.1. Gedling Local Development Plan

We are currently reviewing our existing Core Strategy and Local Plan in order to prepare the new Gedling Local Development Plan (GLDP) for future development. This plan will replace our existing Local Plan documents, following its planned adoption in spring 2028. In drawing up the new GLDP, we will have regard to the LNRS and our Biodiversity Duty by identifying any opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity in the borough and contribute to the priorities of the LNRS.

4.2. Carbon Management Strategy

As part of our Carbon Management Strategy we have multiple ongoing actions which will continue through the next reporting period and contribute towards our pledge of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. These include:

- Developing & implementing minimum energy standards in commercial and domestic properties
- Identifying low carbon management measures & energy efficiency technologies
- Delivering effective carbon monitoring & reporting of scope 1 (direct emissions), scope 2 and scope 3 (indirect emissions)
- Continually improving the energy efficiency of the council's existing building stock and its services
- Transitioning from fossil fuel to electric vehicles
- Reducing emissions from Council fleet & Private Vehicle Hire
- Expanding renewable energy in the borough
- Increasing local and low carbon solutions
- Encouraging environmental/sustainable awareness
- Minimising the borough's waste and its impact on the environment
- Carbon Offsetting

4.3. Contaminated Land Strategy

Our Contaminated Land Strategy is subject to periodic review. The next full review of the Strategy is due to take place in 2030; however, additional revisions may be made if a need to significantly update the strategy is identified before this date.

4.4. Gedling Borough Council Green Space Strategy 2021

As we continue to implement the Action Plan laid out in this strategy, the following key actions will be a focus over the coming reporting period:

- Undertake biodiversity surveys for all applicable sites and update the specification to account for any changes. Work to reduce sources of harm to habitats and associated species whilst creating and developing new habitat sites, including green corridors.
- Review management plans for Bestwood, Burntstump and Gedling Country Parks. Management statements for all other countryside sites, LNR's, SSSIs and SINCs with action plans for delivery. Consult and involve relevant local groups regularly on proposed management.

As the current Green Space Strategy runs from 2021-2026, a full review and update of the strategy will be conducted during the next reporting period. The LNRS will be considered in this update, and we will use this opportunity to incorporate the priorities and measures laid out in the LNRS into the Action Plan for our Parks and Green Spaces.

4.5. Leisure Transformation Programme

Gedling Borough Council are currently in the early stages of a new Leisure Transformation project - Carlton Active. For Carlton Active, climate, sustainability and biodiversity considerations are embedded as core design principles. A Climate Impact Assessment has recently been completed for the scheme, which sets out a clear commitment to delivering a modern, low-impact and energy-efficient building to replace ageing and inefficient leisure facilities. Key elements include a high-performance building fabric, energy-efficient mechanical and electrical systems, LED lighting throughout, and compliance with (and where possible exceeding) current Building Regulations. The design approach prioritises reducing operational energy demand and long-term carbon emissions, alongside resilience to future climate conditions.

The scheme also seeks to incorporate low and zero-carbon technologies where viable, alongside opportunities for heat recovery, particularly relevant in wet leisure environments. Sustainable materials and procurement practices will be considered through the UK Leisure Framework, with an emphasis on durability, embodied carbon reduction and responsible sourcing.

From a site and landscape perspective, the project is exploring sustainable drainage solutions to manage surface water, reduce flood risk and improve water quality, alongside opportunities to enhance biodiversity through native and climate-resilient planting. The wider site layout also provides scope to strengthen green infrastructure.

In addition, as the Carlton Active scheme progresses, biodiversity considerations will be embedded across the planning, construction and operational stages of the project. This will include assessing biodiversity net gain requirements at planning stage, the use of native and climate-resilient planting within the wider landscape strategy, sustainable drainage solutions that support surface water management and habitat creation, and ecologically sensitive external lighting to minimise impacts on wildlife.

During construction, environmental protection measures will be secured through a Construction Environmental Management Plan, and post-completion the building's environmental performance will be monitored to support continuous improvement. Carlton Active is intended to act as a benchmark for future leisure developments within the borough, embedding biodiversity and climate resilience into the wider Leisure Transformation Programme.

4.6. Biodiversity Monitoring

We will continue to collect monitoring data for eligible planning permissions requiring biodiversity net gain and monitor BNG gain sites within our borough for which we have a monitoring agreement.

In order to monitor progress toward achieving the priorities of the LNRS, we will periodically provide Nottinghamshire County Council, as the Responsible Authority, with updates on Gedling Borough Council projects which contribute towards achieving these priorities.

5. Biodiversity Net Gain Information

5.1. Actions To Meet Biodiversity Net Gain Obligations

In order to meet our Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) obligations, Gedling Borough Council have taken the following actions during this reporting period:

- Publication of our Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance document in April 2024, to provide developers with more certainty, particularly in relation to the development management process, for the consideration of BNG as part of development proposals, the information needed in support of planning applications and for securing BNG in the long term.
- Production of template section 106 agreements, to legally secure off-site gains and monitoring obligations for significant on-site gains where required.
- Production and publication of a BNG monitoring fee structure, to ensure that fees charged are proportionate to the Council's anticipated costs.
- Recruitment of an Ecology Officer with knowledge and experience of the BNG process, to review all planning which might be subject to mandatory BNG and to BNG documents submitted with planning applications and at discharge of conditions stage.
- Planning Policy, Development Management and Legal team members have attended external training courses to ensure they are familiar with BNG legislation and requirements. The Council's Ecology Officer has also delivered inhouse BNG training to the development management team, to assist them in the validation and processing of planning applications where mandatory BNG may apply.
- Development Management have delivered two BNG presentations to our developers' forum to help our local developers understand BNG, statutory and local BNG validation requirements and the Council's response to recent government BNG consultations.
- Provided a response to the government's recent Consultation on improving the implementation of BNG for minor-medium and brownfield development.
- Collected data for planning applications where mandatory BNG applies, those which are exempt and applications with approved gain plans, as well as detailed BNG data for applications with approved gain plans.
- Put in place a system to track BNG gain plan implementation and monitoring requirements using the Exacom Obligation Suite web-based application.

5.2. Biodiversity Gains from Approved Gain Plans

During the reporting period, only one Biodiversity Gain Plan was approved in Gedling Borough. This Plan has not yet been implemented, but on completion, it is expected to achieve an on-site loss of 0.02 habitat units and an off-site gain of 0.03 habitat units giving a total gain of 0.01 habitat units. This gain plan does not include any hedgerow or watercourse units.

Full quantitative data for Gedling Borough Council's Biodiversity duty: biodiversity net gain information is provided in Appendix A.

5.3. How We Will Meet Our BNG Obligations in the Next Reporting Period

Over the next reporting period we will continue to review all planning applications which might be subject to mandatory BNG and continue to review BNG documents submitted with planning applications and discharge of BNG conditions applications. We will also continue to use Exacom to track applications BNG gain plan implementation and monitoring requirements over the next reporting period.

Our Ecology Officer will review all Gain Plans, Habitat Management and Monitoring Plans and monitoring reports, and conduct site visits as necessary to ensure that habitats are created, enhanced and maintained in accordance with approved Gain Plans for off-site and significant on-site gains.

We will continue to keep abreast of any changes in BNG process guidance or legislation. Internal policies and processes will be updated and additional training provided to staff members to ensure that we continue to act in accordance with the most recent guidance and legislation.

Appendix A – BNG Quantitative Data

Table 2. Eligible planning permissions granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requiring biodiversity net gain

ID	Consented applications requiring net gains	Number	Proportion
A	Total number of planning permissions granted that require biodiversity net gain in the reporting period	26	not applicable
B	Total number of planning permissions granted in the reporting period where an exemption to the biodiversity net gain condition applies	367	not applicable
C	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period	1	not applicable
D	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through on-site units only	0	0
E	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through off-site units only	1	100%
F	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through statutory credits only	0	0
G	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site and off-site units	0	0
H	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site units and statutory credits	0	0
I	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of off-site units and statutory credits	0	0
J	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site, off-site units and statutory credits	0	0

Table 3. Overall expected gains and losses across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period

ID	Overall expected gains and losses	Total or Average
A	Total number of pre-development biodiversity units approved on-site broken down by area/hedgerow/watercourse	0.05/0/0
B	Total number of post-development biodiversity units approved on-site broken down by area/hedgerow/watercourse	0.03/0/0
C	Total net unit change in biodiversity units, on-site broken down by area/hedgerow/watercourse	-0.02/0/0
D	Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, on-site	-42.02
E	Total number of baseline biodiversity units approved off-site broken down by area/hedgerow/watercourse	0.01/0/0
F	Total number of post-intervention biodiversity units approved off-site broken down by area/hedgerow/watercourse	0.04/0/0
G	Total net unit change in biodiversity units, off-site broken down by area/hedgerow/watercourse	0.03/0/0
H	Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, off-site	320.17
I	Total number of biodiversity units offset using statutory credits broken down by area/hedgerow/watercourse	0/0/0
J	Total net unit change in biodiversity units (including any units offset using credits)	0/0/0
K	Average percentage (%) change (including statutory credits)	0/0/0

Table 4. Impact on Irreplaceable Habitat

ID	Impact on irreplaceable habitat	Total	Proportion
A	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period where the on-site change negatively impacts irreplaceable habitats	0	0

Table 5. Location of off-site biodiversity units

ID	Location of off-site biodiversity units	Total	Proportion
A	Number of off-site biodiversity units located inside LPA boundary or NCA of impact site.	0	0
B	Number of off-site biodiversity units located outside LPA or NCA of impact site, but in neighbouring LPA or NCA	0.03	0.03
C	Number of off-site biodiversity units located outside of LPA or NCA of impact site and neighbouring LPA or NCA	0	0

Table 6. Results of monitoring biodiversity gains

ID	Results of monitoring biodiversity gains where the LPA is part of the legal agreement	Total	Proportion (%)
A	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans including the delivery of 'significant' on-site gains	0	0
B	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements and habitat delivery expectations for 'significant' on-site gains	N/A	N/A
C	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements but not meeting habitat delivery expectations for 'significant' on-site gains	N/A	N/A
D	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are failing to meet monitoring requirements for 'significant' on-site gains	N/A	N/A
E	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans where the status of monitoring requirements is unknown for 'significant' on-site gains	N/A	N/A
F	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans including the delivery of off-site gains, where the LPA are responsible for monitoring.	0	0
G	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements and habitat delivery expectations for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring	N/A	N/A
H	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements but not meeting habitat delivery expectations for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring	N/A	N/A
I	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are failing to meet monitoring requirements for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring	N/A	N/A

ID	Results of monitoring biodiversity gains where the LPA is part of the legal agreement	Total	Proportion (%)
J	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans where the status of monitoring requirements is unknown for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring	N/A	N/A

ID	Enforcement actions taken in the reporting period	Total	Proportion
L	Number of enforcement actions taken during the reporting period associated with Biodiversity Net Gain policy	0	0

ID	Tracking monitoring of biodiversity gains	Free Text
K	Please describe how you have collected information on monitoring (e.g., use of digital software to collect and analyse monitoring data/ manual checking of monitoring reports/ internal monitoring system etc.	N/A this year, but Exacom software will be used in future

Table 7. Composition of biodiversity gains - areas

ID	Habitat Type - Area	Total biodiversity units at baseline	Total hectares at baseline	Total biodiversity units post - development	Total hectares post - development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in hectares
A	Cropland	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00
B	Grassland	0.02	0.01	0.07	0.02	0.05	0.01
C	Heathland and Scrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
D	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E	Sparsely Vegetated Land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	Urban	0.03	0.11	0.00	0.10	-0.03	0.00
G	Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
H	Woodland and Forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

ID	Habitat Type - Area	Total biodiversity units at baseline	Total hectares at baseline	Total biodiversity units post - development	Total hectares post - development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in hectares
I	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
J	Coastal Saltmarsh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
K	Rocky Shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
L	Coastal Lagoons	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
M	Intertidal Hard Structures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
N	Watercourse footprint	0.00	0.00	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
O	Individual Trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Total	0.06	0.12	0.07	0.12	0.01	0.01



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Saturday Ashes Internments
Date: 26 March 2026
Author: Andy Burgin, Parks Operations Manager

Wards Affected

All Wards

Purpose

This report presents the findings of a review undertaken by Environmental Services to assess the business case, feasibility, and operational implications of introducing Saturday ashes internments, following the motion presented to Council in January 2024.

The report outlines the costs of providing the service on two Saturdays per month on a trial basis, as set out in the motion. Along with the costs and options if this service was to be implemented going forward, current position, identifies key considerations, and sets out a range of options for Cabinet to consider.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation

THAT Cabinet:

- 1) Considers the information within the report.
- 2) Reject the proposal due to additional budget that would be required, and the risk of reputational damage to the Council.

Background

A review was undertaken by Environmental Services to assess the feasibility of introducing Saturday ashes internments for a trail period of six months. Consultation with the Cemetery Administrator found that there is no historic or current demand for Saturday ashes internments, over three years they have very rarely been asked about ashes internments on Saturdays. Due to this very low demand, it is difficult to plan how to implement a programme of 2 Saturdays per month.

The review did highlight that Saturday is the day when most residents visit our cemeteries to pay their respects and maintain the graves of their loved ones. The usual procedure during a funeral is for the cemetery gates to be closed due to the restrictions on vehicle movements around our cemeteries while the funeral procession is in the cemetery grounds as they are parked close to the grave side causing blockages to the roads. This would likely lead to an increase in the number of complaints due to the impact on families wanting to visit loved one's graves whilst the cemetery is closed.

1 Proposal

- 1.1 Cabinet to consider the information contained in the report and reject the proposal due to the reputational damage that cancelling bookings would cause if there were no volunteers to work on a Saturday, along with the potential for an increased number of complaints from closing the cemetery gates, and the additional budget that would be required.

2 Service delivery

- 2.1 Overtime would be used only when a Saturday interment is booked, offering maximum flexibility.
- 2.2 The model relies on voluntary uptake from trained staff. If insufficient staff volunteer, the Council may be unable to deliver the service, causing reputational harm and distress to families.
- 2.3 Estimated cost per Saturday for operational service delivery of ashes interment at one site, excluding administration cost and operational expenses are set out in table 1 below (calculated at 2025/26 fees and pay rates)
- 2.4 If an afternoon booking is taken it would require the team to work the whole day as it unlikely that any of the team would volunteer to work only in the afternoon on a Saturday.

Table 1

Type of Internment	Staffing Cost	Fee	Service Cost	Total For Trail Period
Ashes interment (am one booking)	£365	£247	£118	£1,539
Ashes interment (pm or two bookings)	£819.60	£247 or £494 (2 bookings)	£484 or £237	£6,289 or £3,078

- 2.5 The information in table one only shows the costs of service delivery at one cemetery, if bookings were taken for more than one site the service cost would double.
- 2.6 With no available information on the number of internments the Council can expect to be booked it is not possible to project what the overall cost of providing the enhanced service would be over a six-month period. Based on the current fees and pay rates the costs of providing the service would not be covered by the income.

3 Operational Risks

- 3.1 Reliance on voluntary overtime may lead to service failure and be reputationally harmful to the Council due to having to cancel bookings.
- 3.2 Increased sickness due to reduction in rest periods at weekends for frontline staff.
- 3.2 Increased complaints due to cemeteries being closed for periods on Saturdays.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Due to the number of staff required and the enhanced rate for overtime the current fee does not cover the cost. Therefore, additional budget is required to conduct this trial which could be up to £6,289.
- 4.2 The demand for Saturday internments of Ashes is currently unknown therefore unable to estimate total cost of trial along with the income it could generate.
- 4.3 Costs may exceed estimates if higher graded members of the team are asked to work overtime to deliver the enhanced service.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The powers and duties of the Council to arrange funerals are within the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 and the Local Government Act 1972. The Council also has statutory duties under the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 (LACO 1977) to manage and regulate cemeteries in a safe and dignified manner. There is no legal obligation to offer Saturday interments, many local authorities restrict interments to Monday – Friday due to staffing capacity and costs.
- 5.2 Introducing Saturday interments would create an additional operational function, and the Council must ensure it has sufficient trained staff available to deliver the service reliably. Failure to meet a published service offer, particularly if bookings

need to be cancelled due to insufficient staffing, may expose the Council to legal risk, including complaints.

- 5.3 Given that Saturday is the most popular day for public access to cemeteries, the temporary closure of cemetery gates during interments could lead to access related complaints or allegations of inconsistent treatment. While these issues may not give rise to direct legal implications, they could have reputational consequences and increase the risk of complaints.

6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Appendix 1

7 Carbon Reduction / Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 None.

8 Background Papers

- 8.1 None.

9 Reasons for Recommendations

- 9.1 To ensure the reputation of the Council is maintained, reduce the risk of increased costs which would not be offset by income.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by: Scott Anderson

Date: 16/03/2026

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by: Laura Chaplin

Date: 16/03/2026

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:	Gedling Borough Council Cemeteries. Saturday Ashes Internments
The main objective of (please insert the name of accessed document stated above):	To assess equality impacts arising from a decision not to introduce Saturday ashes interments due to cost, operational risk, and low evidenced demand.

What impact will this (please insert the name) have on the following groups? Please note that you should consider both external and internal impact:

- External (e.g. stakeholders, residents, local businesses etc.)
- Internal (staff)

Please use only 'Yes' where applicable		Negative	Positive	Neutral	Comments
Gender	External			Yes	No gender-specific barriers are created or increased. The decision would retain existing service patterns accessible to all genders
	Internal		Yes		Introduction of Saturday interments would have a

					potential negative impact on work-life balance for those with childcare responsibilities.
	External and Internal			Yes	No aspect of the decision relates to gender identity or alters access.
<u>Age</u>	External and Internal			Yes	While cemeteries are used by older residents at higher rates, maintaining current weekday availability is not shown to disadvantage any specific age group. No evidence of unmet demand for Saturday access was identified

<u>Marriage and civil partnership</u>	External and Internal			Yes	No differential impact: the decision does not relate to relationship status.
<u>Disability</u>	External and Internal			Yes	Residents with mobility or transport challenges may prefer weekend availability; however, the report confirms no evidence of demand for Saturday ashes interments. Cemeteries remain open for visits on Saturday's, maintaining existing access for disabled residents.
<u>Race & Ethnicity</u>	External and Internal			Yes	Cultural or religious practices sometimes involve specific timing considerations. However, the report identifies no request history indicating Saturday needs. The Council retains flexibility for weekday bookings in line with its legal duties. No groups are negatively impacted by maintain the status quo.
<u>Sexual Orientation</u>	External			Yes	No relevance to sexual orientation; service remains universally accessible.

	Internal				
<u>Religion or Belief (or no Belief)</u>	External			Yes	Some faith groups have funerary customs that emphasize timely interment; however, the proposal relates solely to Saturdays, not overall availability and no evidence Saturday specific demand or religious-based complaints in the existing system. Any low risk is mitigated as weekday services continue unaffected.
	Internal				
<u>Pregnancy & Maternity</u>	External			Yes	No change affecting this group.
	Internal				
Other Groups (e.g. any other vulnerable groups, rural isolation, deprived areas, low income staff etc.) Please state the group/s: _____ _____	External				The proposal does not alter fees, locations, or core access. No evidence of disadvantage for specific socioeconomic groups
	Internal				

Is there is any evidence of a high disproportionate adverse or positive impact on any groups?		No	Comment
Is there an opportunity to mitigate or alleviate any such impacts?		No	Comment
Are there any gaps in information available (e.g. evidence) so that a complete assessment of different impacts is not possible?		No	Comment
In response to the information provided above please provide a set of proposed action including any consultation that is going to be carried out:			
Planned Actions	Timeframe	Success Measure	Responsible Officer
Engage staff to ascertain willingness to work overtime.	Within 1 month of decision, if Cabinet decide to go ahead with the trial period.	Sufficient staff willing to work overtime for trial period.	Sufficient staff willing to work overtime for trial period.
Produce robust booking procedures	Within 1 month of decision, if Cabinet decide to go ahead with the trial period.	Procedures in place prior to opening bookings.	Parks Operations Manager / Cemetery Admin Team
Engage with Funeral Directors to confirm procedures.	Within 1 month of decision, if Cabinet decide to go ahead with the trial period.	Funeral Directors agree with procedures.	Parks Operations Manager / Cemetery Admin Team
Engage internal communications team to devise comms plan.	Within 1 month of decision, if Cabinet decide to go ahead with the trial period.	Communication plan in place and public / elected members engaged.	Parks Operations Manager / Communications Officer

Authorisation and Review

Completing Officer	Andy Burgin
Authorising Head of Service/Director	Julie Snowdon
Date	13/03/2026
Review date (if applicable)	



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Erewash Building Control Partnership

Date: 26th March 2026

Author: Assistant Director – Development

Wards All

Affected:

Purpose: To seek approval to transfer the Council's statutory and discretionary building control services to the Erewash Building Control Partnership.

Key Decision: This report constitutes a key decision as defined in the council constitution. The report relates to the transfer of the Council's statutory and discretionary building control services to the Erewash Building Control Partnership to deliver the Council's Building Control function"

Recommendation:

That Cabinet

1. Approves the transfer of the Council's Building Control Service into the Erewash Building Control Partnership.
2. Delegates authority to the Director of Place to sign the contract for Erewash Building Control Partnership to deliver the Council's Building Control function.

1 Background

1.1 The Council currently provides all the statutory Building Control functions and the Building Regulation function which is non statutory.

1.2 Statutory and critical Building Control functions include;

- Dealing with Dangerous Structures
- Building Control Enforcement
- Demolitions
- Registering Approved Inspector's Initial Notices and Competent Person Scheme works
- Processing of disabled person's applications

- Safety advisory group/safety at sports grounds
 - Land Charge Search Enquiries
- 1.3 Non-statutory functions are those elements of the service for which the Council can charge a fee and comprise of the following:
- The passing or rejection of plans of proposed work deposited in accordance with Section 16 of the Building Act 1984.
 - Site inspections in connection with plans which have been deposited.
 - Site inspections in connection with work for which a Building Notice has been given to the Local Authority.
 - Consideration of plans of work reverting to Local Authority control from an Approved Inspector and the inspection and rectification, if required, of that work.
 - Applications for regularisation certificates for work carried out without the benefit of approval
- 1.4 Local authority building control operates within a competitive commercial environment, with its customers able to choose between private providers of the service, Registered Building Control Bodies (RBCBs) and the Local Authority. Over the last few years Local Authorities have seen a reduction in market share, and this trend continues.
- 1.5 As a response to this several local authorities across the country have decided to share building control services to streamline delivery mechanisms, increase resilience, make savings and create efficiencies. In a climate where the private sector continues to provide competition for non-statutory building control work, authorities that have shared building control services have seen a sustained or increased market share over time. The only authorities in Nottinghamshire that are not currently within a partnership arrangement are Gedling and Bassetlaw District Council. By way of comparison, there have been 2661 homes delivered in Bassetlaw between 2020 and 2023 compared to 1376 in Gedling.
- 1.6 The Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 2010 require Local Authorities to operate Building Control Services on a cost recovery (non-profit making) basis and levy fees for chargeable work under the Building Regulations, which is fee earning work. In common with all other Local Authority Building Control teams, Gedling's team is in competition with the private sector for dealing with applications under the Building Regulations, and has a market share of approximately 32% (based on Building Control applications received compared to initial notices). The private sector is not bound by the above Regulations and is profit making. The Building Control Service is also required to deal with non-fee earning activity such as dealing with dangerous structures, administering works of demolition, licensing of safety at sports

grounds, as well as enforcement work and administering notices and certificates received from Approved Inspectors and competent persons.

1.7

The Building Safety Act is now in force and has placed considerable new burdens on Local Authority Building Control Services described by the Chief Executive, Lorna Simpson of Local Authority Building Control (LABC) as “.. the most significant piece of legislation affecting the built environment in decades – all councils need to know its effects. The new safety regime means more duties for local authorities, registration of the building control profession with validation of competency at its heart.” The Bill introduced a new Building Safety Regulator (the Health and Safety Executive - HSE) and places an obligation on local authorities to support the regulator by providing skilled, experienced and competent staff. Local authorities will have to make sure staff involved in assisting the regulator have verified skills and knowledge.

1.8

The Building Safety Regulator oversees the English and Welsh Building Control system and be the registrar for the entire profession. Local authorities are required to ‘take the advice of a Registered Building Inspector’ before issuing certification or to carry out plan assessments and site inspections. All local authority building control surveyors now need regular formal assessment of competence as part of the process.

1.9

In addition to the considerable legislative burdens facing Local Authorities, Building Control services are already facing considerable challenges. The LABC Insight - Interim Report - April 2022 sets out that competition with the private sector creates pressure on resources as the Council is unable to compete with the pay and reward packages offered in the private sector and relies in part on expensive agency staff to run the service. This creates a problem of retaining and recruiting staff and this, combined with an ageing demographic within the team, places the service at considerable risk.

2 Proposal

2.1 It is proposed that the Council enters into the Erewash Borough Council Building Control Partnership for the provision of all the statutory and non-statutory functions currently undertaken by the Building Control Service, with the exception of street naming and numbering, which will be retained in house. These functions include

- The processing of building regulations applications from plan checking to final inspection and attend safety at sports grounds meetings. (non-statutory function)
- Responding to dangerous structure call outs and providing out of hours cover (statutory function), this include the recovery of costs incurred in dealing with Dangerous Structures

- Dealing with Section 80 applications – Demolition (statutory function)
 - Enforcement actions (statutory function)
 - The Partnership will continue to process and inspect work relating to existing applications where no additional fees are payable, as payment has already been made to Gedling Borough Council.
- 2.2 The Erewash Building Control Partnership currently comprises Erewash Borough Council itself, Mansfield District Council, Ashfield District Council and Broxtowe Borough Council. The Partnership provides statutory and non-statutory Local Authority Building Control Services across the area of these districts / boroughs. It is considered that entering a partnership arrangement with Erewash Borough Council would streamline delivery mechanisms, increase resilience, make savings and create efficiencies.
- 2.3 Erewash have a team of highly skilled and accredited team of Building Inspectors who are equipped to ensure that buildings are safe for Gedling's residents, businesses and visitors, the enhancement of the Building Control service will therefore contribute to the Council's Legacy Plan priority of providing responsive, reliable and value-for-money services. The changes to the Building Control regime have been hugely significant and intended to ensure that safety in buildings is given much greater scrutiny. The new system will bring in greater clarity and accountability for ensuring buildings are safe for all. This proposal to enter the shared service will also allow residents and businesses to access information, advice and guidance via an enhanced customer offer. This will enable residents and businesses to make informed choices about the services they purchase and use the Council's Building Control Team rather than an RBCB, marketing the service as a trusted brand.
- 2.4 The Erewash Building Control Partnership already includes Ashfield District Council and Mansfield District Council, therefore the proposal is considered to align with the Council's preferred option 1e that has been submitted to government.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Head of Regulatory and Housing Services at Erewash Borough Council has confirmed that the annual service fee for the Council to enter into the Partnership would be £84,673. If joining the partnership is approved, the year 1 contribution would be calculated on a pro rata basis. Assuming an on boarding date of 1 June 2026 the partner contribution from Gedling would be £70,560. The Partnership would provide all building functions for the borough apart from street naming and numbering, a paid service, which would be retained by Gedling Borough Council.
- 3.2 As the Council must provide certain statutory building control functions which include, investigating dangerous structures, building control enforcement, demolitions and

the processing of disabled person's applications. The importance of these functions, particularly dangerous structure response means that to fulfil them effectively the Council would require a minimum of 2 registered building inspectors to allow for cover during periods of annual leave.

- 3.3 As detailed previously, the Building Control Service also provides non-statutory paid functions, largely through the consideration and supervision of building control applications. Therefore, consideration should be given to the performance of the service in terms of income against the overall cost of delivering the service. During the year 2022 / 2023 the total income for the service was £258,391 with the overall service costing £317,168 in total to maintain. The year 2023 / 2024 saw a reduction in income to £197,627 with the overall cost of the service being £313,092. These years the building control cost the Council £58,777 and £115,465 respectively. Last year, 2024 / 2025 saw a slight reduction in income to £194,443 with the overall cost of the service being £277,408, a total cost of £82,965 to the Council.
- 3.4 As the Council have been unable to recruit to permanent posts within the Building Control Team and the permanent Building Control Officer will be retiring in the New Year, the Council would need to engage an additional Building Inspector through an agency to ensure the statutory functions can be delivered. Therefore, the costs of delivering the service will increase significantly. The current total cost of the permanent Building Control Officer is approximately £65,800 per annum, whilst a Building Inspector engaged through an agency would cost approximately £70 per hour, approximately £120,000 per annum. This would therefore increase the cost of delivering the service by in excess of £50,000 when compared to the current position.
- 3.5 Staffing the team with only 2 Building Inspectors provides very little resilience during times of leave or during emergency situations. In order to ensure resilience within the service, a Building Control Technical Manager would be required to oversee the service and ensure compliance with the Building Safety Act therefore the cost of staffing is therefore likely to be much higher than the quoted figures. If the Council is unable to recruit to the permanent establishment, it would be necessary to employ 3 inspectors through an agency at a cost of approximately £360,000 per annum. There is also a budgetary impact of the central support costs and Technical Assistant of £118,000. The total cost of providing the service in 2026/27 would be approximately £300,000, assuming estimated application fee income of £175,000. It would therefore be financially unviable to retain the service inhouse.
- 3.6 The fact the Council has not successfully recruited to the permanent posts within the team leaves the Council at significant risk of not being able to fulfil its duties to the Building Safety Regulator. The authority would face huge risk should the agency inspector decided to leave the authority at short notice as it would not be able to fulfil its statutory duties or complete any non-statutory work already committed. It is not

considered that employing agency Building Inspectors is a viable long-term solution given hourly rates of approximately £70 and short notice periods for leaving the authority.

Alternative Options

4.

4.1 An alternative option would be for Gedling Borough Council to continue to provide Building Control Services. With the continued pressure on service delivery and a lack of staff and resilience in the service, Gedling Borough Council currently has a Service Level Agreement with the Erewash Building Control Partnership to undertake 25 site inspections per week at a cost of £53.90 per inspection. Given the existing cost of the service compared to income levels, this is not considered to be a sustainable long-term solution.

4.2 Whilst the total annual cost of entering the Partnership would be approximately £118,000 this would be significantly less than the realistic cost of retaining the service. Given the historic issues with recruitment into the team, it is considered likely that Building Inspectors would need to be employed through an agency. Employing the required 3 Building Inspectors through an agency would have an annual cost of approximately £360,000. Assuming the service achieves an income of £175,000, the total Partnership cost of £118,000 is considerably less than the cost of retaining service, even when including only staffing in service costs.

4.3 It is also possible to promote the Building Service more widely in order to increase competition with the private sector. The Council are progressing the Gedling Local Development Plan which will see significant growth in the borough and could represent a significant opportunity to boost the income of the service. Such an approach is considered to be a significant risk to the service as a substantial increase in income would be required to justify additional resourcing and many housebuilders have established partnerships within the private sector so the significant growth in income that would be required to ensure the service can be self-financing cannot be guaranteed.

4.4 Providing only a statutory service, without fee earning work, is not considered to be a sustainable option as it would require a minimum of 2 Building Control Surveyors to be employed by the Council to ensure the functions could be delivered during times of annual leave or sickness. Alternatively, times of annual leave would need to be covered by a Service Level Agreement with another provider. This option would see a significant reduction income, with fees from Regularisation applications totalling approximately £20,000 per annum. This option is therefore not considered viable as the service cost would exceed the service fee proposed by the Erewash Building Control Partnership.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 It is understood that the existing partners, Mansfield District Council, Ashfield District Council and Broxtowe Borough Council, have entered into an appropriate agreement that provides authority to deal with all Building Regulation and Building Control matters being delegated under section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and section 19 of the Local Government Act 2000 to EBC for a period of 3 years (due to Local Government Reorganistation) with the option to extend. This allows the authorities to terminate the arrangement by giving an agreed period of notice at any time.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 It is not considered there would be any equalities implications with this proposal

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 It is not considered there would be any carbon reduction implications with this proposal

8. HR / Staffing Implications

- 8.1 Any Staffing Decisions will be taken be the Head of Paid Service in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:
Date:
On behalf of the Monitoring Officer

<p>Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:</p>	<p>Erewash Building Control Partnership.</p>				
<p>The main objective of (please insert the name of accessed document stated above):</p>	<p>To transfer the Council's statutory and discretionary building control services to the Erewash Building Control Partnership.</p>				
<p>What impact will this (please insert the name) have on the following groups? Please note that you should consider both external and internal impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External (e.g. stakeholders, residents, local businesses etc.) • Internal (staff) 					
<p>Please use only 'Yes' where applicable</p>		<p>Negative</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Comments</p>
<p><u>Gender</u></p>	<p>External</p>			<p>x</p>	<p>The proposed transfer of the Building Control function to the Erewash Building Control Partnership is not considered to result in an impact upon any groups.</p> <p>The Building Control Partnership sits within Erewash Borough Council and is subject to the Council's Corporate</p>

					<p>Equality Policy and other policies.</p> <p>The Partnership will ensure that developments within Gedling Borough are compliant with the Building Regulations in terms of safety and accessibility standards.</p>
	Internal			x	
<u>Gender Reassignment</u>	External			x	
	Internal			x	
<u>Age</u>	External			x	
	Internal			x	

Equality Impact Assessment



<u>Marriage and civil partnership</u>	External			x	
	Internal			x	
<u>Disability</u>	External			x	
	Internal			x	
<u>Race & Ethnicity</u>	External			x	
	Internal			x	
<u>Sexual Orientation</u>	External			x	
	Internal			x	
<u>Religion or Belief (or no Belief)</u>	External			x	
	Internal			x	
<u>Pregnancy & Maternity</u>	External			x	
	Internal			x	
<u>Other Groups</u> (e.g. any other vulnerable groups, rural isolation, deprived areas, low income staff etc.)	External			x	
	Internal			x	

Please state the group/s:

Please state the group/s:					
_____	_____				
_____	_____				

Is there is any evidence of a high disproportionate adverse or positive impact on any groups?			There is no evidence of any impact of any groups
Is there an opportunity to mitigate or alleviate any such impacts?			N/A
Are there any gaps in information available (e.g. evidence) so that a complete assessment of different impacts is not possible?			There are no gaps present in information

In response to the information provided above please provide a set of proposed action including any consultation that is going to be carried out:

Planned Actions	Timeframe	Success Measure	Responsible Officer

Authorisation and Review

Completing Officer	John Krawczyk
Authorising Head of Service/Director	
Date	12/03/2026
Review date (if applicable)	

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