

Report to Council

Subject: Petitions Scheme

Date: 12 November 2025

Author: Deputy Chief Executive

Purpose

To present a petition and advise on the procedure that Council needs to follow under the Council's Petitions Scheme and to provide information specifically on the petition in respect of the leisure transformation programme and how this impacts the indoor bowls facility at the Richard Herrod Centre.

Recommendation

THAT:

Council is recommended to debate the petition.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council has received a petition which contains 1021 signatures from residents that work, live or study within the borough of Gedling and is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. The petition relates to the leisure transformation programme and how this impacts the indoor bowls facility at the Richard Herrod Centre, the petition asks the following:

This petition is submitted with a request that the Council reconsider its plans as part of their Leisure Transformation Programme impacting the Indoor Bowls facility at the Richard Herrod Centre. The signatories to the petition call on Gedling Borough Council to:

- 1. Reinstate, retain and protect indoor bowling as part of its facility mix within the proposed redevelopment of the Richard Herrod Centre*
- 2. Recognise that by working with the Directors of Gedling*

Indoor Bowls Centre Limited and the English Indoor Bowls Association a financially viable and sustainable model with the inclusion of indoor bowls can be achieved

3. *Pro-actively recognise and promote the proven mental and physical wellbeing benefits of indoor bowling*

- 1.2 The Council has a petitions scheme within the Constitution. The scheme states that a petition of this nature containing over 140 signatures shall trigger a "Petition for debate" as a local issue affecting no more than two wards within the Council's area. The petitions scheme requires the issue to be debated by a meeting of Council.
- 1.3 The petitions organiser has up to five minutes to address the meeting in order to present the petition. The request to the Council which is the subject of the petition shall be deemed to be the motion before Council and to have been moved and seconded when the petition is accepted by the Mayor.
- 1.4 After the lead petitioner has been given the opportunity to address Council, members will be given the opportunity to debate the issues raised by the petition. At the conclusion of the debate the Council has to decide how to respond to the petition and the following courses of action may apply:
 - Council can, if appropriate, instruct that the action the petition requests is carried out in whole or in part;
 - Council can determine not to take the action requested in the petition for reasons put forward in the debate in whole or in part;
 - Council can ask for further investigation into the matters the petition raises, for example by a relevant committee, portfolio holder or officer;
 - Where a decision of the Executive is required, Council should decide on whether or not to make a recommendation to inform the decision;
- 1.5 Where Council is minded to make a recommendation to another body because it is outside of the scope of Gedling Borough Council's work, then Council will consider making representations on the petitioner's behalf to that body. For example, where the petition relates to policing or crime matters it may be necessary to make representations to the Police service. The petition scheme points out that the council works with a large number of local partners and where possible would work with those partners to respond to the petition.

2 Further information

- 2.1 On 25 September 2025, at a special Cabinet meeting at which representatives of the Gedling Indoor Bowls Club were in attendance, Cabinet agreed the following recommendations:

1. Cabinet notes the research, findings and recommendations from the updated Leisure Strategy which forms the evidence base and strategic framework for future investment and management of the Council's leisure portfolio.

2. Cabinet notes the results of the 2025 Leisure Transformation Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement.

3. Cabinet approves further feasibility work on the recommended outline facility mix for the Carlton Leisure and Community Wellbeing Centre ("Carlton Active"), based on Option 3 - core facilities with soft play. At this stage this will not include a 3G football pitch.

4. Cabinet agrees, in line with the Leisure Facilities Strategy, that the Council will continue to engage with and offer non-financial support to Gedling Indoor Bowls Club in exploring relocation options.

5. Cabinet agrees to undertake consultation to seek a public view on the Council withdrawing its service provision from the joint use agreement leisure centre sites, in line with the recommendations of the Leisure Strategy.

- 2.2 These recommendations were formulated following a review of the Council's Leisure Strategy and following extensive consultation with residents, stakeholders and partners on the proposals for the development of a new leisure facility at the site of the Richard Herrod Leisure Centre.

- 2.3 Throughout the consultation the Council engaged with the bowls club and held two focus group meetings with the club. In formulating proposals for the new Carlton Active site and in preparing the business case, consideration was given to the continued provision of indoor bowls at the site. The conclusions drawn were that financially, retaining bowls on the site was not viable. Members concluded that the Council would continue to work with the bowls club to provide non-financial support in exploring relocation options.

- 2.4 As part of the work undertaken to formulate the recommendations, consideration was given to the equality impacts associated with the

development of Carlton Active. The Equality Impact Assessment, along with the full report and appendices is attached.

2.5 Since the Cabinet meeting, officers have continued to engage with the bowls club and are exploring relocation options.

2.6 It should be noted that any decisions in relation to the Leisure Strategy and future facility mix at the Carlton Active site are decisions for the Executive. A further report on the development of the site with more detailed business case is due to be considered by Cabinet in early 2026. Budgetary proposals will be considered as part of the Council's annual budget report for 2026/27.

3 Proposal

3.1 It is proposed that Council should debate the contents of the petition as required by the petitions scheme contained within the constitution.

4 Alternative Options

4.1 The Council could determine not to debate the petition; however, it has been accepted as a petition for debate under the Council's scheme.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 The petition has been accepted under the Council's Petition Policy and scheme, in accordance with this scheme and the Council's Procedure Rules, the petition should be debated and the options available to the Council are as set out in paragraph 1.4 above.

7 Equalities Implications

7.1 There are no direct equality implications related to the Council considering this petition. The petitioner is invited to attend the meeting, and the Council meeting is open to the public and streamed to ensure maximum access. The Equality Impact Assessment in relation to the future facility mix at the Carlton Active site is shown at Appendix E to the Cabinet report.

8 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

8.1 There are no direct implications arising from the consideration of this petition by the Council.

9 Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Letter accompanying the petition and the petition cover sheet.

Appendix 2 – Report to Cabinet 25 September 2025([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Cabinet, 25/09/2025 14:00](#)

10 Background papers

- 10.1 None

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Drafted by the Monitoring Officer