

## **Report to Council**

**Subject:** Petitions Scheme

**Date:** 21 January 2026

**Author:** Deputy Chief Executive

### **Purpose**

To present a petition in relation to the impacts of the Leisure Transformation programme on Calverton Leisure Centre and advise on the procedure that Council needs to follow under the Council's Petitions Scheme.

### **Recommendation**

**THAT:**

Council is recommended to debate the petition.

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 The Council has received a petition which contains 286 signatures from residents that work, live or study within the borough of Gedling and is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. The petition is presented by users of the early morning swimming sessions at Calverton Leisure Centre and relates to the leisure transformation programme and how this impacts on Calverton Leisure Centre. The petition asks the following:

*This petition is submitted with a request that the Council reconsiders its plans as part of the leisure transformation programme impacting Calverton Leisure Centre.*

*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.*

- 1.2 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, 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. The Council's Leisure Strategy includes a review of all Council managed or owned Leisure assets and sets out a number of recommendations for each facility.

2.3 In relation to Calverton Leisure Centre, this is a site operated and managed by the Council but is not in the Council's ownership. There are two joint use agreements in place with Redhill Academy Trust, who run the school site and Nottinghamshire County Council, who own the site. In terms of the state of the asset, Calverton Leisure Centre has £44,000 worth of major upgrade works identified in the last site condition report from 2017. The Strategy recommends that Calverton Leisure Centre is retained for community use in the short term, but with the opportunity to transfer management back to the school and Nottinghamshire County Council, or work with another provider to manage to reduce the Council's liability. Any transfer would seek to ensure continued community access to the pool, sports hall and 3G pitch. Consultation with the local community is required prior to any proposed withdrawal from the joint use agreement, which has a two year notice period.

2.4 Following on from the report to Cabinet in September and the agreed recommendations, in line with recommendation 5, a consultation was launched on 6 November 2025 in relation to the withdrawal of service provision from all joint use sites including Calverton Leisure Centre. The consultation ran until 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and is now closed. The consultation 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

The consultation has resulted in over 900 responses. These responses are currently being analysed and all information from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet in the Spring in order for decisions about the sites to be made.

2.5 Decisions as to the future of Leisure provision sit with the Executive. Whilst a petition can still be debated and recommendations made; the proposed actions would be a decision for the Executive. Cabinet are currently due to consider the future of joint use sites in March 2026.

### **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. All financial implications in respect of Leisure Services are reflected in the September report to Cabinet.

### **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. As the actions within the

petition are actions that should be taken by the Executive, the Council can refer the matter to the Executive to consider taking into account any debate at Council.

## **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

<p><b>Statutory Officer approval</b> <b>Approved by: M Hill</b> <b>Date: January 2026</b> <b>On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer</b></p> <p><b>Drafted by the Monitoring Officer</b></p>
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