

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Call-in of Executive Decision – Carlton Active 19 February 2026

Date: 9 March 2026

Author: Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer

Wards Affected

All Wards

Purpose

To seek the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the request for call-in of Cabinet's decision taken on 19 February 2026 in relation to the Carlton Active project.

Key Decision

As reflected in Appendix 1 the decision subject to call-in is a key decision.

Recommendation

THAT Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the request for call-in and the decision at Appendix 1 and determine that either:

- 1) The call-in is dismissed and the original decision proceeds; or**
- 2) Recommendations on the decision be given for consideration by the Executive; or**
- 3) The review of the decision and any recommendations be undertaken by the Authority.**

1 Background

1.1 On 19 February 2026 Cabinet made the following decisions:

Cabinet notes and agrees 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 approves 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 agrees 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 agrees to withdraw from the Carlton Forum Leisure Centre joint use agreement and authorises 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.

The full report and decision presented to Cabinet is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

- 1.2 On the 23 February 2026, a request for call-in of the above decision was made by three Councillors in accordance with the call-in requirements set out in the Constitution. The call-in request was made by Councillors Adams, Sam Smith, and Martin Smith. The request for call-in was as follows:

I write to you as the Council's Monitoring Officer to formally request a Call-In of the following Executive decision, in accordance with Gedling Borough Council's Constitution and Call-In procedure:

Decision title: Carlton Active RIBA 2 Business Case

Decision-making body: Cabinet

Date decision was made: 19 February 2026

Date decision was published: 19 February 2026

I am writing in my capacity as a Gedling Borough Councillor and jointly with Cllr Martin Smith and Cllr Mike Adams to formally request a Call-In of the

recent decision concerning the future of the Richard Herrod Centre and, specifically, the proposed removal of the indoor bowls facilities.

This request follows representations from the Gedling Indoor Bowls Centre Limited and Gedling Indoor Bowls Club, which now has over 330 members of various ages and abilities, as well as a wide community of local organisations and non-member groups who bowl regularly at the Richard Herrod Centre. The facility is a significant social and wellbeing asset that supports not only older and disabled residents but a diverse range of people across the borough. A petition of 1,278 signatures has been submitted to the Council, yet many feel that this has not been given meaningful consideration.

Cllr Adams, Martin Smith, and I believe the decision merits scrutiny on the following grounds:

- 1. Lack of transparency
Consultation responses and community submissions do not appear to have been fully or accurately reflected in the reports or the final decision-making process.*
- 2. Public support
Statements made regarding the level of community backing for changes to the facility do not align with the evidence presented by the bowls club and wider user groups.*
- 3. Risk to public health and wellbeing
The loss or downgrading of the indoor bowls facility presents significant risks, including increased social isolation, reduced mobility, and potential deterioration in physical and mental health for many residents.*
- 4. Failure to properly explore reasonable alternatives
There is no comparable indoor bowling provision within Gedling Borough, leaving a substantial gap in local recreational and wellbeing services, failing to recognise Sport England United in Movement and resulting in Displacement.*

Given the potential long-term impact on a large and diverse community of users, I am requesting that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee pauses the implementation of this decision until these concerns can be fully explored.

- 1.3 The matter has now been referred to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration. An Executive decision can only be called-in where the decision has not been implemented, is not a planning or licensing decision and is not an urgent decision. The Constitution is clear that call-in is only to be exercised in exceptional circumstances and is not intended to be a mechanism for voicing objection to or dislike of any particular decision. The grounds for calling in a decision are listed at paragraph 8.3 of the constitution. The request for call-in is based on the submission that Cabinet have not fully considered all evidence in relation to the consultations undertaken and in particular the views of and impact on the bowls club and indoor bowls provision in respect of the decision.
- 1.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee did not consider the decision of Cabinet from February 19, 2026, prior to the report being presented to the Executive. The facility mix of Carlton Active was initially agreed by Cabinet in September 2025 following a consultation with residents, stakeholders and following engagement sessions with all members of the Council. The decision made by Cabinet in September 2025 which excluded indoor bowls provision from the proposed facility mix was not subject to call-in.
- 1.5 In December 2025, Council considered a petition presented by the Gedling Indoor Bowls Club. The petition called for the reinstatement of indoor bowls. The petition was debated by Council and the matter referred back to Cabinet for consideration as part of their decision on RIBA 2.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that Committee consider the request for call-in, the decision taken by Cabinet at Appendix 1 and the officer response at Appendix 2 as well any information provided to the Committee meeting to determine whether the decision made by Cabinet on 19th February 2026 requires further consideration. The Committee can determine that no further action be taken and reject the call-in, can refer the decision with recommendations to Cabinet or can determine not to exercise their call-in function and refer the function to Council.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 The alternative options are set out in the proposals section of the report.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 In terms of the financial implications, the costs associated with the scheme are as detailed in the report at Appendix 1.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council must have arrangements in place to enable call-in of an Executive decision in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000. call-in should only be exercised in exceptional circumstances and cannot be exercised where the decision is urgent, has been implemented or relates to a planning or licensing decision. The call-in of a decision must be based on legitimate grounds and not on the basis that a decision is not liked.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 A full equality Impact Assessment is appended to the decision subject to call-in at Appendix 1.

7 Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 As above

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Cabinet Decision 19 February 2026
Appendix 2 – Officer information following call-in request

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 Decision of Cabinet September 2025

10 Reasons for Recommendations

10.1 To consider call-in of the Executive decision taken on 19 February 2026.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer