Council Meeting
30th November 2022

Motion submitted by Councillor Leigh MBE under Council Procedure Rule 14

Absence of leisure facilities in Halifax

This Council notes:

- The discontinuity of the new Halifax Leisure Centre scheme at North Bridge will mean severe disruption to leisure provision in Calderdale
- The current economic climate means that further large-scale borrowing would be financially unsound
- The financial situation facing the Council requires an innovative approach to leisure provision in order to meet our responsibility as an authority to provide access to leisure services

This Council acknowledges:

- The discontinuation of the new leisure centre at North Bridge will leave Halifax without leisure facilities for the foreseeable future and possibly for years to come
- The partial demolition of North Bridge Leisure Centre and the planned demolition of Halifax Swimming Baths will further limit the Council's options for leisure provision in Calderdale
- The closure of other facilities such as the Mixenden Activity Centre and Threeways Sports Facility further reduces access to leisure and future leisure options for residents

This Council accepts:

- The present degradation in leisure services leaves the council open to criticism for failing to deliver accessible leisure and sport facilities
- Building back healthier from the pandemic and delivering on 'Active Calderdale' are essential priorities which the Council has promised, and which must be delivered

In order to fully meet our moral duty as a local authority to provide proper access to leisure facilities in Calderdale, this Council resolves to:

- Immediately stop the planned demolition of Halifax Swimming Baths to keep the Council's options open for leisure provision;
- Consider the repurposing of other assets for leisure provision in Halifax, such as the Mixenden Activity Centre;
  and
- Undertake a full review of leisure provision in Calderdale and reconsider the scope of existing schemes.

Seconded by Councillor