

# **WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL LABOUR GROUP**

## **Notice of Motion from Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan for the Council Executive on 9th May 2023**

### **Item 11 – West Lothian Leisure Request for Council Consent to Proposed Change**

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Council Executive notes that in the Spring budget on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced funding of £63 million to support swimming pools remaining open in England.

Council Executive further notes that as a result of the Chancellor's announcement, around £70 million of Barnett consequential in total will go to the Scottish Government and that to date, no funding has been provided by the Scottish Government to specifically support swimming pools.

In light of the recent request from West Lothian Leisure to seek consent from West Lothian Council to close 4 venues, namely Xcite Livingston, Xcite Broxburn Swimming Pool, Xcite Armadale and Howden Park Centre, Council Executive agrees to instruct the Chief Executive to write to Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport to request funding to swimming pool operators to support the retention of swimming pools and leisure venues in local communities, and in particular, West Lothian.

Council Executive further agrees that in view of the gravity of the situation, with the needs of the community and jobs at stake, as well as the need for West Lothian Council to respond to the request from the Board of West Lothian Leisure in the near future, the Minister is requested to respond as a matter of urgency.

Furthermore, Council Executive instructs the following:

- Council officers to bring back a report to the meeting of the Council Executive on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 to address members' questions and concerns.
- Council officers to engage with West Lothian Leisure to explore whether alternative options exist for the retention of facilities to include in the report to Council Executive on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023.

- In parallel, West Lothian Leisure and Council officers to explore alternative commercial and community options for continued provision of services with other interested parties including key community user groups, with an update to be included in the report to the Council Executive on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023.
- The Chief Executive to write to Angela Constance MSP, Fiona Hyslop MSP, Martyn Day MP and Hannah Bardell MP to request they write to their SNP party colleague Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport to demand funding via the Barnett consequential and any other available funding to enable the retention of local swimming pools and leisure facilities in West Lothian.



**Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan**  
**Executive Councillor for Economy, Community Empowerment and Wealth Building**  
**West Lothian Council Labour Group**

