

Community Impact Assessment Form

Name of Strategy/Policy:	Leisure Review Closure of Bacup Leisure Hall	
Officer Name(s):	Anita Hall/Vincent Hindley	
Job Title & Location:	Service Assurance Manager/Project Officer	
Department/Service Area:	Place Directorate	
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Date Assessment:	Commenced: 7th January 2009	Completed: ongoing

1. Impact Assessment – Policy and Target Outcomes

- a) Main aims/objectives of the strategy, policy, procedure, project or decision.

Rossendale Borough Council is looking at leisure provision throughout the borough in the light of the current financial situation and the need to have quality, sustainable provision for the future. Various options are being considered. As part of this process, Community Impact Assessments have been produced and are continually being reviewed and added to.

This Impact Assessment examines the closure of Bacup Leisure Hall, considers the impact of closure and explores how the impact can be addressed.

Bacup Leisure Hall was built in 1974; it comprises a main hall with a stage at one end. The main hall can accommodate 500 people and can be used for a variety of events/functions such as birthday parties, dances and music concerts. The hall can also be divided in half for smaller functions and can accommodate 200 people. It is available Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings and is fully licensed. In addition there is a squash /badminton court for hire.

They hold monthly Tea Dances, provide indoor bowling and will undertake GP referrals from January 2009.

There is access for disabled users and there are toilet facilities for both disabled and non disabled visitors. There is car park to the front and right of the building, there are 75 car parking spaces, in total, of which 5 are designated disabled parking.

Level of Use

Year	Use (approximately)
2007/08	20,000
2006/07	25,000
2005/06	28,711

These figures were provided by Rossendale Leisure Trust and show a 30% decrease in use over the three-year period. In addition, there is no indication of how many of these were repeat visits: (e.g. one person attending all monthly Tea dance = 12 visits per annum). Therefore it is possible the actual number of citizens using the facility is significantly lower than 20,000 per annum.

b) Is the policy, facility or decision under review:

New/proposed Modified/adapted Existing

c) Main groups identified as beneficiaries, targets or users of (or affected in any other way) this strategy, policy, project, procedure or decision?

Customers/Citizens of the district.
 Community Groups/Voluntary Sector Groups
 Elected Members
 Rossendale Leisure Trust, including staff and employees

- d) Equality groups identified as beneficiaries, targets or users of this policy/strategy/project/procedure, or affected in any other way.

Faith Groups
Older People Groups
Asian Groups who use the facility for functions i.e. Weddings, meetings and various celebratory events.
Parents with babies – weekly event baby talk group.
All groups using facility to access groups and clubs e.g. dog training and blood donor, for which detailed profile information is not available.

- e) Information considered regarding the communities affected by this.

Information on the breakdown of the population of Rossendale obtained from 2001 Census data provided by the Office of National Statistics.

APPENDIX 1 – Section 1 Ethnic groups in Rossendale by ward
Section 2 Rossendale 2001 census wards
Section 3 Ethnic groups in wards around Bacup Leisure Hall

APPENDIX 2 - Usage of all Rossendale Leisure Trust facilities for the past 5 years (provided by Rossendale Leisure Trust).

APPENDIX 3 - List of Bacup Leisure Hall usage for 2008 (supplied by Rossendale Leisure Trust).

- f) Is further consultation, data collection or research still required?

Yes

No

Details

The Community Impact Assessment has been carried out in accordance with the evidence available.

Evidence has been provided for the Equality Groups identified.

Research will be ongoing in relation to the users of the facility and the Impact Assessment will be updated accordingly.

A consultation process has been undertaken and this is detailed at Appendix 4.

2. Impact – Evidence

- a) Indicate whether this is evidence that the policy/strategy/decision has a negative, positive or neutral impact from an equalities perspective on any of the equality groups listed below.
- b)

		Positive Impact – it could benefit	Negative Impact – it could disadvantage	Reason	Neutral Impact (Neither)
Gender	Women		√	Baby and parent events	
	Men		√	Baby and parent event	
Race (Ethnicity or Nationality)	Asian or Asian British people		√	Celebration events i.e. Wedding – wants to remain in own community.	
	Black or black British people				√
	Chinese or other ethnic people				√
	Irish people				√
	White people				√
	Chinese people				√
	Other minority communities not listed above (please state)				√

		Positive Impact – it could benefit	Negative Impact – it could disadvantage	Reason	Neutral Impact (Neither)
Disability	Physical/learning/mental health				√
Sexuality	Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals				√
Gender Identity	Transgender people				√
Age	Older people (60+)		√	Older people group meetings throughout the year.	
	Younger people (17-25), and children		√	Scouts one off meeting Archery Club	
Belief	Faith groups		√	Jehovah’s Witness party	
Other Groups			√	Bowling Club (age profile unknown) Tea Dancers (age profile unknown) Dog Owners (age profile unknown)	

3. Impact – Nature/Type

- a) Could you further improve the strategy, project, policy, procedure or decision's positive or neutral impact? If "Yes", this should be detailed in the Action Plan.

YES NO

- b) If you indicated that there is neutral impact, could this be changed to become positive?

YES NO

- c) Mitigation of any adverse or negative impact(s) of the proposal, or how the policy, strategy, project, procedure or decision could be used to promote a positive impact. Does the proposal have a high or low impact.

Actions arising from the impact assessment should form part of the Service Planning Process.

Key Actions:

Identify current users who require support identifying alternative venues – Communities Team

Alternative venues to be identified for all current facility users – Communities Team.

Cost implications of alternative facilities to be identified as part of the process – Communities Team.

Signposting/support in relation to potential grant application – Communities Team

4. Impact Assessment - Summary

a) Key Findings: Major outcomes/results/findings of this assessment in relation to equality which require action by the Council are detailed in the Action Plan

A number of equality groups have used this facility over the last 12 months:

Jehovah's Witness Party = January 2008 for 200 people (No figures available for the number of Jehovah's witnesses in the respective wards of Rossendale.)

Asian Weddings 29/06/2008 = 1000 people
16/08/2008 = 500 -1000 people
01/11/2008 = 500 people.

Statistics show (Section 3 of Appendix 1) that Bacup has a very small Asian Community – 57 in comparison to 14186 of the total make up of the 3 Bacup Wards (0.4%). There are other facilities within the Borough where these can be accommodated.

Baby Talk Group – After further investigation it was found that in December 2008 the group had relocated and would no longer be using the Leisure Hall facility.

Blood Donor Sessions – Currently used 6 times per year and occupies the whole of the main hall from 12.00 noon until 9.00pm. (2 Sessions from 1.30pm – 3.30pm and 5.30pm – 7.30pm.) Throughout the 2 sessions approximately 105 units of blood are donated (105 people visiting). There are a number of other halls around the Bacup area that need further investigation as a possible alternative venue. After speaking to a representative of the National Blood Transfusion Service, should the current facility be closed they would look for an alternative venue in the vicinity.

Scouts Meeting – Usually for band performances, using the main hall /stage – possibly twice per annum. Whitworth Civic Hall has a stage and could be used as an alternative venue. If the current facility was to close there are also other Church Halls within the borough that would need further investigation for potential use as an alternative venue.

Dog Training - The main hall is used on Thursday evenings 5.30 – 9.30pm and throughout this time there are usually a total of 60 owners and their animals who attend, spread over 4 individual classes. For health and safety purposes matting has to be used to cover the floor area (bought from a lottery grant of £10,000). Storage for the large matting is also required. The Kennel Club's Good Citizen Dog Scheme is run here and caters for people who have non-pedigree dogs in the promotion of animal welfare.

The Leisure Hall is recognized as being a 1st Grade Training Centre and receives referrals through Disabled Groups.

The Safe and Sound Scheme is run here and teaches children and families to be safe in their own households around dogs.

In addition, the main hall is sometimes used for seminars regarding animal welfare and occasionally used for functions.

People from all parts of Rossendale travel to these classes, there is potential that the venue could be anywhere within the borough. Further investigation is required for alternative facilities for this use should the decision be taken to close the hall.

Indoor Bowling – Used by several groups of people (league and individuals) throughout the winter months 100 -120 people in total use the facility on each of the days from 10.00am until 10.30pm every Tuesday and Wednesday. Maximum usage is 2 bowling mats. There are various halls in the near vicinity which would have the capacity to hold these events, should the decision be taken to close the hall, would need to be investigated further.

Tea Dances – held on a weekly basis (not necessarily every week) partly Doctor referrals/Healthy Lifestyles. Usually attended by 6 or 7 couples on a Monday 1.30 – 4.00pm. People from all parts of Rossendale travel to these

classes, there is potential that the venue could be anywhere within the Borough. However Church Halls throughout the Borough which would have the capacity to hold these events, should the decision be taken to close the hall, would need to be investigated further.

Archery – held on Thursday from 8.00pm (Adult and Youth). This takes place in the Badminton Court and the number of attendees ranges between 6 up to a peak of 30 during the session. Alternatives would need to be explored.

Older People Meetings/Parties and other one off events - there are other halls that could be used as a suitable alternative venue to stage such events should the decision be taken to close the Leisure Hall.

Riverside in Whitworth is a relatively new facility some 4/5 miles away from Bacup Leisure Hall and provides excellent facilities for parties/functions/conferences/meetings. The facility is also licensed. Riverside may be able to accommodate a number of these activities.

5. Impact Assessment – Further Action

a) Evaluation/ monitoring/ review process:

The impact assessment will be updated as issues are raised by Elected Members, facility users and members of the public.

The decision of the Council at the meeting of 26 February 2009 in relation to Bacup Leisure Hall will impact on the implementation of the action plan. The detailed work programme will need to be developed following this meeting with timescales for review identified within it.

Monitoring of implementation will take place at the Programme Board and through Overview and Scrutiny.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN

Please list below any recommendations for action that you plan to take as a result of this impact assessment

Issue	Action required	Lead officer	Timescale	Resource implications	Comments
Scouts Meeting	Identify possible alternative facilities. Discussion with group regarding suitability Identify any implications arising from alternatives	Community Engagement Officer	31/03/2009	Within existing resources	Timescale indicative only – To be reviewed following decision at Council meeting on 26 February 2009. These can be accommodated at other venues.
Blood Donor Sessions	Identify possible alternative facilities. Discussion with group regarding suitability Identify any implications arising from alternatives	Community Engagement Officer	31/03/2009	Within existing resources	Timescale indicative only – To be reviewed following decision at Council meeting on 26 February 2009. These can be accommodated at other venues.
Baby Talk Group	No longer using the facility.		14/02/2009	Within existing resources	Resolved – already relocated.

Issue	Action required	Lead officer	Timescale	Resource implications	Comments
Wedding Parties and Celebrations	Identify alternative facilities in the borough for these events. Publicise this information	Community Engagement Worker Communications Officer	30/04/09 31/05/09		Timescale indicative only – To be reviewed following decision at Council meeting on 26 February 2009.
Older People Meetings and events	Identify possible alternative facilities. Discussion with group regarding suitability Identify any implications arising from alternatives	Community Engagement Officer	31/03/2009	Within existing resources	Timescale indicative only – To be reviewed following decision at Council meeting on 26 February 2009. These can be accommodated at other venues.
Tea dances	Identify possible alternative facilities. Discussion with group regarding suitability Identify any implications arising from alternatives	Community Engagement Officer	31/03/2009	Within existing resources	Timescale indicative only – To be reviewed following decision at Council meeting on 26 February 2009. These can be accommodated at other venues.

Users of Bacup Leisure Hall by Ethnic Group

1. Data has been sourced from Lancashire County Council neighbourhood statistics, using 2001 Census information provided by the Office for National Statistics.
2. Section 1 shows the breakdown of ward population by ethnic group.
3. Section 2 shows ward boundaries within the Borough.
4. The assumption regarding Bacup Leisure Hall is that the majority of users will be residents of Greensclough, Irwell and Stacksteads wards, and a breakdown of those ward populations by ethnic group is at Section 3.

Ethnic Groups in Rossendale by Ward

Facility	Marl Pits Swimming Pool					Haslingden Swimming Pool				Bacup Leisure Hall			Whitworth		Total	%
	Cribden	Goodshaw	Hareholme	Longholme	Whitewell	Eden	Greenfield	Helmshore	Worsley	Greensclough	Irwell	Stacksteads	Facit & Shawforth	Healey & Whitworth		
Asian or Asian British	270	12	273	286	19	16	382	48	632	16	24	17	8	9	2012	3.07
Black or Black British	3	5	4	9	3	4	6	6	3	3	0	3	3	4	56	0.09
Chinese or other ethnic people	0	3	0	0	3	0	10	4	3	0	3	0	3	0	29	0.04
Irish people	40	35	57	56	44	24	76	69	76	59	73	32	53	39	733	1.12
White people	3254	3497	5056	5135	5431	3444	4867	5500	4845	5252	4789	3734	3472	3578	61854	94.23
Chinese people	11	6	5	5	0	0	22	13	14	16	3	4	8	0	107	0.16
Other minority communities	50	36	74	67	49	58	94	86	97	48	69	41	41	39	849	1.29
Total	3628	3594	5469	5558	5549	3546	5457	5726	5670	5394	4961	3831	3588	3669	65640	

Source: Office for National Statistics – 2001 Census Data

Rossendale 2001 Census Wards



Bacup Leisure Hall – Ethnic Groups in Surrounding Wards

Ward	Greensclough	Irwell	Stacksteads	Total	%
Asian or Asian British	16	24	17	57	0.40
Black or Black British	3	0	3	6	0.04
Chinese or other ethnic people	0	3	0	3	0.02
Irish people	59	73	32	164	1.16
White people	5252	4789	3734	13775	97.10
Chinese people	16	3	4	23	0.16
Other minority communities	48	69	41	158	1.11
	5394	4961	3831	14186	

Source: Office for National Statistics – 2001 Census Data

Rossendale on the Move

Usage comparison 2003-4 onwards

	<u>2003-4</u>	<u>2004-5</u>	<u>2005-6</u>	<u>2006-7</u>	<u>2007-8</u>
HSC	112,168	116,755	134,213	119,402	150,044
SR	64,248	95,235	105,995	84,285	85,787
HSP	87,699	85,880	94,504	79,701	98,788
MP	110,414	118,585	123,624	114,709	118,157
BLH	11,691	24,597	28,711	25,000	20,000
		441,052	487,047	423,097	472,776
		54,832	45,995	-63,950	49,679

Key:

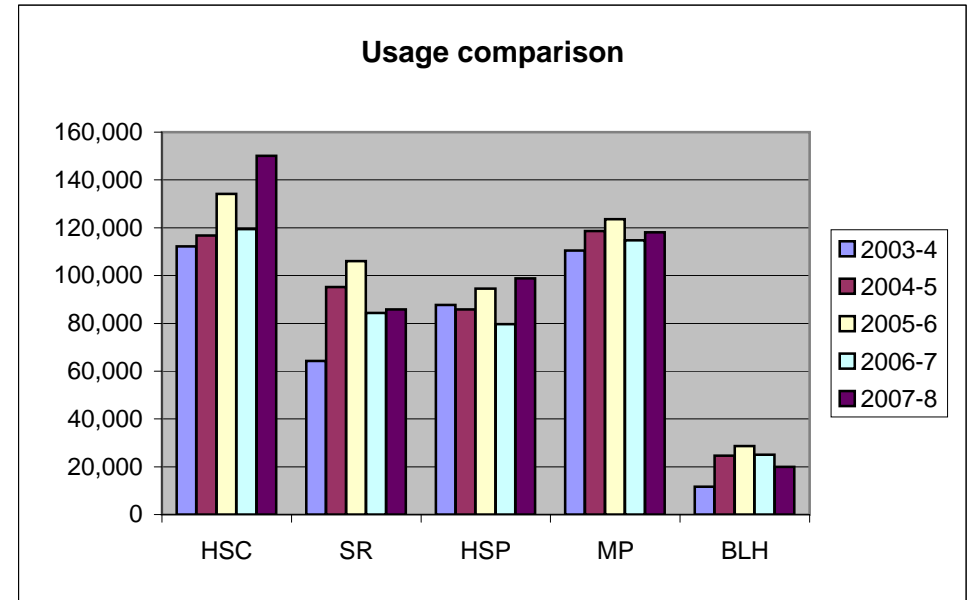
HSC = Haslingden Sports Centre

SR = Ski Rossendale

HSP = Haslingden Swimming Pool

MP = Marl Pits Swimming Pool

BLH = Bacup Leisure Hall

**Notes:**

1. Reason for decrease at Haslingden Swimming Pool 2006-07 due to removal of sunbeds the Trust takes view of recommendations by Environmental Health Officers and leading dermatologists; also concerned about potential risk from use of sunbeds which may lead to possible personal injuries claims.

BACUP LEISURE HALL - Appendix 3 From RL Trust		Number Attended
09/01/2008	Meeting	23
12/01/2008	Monthly Dance	125
19/01/2008	Jahovahs Witness Party	200
21/01/2008	Blood Donors	Varies
26/01/2008	Dog Show	150
26/01/2008	Charity Function	400
27/01/2008	Dog Show	150
09/02/2008	Monthly Dance	100
14/02/2008	Unison AGM	100
16/02/2008	Wedding Anniversary	200
23/02/2008	Monthly Dance	100
09/03/2008	Monthly Dance	100
21/03/2008	Blood Donors	Varies
22/03/2008	Bacup Booty	250
29/03/2008	Brass Band	100
30/03/2008	Forresters Dance	100
05/04/2008	Chris Marlow Dance	100
11/04/2008	Flower Show	200
12/04/2008	Flower Show	200
19/04/2008	Monthly Dance	100
27/04/2008	Dog Show	50
01/05/2008	Elections	Hard to say
04/05/2008	Dog Show	100
10/05/2008	Spring Gala	1500
10/05/2008	Monthly Dance	100
17/05/2008	Forresters Dance	100
21/05/2008	Blood Donors	Varies
24/05/2008	Wedding Reception	150
31/05/2008	Private Party	200
04/06/2008	Sports Meeting	50
29/06/2008	Asian Wedding	1000
04/07/2008	Sports Awards	200
05/07/2008	Dance	125
12/07/2008	Motown Night (300)	100
21/07/2008	Blood Donors	Varies
24/07/2008	Clown Show	130
26/07/2008	Charity Wrestling Match	75
08/08/2008	Wedding Reception	200
09/08/2008	Dance	100
16/08/2008	Asian Wedding	500-1000
06/09/2008	Forresters Dance	100
15/09/2008	Jimmy Eaton - Pensioners	225
16/09/2008	Jimmy Eaton - Pensioners	225
20/09/2008	Dog Show	100
21/09/2008	Blood Donors	Varies

20/09/2008	Dance		100
28/09/2008	Guitar Fair		200
28/09/2008	9 consec weeks £30 p.w.	30 per week	
28/09/2008	Guitar Fair		500
05/10/2008	Dog Show		50
06/10/2008	Dog Show		50
11/10/2008	Monthly Dance		100
12/10/2008	Scouts		100
18/10/2008	Chris Marlow		100
25/10/2008	Forresters Dance		100
01/11/2008	Asian Wedding		500
08/11/2008	Dance		100
09/11/2008	Remembrance Day		100
10/11/2008	Kathakali Dance Performance		150
15/11/2008	Dog Show		100
15/11/2008	Legends of Folk (350)		75
16/11/2008	Rossendale Players		150
17/11/2008	Rossendale Players		150
18/11/2008	Rossendale Players		150
19/11/2008	Rossendale Players		150
20/11/2008	Rossendale Players		150
21/11/2008	Rossendale Players		150
22/11/2008	Rossendale Players		150
29/11/2008	Christmas Market		1000
30/11/2008	Nativity & Xmas Kids Party		200
01/12/2008	Blood Donors	Varies	
07/12/2008	Dog Show		50
13/12/2008	Dance		100
14/12/2008	Guitar Fair		500
14/12/2008	Scouts		100
20/12/2008	Jimmy Eaton - Charity		250
24/12/2008	Forresters Dance		100
31/12/2008	Forresters Dance		100

Regulars

Extended Activities	
Dog Training	Every Thursday
Dance Academy	Weekly
Archery	Weekly
Baby Talk Group	Weekly
Bowling Mats	Every Tues & Wed (Winter)
Bowling League	Every Tues & Wed (Winter)
Badminton	Weekly
Squash	Weekly

	Board Meeting Rossendale SPAA	Every six weeks Every six weeks
From Jan	Cheerleading GP referral	Weekly Twice Weekly

Leisure Options Review – Public Feedback

1. Methodology

- 1.1 The Rossendale Borough Council Cabinet, at its meeting on 21st January 2009, agreed to a period of public feedback on the options for the future provision of leisure facilities in the borough. Agenda item D2, available on the Rossendale Borough Council website (www.rossendale.gov.uk), outlined the background to the issues concerned and detailed seven options for consideration.
- 1.2 The Cabinet agreed to a period of consultation ending on 10th February 2009 and, via the Rossendale Borough Council website and public media, has encouraged individual citizens and stakeholder groups to feedback comments and concerns about the options, so that the meeting of the Council on 26th February 2009 can have an informed debate on the issues before deciding on the way forward.
- 1.3 Feedback has been received by a variety of means including e-mail, online feedback form, letter, petitions, feedback proforma and local area forums. An analysis of that feedback and a review of the key issues raised is set out below.

2. Analysis of Feedback

- 2.1 Feedback has been received by the following means:

*e-mail to Councillors	123
e-mail to 'Leisure' inbox/other	76
via Leisure Trust	60
RBC website online forms	28
open letters	290
letters	21
	<u>598</u>

* the same e-mail to a number of Councillors has been counted once

- 2.2 The number of references to major issues from that feedback is:

closure of Haslingden pool	306	(37.1%)
closure of Marl Pits pool	319	(38.6%)
closure of Bacup Leisure Hall	19	(2.3%)
healthy lifestyle agenda	62	(7.5%)
impact on swimming lessons	55	(6.7%)
transport issues	12	(1.4%)
financial issues	36	(4.4%)
other	<u>17</u>	(2.0%)
	<u>825</u>	

The category 'other' includes comments related to overall leisure provision, such as athletics, rugby and roller skating, or to requests for specific information e.g. a copy of agenda item D2 or the names of Rossendale Leisure Trust Board members.

Appendix 4

- 2.3 Three public consultation meetings were held during week commencing 2nd February 2009 and attendances were as follows:
- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| Bacup | 82 |
| Haslingden | 99 |
| Rawtenstall | <u>99</u> |
| | <u>280</u> |
- 2.4 There have been two face book sites set up in relation to the Council's Leisure Review, "Keep Haslingden and Marl Pits baths open" with 1009 members and "Save Swimming in Rossendale" with 1319 members. These figures were correct as at 16th February 2009.
- 2.5 There are also been 4 petitions:
A petition to 10 Downing Street which as at 16th February 2009 had 884 signatures.
"Keep a pool open in Haslingden" has 1712 signatures, "Keep a Pool open at Marl Pits" has 223 signatures and "Keep Marl Pits and Haslingden Pools Open" has 816 signatures. There is some evidence that a number of people have signed more than one of the petitions.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 A recurrent theme in the feedback is the need to keep all existing pool facilities open until a new pool is built at Haslingden Sports Centre. The arguments for this are that Marl Pits pool provides a separate small pool for younger children and babies which Haslingden pool does not have and also that Marl Pits is equipped to deal with swimmers with disabilities eg. adapted changing rooms for swimmer and carer, special changing bed and poolside hoist. Conversely, the depth of Haslingden pool provides facilities for scuba training which Marl Pits does not.
- 3.2 Many comments have been about the convenience of local facilities in Rawtenstall and Haslingden and the reluctance or inability of people to travel to a different part of the borough to access a swimming pool. The additional cost of bus fares is mentioned by several respondents.
- 3.3 A number of comments have concerned the cost of the RLT head office and suggest that a reduction in that cost could be used to enhance the existing facilities at Haslingden and Marl Pits.
- 3.4 Some respondents have expressed concern about the impact of the possible closure of Marl Pits pool on the projected sports village at the site.
- 3.5 Using the comparator of CLAW, a number of comments refer to setting up community groups to manage each facility or a group of facilities, as an alternative to RLT.
- 3.6 A number of respondents refer to swimming being a compulsory aspect of key stage 2 within the education agenda and question how this can be delivered within the borough if pool closures go ahead.

Appendix 4

- 3.7 The conflict between the government's healthy lifestyle agenda, particularly childhood obesity, and the possible closure of leisure facilities is highlighted by a large number of respondents.

4. Key Issues from the public consultation meetings

- 4.1 A clear message from the consultation was the need for a complete review of all Leisure facilities, leading to a clear strategic understanding of the Leisure offer within the valley and a vision and direction of travel to sustain it in the long term.
- 4.2 There was a clear message that participants want the pools to remain open mainly due to concern about the lack of capacity. This view was widened to not wanting any pool to close until a new one was built.
- 4.3 A number of people expressed concern about the Council's commitment to its pledge to invest in a new pool. In contrast individuals and groups expressed they wanted to be closely involved in any consultation about its design, location and usage should the decision be taken for a new pool.
- 4.4 Leisure hall is the only one of its kind in the valley and should stay open as others have all closed i.e. Astoria, Public Hall.
- 4.5 Provide better advertisement for all services and events at the Leisure Hall and would be suitable for the arts

Issues and concerns raised during the consultation period have been collated to inform the decision making process.