

FC42. Motion

The following motion referred to matters within the remit of the Council.

Boness Recreation Centre

With reference to Standing Order 33.5, the Provost referred to a deputation request received from Dorothy Ostacchini, Save Bo'ness Recreation Centre Group to be heard in relation to this item.

Council agreed to hear the deputation.

Council adjourned at 11.10am and reconvened at 11.45am with all members present as per the sederunt.

Councillor Aitchison, seconded by Councillor Paterson moved that:-

Council notes the decision in March of this year to agree to proceed with the Strategic Property Review and the closure of several buildings and facilities subject to there being no CAT transfer, alternative delivery model or improved financial performance. Council further notes that Bo'ness Recreation Centre is included in Phase 2 of buildings under the Strategic Property Review and in the absence of any transfer, lease or alternative delivery model or improved financial performance properties in this category will close 1st April 2025 and be subject to surplus property procedures.

Council believes that the closure of the Bo'ness Recreation Centre would represent an unacceptable loss of for the communities of Bo'ness and Blackness and agree to move this property to Phase 3 as defined in the March 23 Strategic Property Review Report.

Council agrees that a report will be brought back on the development of asset transfer, lease or alternative delivery model options for Bo'ness Recreation Centre and income generation and cost reduction options for the Council or alternative owner of the building. This should additionally report the work of the Policy Development Panel on Leisure services in supporting these options prior to the 1st of April 2025.

Council agrees that no work will be undertaken to progress to closure without further approval of council.

Council notes that moving the property from phase 2 to phase 3 will have a non-recurring cost of £1,012,000.

As an amendment, in addition to the motion, Councillor Kerr, seconded by Councillor Bundy, moved that the following be added after paragraph 3 of the motion:-

Council recognises the important role that Bo'ness Recreation Centre plays in empowering the community of Bo'ness whilst also acknowledging the difficult financial position the Council is in; and therefore, believes that a decision regarding

the future of Bo'ness Recreation Centre be made only when all relevant information is available. The report requested above should include:-

- (i) A full breakdown of all income and expenditure of Bo'ness Recreation Centre
- (ii) A full business plan from the Council to maximise income for Bo'ness Recreation Centre, including receiving income from school use.
- (iii) A full breakdown of the investment required to maintain the building in future years.
- (iv) The impact it will have on the community groups who currently use the building if the Council were to close.
- (v) The cost current users will occur in travelling to obtain similar services in the event of closure.
- (vi) A detailed plan about any new facilities in Bo'ness that would replace the Bo'ness Recreation Centre if the facility was closed."

Councillor Aitchison, with the consent of the Provost and Councillor Paterson, as his seconder, adjusted the terms of the motion to incorporate the terms of the amendment. The amendment accordingly fell.

Decision

Council:-

- (1) noted the decision in March of this year to agree to proceed with the Strategic Property Review and the closure of several buildings and facilities subject to there being no CAT transfer, alternative delivery model or improved financial performance. Council further notes that Bo'ness Recreation Centre is included in Phase 2 of buildings under the Strategic Property Review and in the absence of any transfer, lease or alternative delivery model or improved financial performance properties in this category will close 1st April 2025 and be subject to surplus property procedures;**
- (2) believes that the closure of the Bo'ness Recreation Centre would represent an unacceptable loss of for the communities of Bo'ness and Blackness and agreed to move this property to Phase 3 as defined in the March 23 Strategic Property Review Report;**
- (3) agreed that a report would be brought back on the development of asset transfer, lease or alternative delivery model options for Bo'ness Recreation Centre and income generation and cost reduction options for the Council or alternative owner of the building. This should additionally report the work of the Policy Development Panel on Leisure services in supporting these options prior to the 1st of April 2025;**
- (4) recognised the important role that Bo'ness Recreation Centre played in empowering the community of Bo'ness whilst also acknowledging the difficult financial position the Council is in; and therefore, believes that a decision regarding the future of**

Bo'ness Recreation Centre be made only when all relevant information was available. The report requested above should include:-

- (i) A full breakdown of all income and expenditure of Bo'ness Recreation Centre**
 - (ii) A full business plan from the Council to maximise income for Bo'ness Recreation Centre, including receiving income from school use.**
 - (iii) A full breakdown of the investment required to maintain the building in future years.**
 - (iv) The impact it would have on the community groups who currently used the building if the Council were to close.**
 - (v) The cost current users would incur in travelling to obtain similar services in the event of closure.**
 - (vi) A detailed plan about any new facilities in Bo'ness that would replace the Bo'ness Recreation Centre if the facility was closed.**
- (5) agreed that no work would be undertaken to progress to closure without further approval of council, and**
- (6) noted that moving the property from phase 2 to phase 3 would have a non- recurring cost of £1,012,000.**