Green Amendment to motion E: protecting Haringey's council-run leisure services

Proposer: Cllr Erin Wolson

Seconder: Cllr Andrew Reid

This Council notes:

- In October 2024, the previous Labour administration brought Haringey Council's leisure services back in-house after breaking the council's contract with Fusion Lifestyle. This decision followed consistent failures by Fusion Lifestyle to provide the services Haringey residents expects.
- The successful insourcing of leisure services has allowed direct council oversight ~~and democratic control of Haringey's leisure services~~. This followed extensive work by council officers and leisure staff over several years. This included negotiations with Fusion and engagement and service users.
- ~~That~~ after bringing services back in house, the previous Labour administration confirmed investment of £7.5m over five years to address the backlog of maintenance and repairs inherited from Fusion mismanagement. At least ~~of~~ £4.1m of investment has already been delivered, as of February 2026.
- This funding delivered maintenance works across all sites including but not limited to new lido covers, circulation pumps and gym equipment at Park Road Leisure Centre, and upgrades to the health suite, sauna, soft play and gym area at Tottenham Green Leisure Centre.
- That feedback from user groups found improved levels of cleanliness and a higher quality of facilities. User groups have also benefitted from direct engagement with the council after previous difficulties communicating with Fusion.
- That the decision to insource was welcomed by staff at leisure facilities and trade unions representing staff. 139 members of staff were TUPE transferred from Fusion and are now directly employed by the council, benefitting from the same conditions as other Haringey Council staff members and improved staff morale.
- That there has been significant work across the service on commercialisation and maximising revenue generated from leisure services.
- Haringey is a borough with significant health inequalities. Haringey residents spend on average the last 17 years of life in poor health and healthy life expectancy is below the London average. Two in three adults are obese or overweight, whilst 1 in 5 reception aged children were recorded as overweight or obese in 2024/25. A third of residents do not get enough physical exercise.
- That the Council's New Savings and Management Actions report proposes "outsourcing of the Council run Leisure Centres to a specialist provider" and a

"review of operating models for the Broadwater Farm Community Centre leisure spaces".

This Council believes:

- Obesity and inactivity pose a public health crisis, shortening healthy life expectancy and costing the UK up to £107 billion per year. This places a huge strain on healthcare and social care services in Haringey. It is also a crisis of inequality with inactivity and obesity levels higher in the east of the borough and areas with higher levels of deprivation. Continued support for, and investment, in leisure services are vital in reversing these trends.
- Leisure services are key to supporting Haringey's resident to live active and healthy lives, tackling public health challenges and combatting social isolation. Bringing leisure services back in-house has been a success allowing Haringey Council to put the needs of residents and services users at the heart of leisure services, rather than subsidising external management costs.
- The collapse of Fusion Lifestyle in April 2026 shows the risks of outsourcing leisure services. Fusion managed facilities were forced into chaotic and rapid insourcing, unplanned transfers to other providers or in the worst-case scenario, permanent closure.
- That outsourcing leisure services would reverse the progress made in recent years and betray the trust of staff and users who have worked so hard to make insourcing a success.
- High quality and affordable leisure services are an essential public service, best managed locally by and for local people. An external private provider will not have the depth of knowledge and engagement with Haringey's communities as a council run service.
- Any changes to the ownership and management of leisure services should only proceed with the support of leisure staff and the trade unions representing them. Any proposals must protect the enhanced terms and conditions staff have been entitled to since services were in-sourced.
- That residents continue to report serious issues with the borough's council run leisure facilities, including issues with cleanliness, maintenance, investment, and membership.
- That the ideal governance model for Haringey's leisure service gives real control to the users and staff of each centre, rather than centralising control in the council.

This Council resolves:

- That the Council prefers a decentralised governance model for our leisure centres: for instance, resident, user, and staff-led decision-making panels at each centre.

- That the rights and working conditions of leisure centre workers must be protected and strengthened in the process of improving governance.
- That decentralised control of leisure centres also requires ringfenced and decentralised maintenance budgets, which prioritise cleanliness, repairs, and clear communication with all communities.
- That Cabinet must review the pricing model for leisure centres to make it fairer, including considering the provision of pay-as-you-go tickets.
- That it wishes to consider through the appropriate governance route prioritising and protecting the principle of council owned and run leisure centres as part of the upcoming budget process and to ask Overview and Scrutiny to review budget proposals to outsource leisure services.
- To ask Cabinet to recommit to working with staff, trade unions and user groups on the continued improvement of leisure services and how we can collectively reduce barriers to participation to exercise and sport.
- To ask Cabinet to continue to promote the active wellbeing services at our Leisure Centres including throughout the London Borough of Culture in 2027 and the UEFA European Champions in 2028.
