

# **PE2018/L: Recognise the value of swimming pools and provide financial relief to help keep pools open**

## **Dundee City Council written submission, 24 March 2025**

I refer to your recent correspondence in relation to the above and can advise that Dundee City Council consulted with the public on a range of savings options ahead of the budget for 2025/26 being set by elected members in late February 2025.

One of the options put forward was that the Council could close, some, or all, of the swimming pools in; Baldrigon Academy, Grove Academy, Harris Academy, St John's RC High School and St Paul's RC High School from August 2025. Swimming provision in the city would be delivered through Lochee and Olympia Leisure Centres.

The results of the consultation on that option are summarised below:

1. Of the 3263 who gave a response to a question about the level of support for pool closures, 68% felt that no pools should be closed, 28% some pools and 4% all pools.
2. Respondents were also asked about the impact on them if individual pools closed, with 1 being not at all and 5 being severely impacted. The highest average rating was for St Paul's RC High School at 2.73, followed by Grove Academy 2.72, Harris Academy 2.64, St John's RC High School 2.56 and Baldrigon 2.36.
3. 1691 people gave more detail on the impact they felt it would have, and responses from these covered themes such as affordable access to swimming, the importance of teaching swimming as a life skill, mental health impacts and detriment to competitive swimming.
4. Suggestions for alternative solutions ranged from increasing public access to school pools and combining use of facilities to promoting their use and exploring alternate funding options.

A report on the consultation, detailing the above, was shared with all Dundee City Council elected members ahead of political budget proposals being put forward and the budget being set at a special meeting of the City Governance Committee.

Arriving at budget decisions is for political groups to decide. Dundee City Council set its 2025/26 Budget on 27 February 2025 and no savings or reductions relating to schools swimming formed part of the agreed budget.

Yours sincerely

**GREGORY COLGAN**  
**Chief Executive**