



# HYNDBURN

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## The place to be an excellent council

### HYNDBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### NOTICE OF KEY DECISION

1. When Cabinet intends to make a key decision, details of the decision must be published at least 28 days before the meeting at which the decision is to be made.
2. If this is not possible, the decision can only be made if the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Officer has been informed.
3. A notice to this effect must be made available for public inspection and published on the Council's website.
4. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information (England) Regulations 2012, I confirm that I have been informed that the following decision is to be made by Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

Signed.....**Cllr Noordad Aziz**.....

Councillor Noordad Aziz, Chair of Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date.....**10<sup>th</sup> March 2026**.....

#### **Summary of Key Decision**

<b>Decision Taker</b>	Cabinet
<b>Subject Matter</b>	Provision of Leisure Services within Hyndburn

	<p>To present options to Cabinet for securing the long-term provision of leisure services within Hyndburn, including consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) award of new 30-year leases to Hyndburn Leisure (“HL”),</li> <li>b) the proposed write off from trading debt between HL and the Council,</li> <li>c) compliance with subsidy control legislation,</li> <li>d) payment of the annual financial support payment to Hyndburn Leisure in respect of the 2026/27 financial year,</li> <li>e) the potential release of bad debt provisions from Council’s balance sheet.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Proposed recommendations</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Having considered the compliance assessment attached as Appendix 1 to the report and being satisfied that the following are consistent with the subsidy control principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Cabinet agrees to accept the surrender of HL’s current lease of Hyndburn Sports Centre and to grant HL a new lease of the same for a 30-year term commencing on 1st April 2026 at a peppercorn rent, with HL taking on full responsibility for repairs and insurance and with the mutual break clause detailed in section 4.6 below; and</li> <li>ii) Cabinet agrees to accept the surrender of HL’s current lease of Wilsons Paying Fields and the Cath Thom Leisure Centre and to grant HL a new lease of the same for a 30 year term commencing on 1st April 2026 at a peppercorn rent, with HL taking on full responsibility for repairs and insurance and with the mutual break clause detailed in section 4.6 below ; and</li> <li>iii) Cabinet agrees to write off HL’s trading debts of £1.624m currently owed to the Council subject to satisfaction of the conditions set out in paragraph 6.6 of this report.</li> <li>iv) Cabinet agree the £500,000 financial support payment to HL for the financial year 2026/27 as approved at Council at the budget meeting in February 2026 for payment in April 2026.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2 Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director (Resources) to agree the detailed terms of the proposed new leases to HL and thereafter to instruct Legal Services to draft, negotiate and complete the same.</li> <li>3 Cabinet agrees that the Council will resume the running and management of Accrington Town Hall upon the expiry of the lease to HL on 1st April 2027.</li> </ol>

<b>Reasons why compliance with the regulation to provide 28 days notice is impracticable</b>	The Council is seeking to provide certainty around the future arrangements for leisure provision in the Borough to coincide with the commencement of the new financial year on 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026. However, the next scheduled meeting to the Cabinet will not be until June 2026.
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