Leicester Leisure Centre Investment Programme Phase 3 Consultation (September 2026)

Leicester City Council

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Why are these proposals being put forward now?

These proposals mark Phase 3 of the council's ongoing Leisure Centre Investment Programme, following a two-year review of the city's leisure facilities—which evaluated building conditions, usage trends, future demand, and feedback from over 1,600 residents.

Phases 1 and 2 successfully upgraded facilities across the city increasing regular fitness users to 12,000 and annual visits to over 2 million. Phase 3 aims to build on this success and address long-term facility needs.

2. Have any decisions already been made?

No. All proposals are at draft stage, and we are presently undertaking a 6 week consultation to seek the views of customers, residents, users, groups and clubs. Final decisions will only be made after the consultation has closed and feedback has been considered.

3. Why is New Parks Leisure Centre proposed to be taken out of service?

We are considering the proposal to take New Parks out of service because it is the least used centre with high cost per visitor compared to other Active Leicester centres and has significant building maintenance issues and costs.

Our research has shown that there is a significant overlapping customer catchment with Braunstone and Leicester Leys Leisure Centres. Braunstone is used by customers more often and can accommodate displaced users, therefore maintaining New Parks is no longer considered financially viable.

It's important to highlight that if a decision was taken to close New Parks Leisure Centre, alternative services and programmes will be available locally in New Parks. Fitness and group-based exercise programmes will be developed utilising local venues in New Parks. The only activities that will not be provided will be squash and swimming.

4. What support will be offered to New Parks users?

A full customer transfer plan will be implemented, including:

- Support to transfer swimming lessons and club bookings to nearby Active Leicester leisure centres
- Alternative fitness provision provided locally along with localised group exercise in New Parks area
- Access to squash facilities will be provided at Leicester Leys Leisure Centre

5. What will happen to my membership?

As an active Leicester member, you have access to all the council operated leisure centres. Your membership will continue uninterrupted with the same benefits and pricing. If the alternative locations are unsuitable for you, you will have the option to cancel your membership with no penalty or required notice period.

6. What will happen to my swimming lessons?

If the proposal relating to New Parks Leisure Centre were approved, we would work directly with every swimming lesson customer to identify an alternative lesson space at another Active Leicester leisure centre.

Our aim would be to minimise disruption wherever possible by matching swimmers to suitable programmes, times and ability levels. Customers would receive advance notice and support throughout any transition period. No changes will be made unless a final decision is taken following consultation.

7. Why invest in Leicester Leys Leisure Centre?

Leicester Leys is one of the city's most popular leisure centre's despite having a limited fitness offer and outdated facilities. It also serves the biggest catchment area. Our research has shown that there is un-met demand for more fitness provision in Beaumont Leys and North west area of the city.

By investing into Leicester Leys, we can increase the fitness offer and improve the quality of the leisure fun pool and reception facilities. The centre will offer better value for money and will support the needs of a growing Leicester population.

8. What will you do with New Parks Leisure Centre if the decision is made to close it?

The Council plans to use the site for much needed social housing within the area. Due to high repair costs, keeping or transferring the building is no longer feasible.

9. Will any jobs be affected?

At this stage, no decisions have been made. If proposals progress, the Council will consult with staff and unions and support employees through any changes.

10. How can I take part in the consultation?

You can:

- Complete the online or paper survey
- Attend a public meeting or drop-in
- Share your views as an individual, club, school or community group

Details and dates will be published on the Council's website and in leisure centres.

11. What will happen after the consultation closes?

All feedback will be reviewed and analysed to help inform final decisions on the proposals.

This will include considering alternative suggestions submitted through the consultation before recommendations are made.

12. Will Beaumont Leys Library close while the new library is being built?

No. If the proposal proceeds, Beaumont Leys Library would remain open and continue operating from its current location while the new library facilities are developed within Leicester Leys Leisure Centre.

The existing library would only close once the new library facility is ready to open, helping to ensure continuity of service for library users.

13. Why is the Council proposing to move Beaumont Leys Library?

The current library building is outdated and showing its age. By bringing library and leisure services together into a vibrant, modern hub, we can create a better space for residents, make smarter use of public buildings, and deliver a more integrated community experience. Before any decisions are made, we want to hear your views

14. Will my child's school swimming lessons be affected?

If the proposal is approved, some schools may need to use an alternative Active Leicester facility. We are working closely with the schools that currently use New Parks Leisure Centre to ensure that school swimming lessons can continue if the proposal is approved.

Our aim would be to match existing swimming times wherever possible and provide a transition package for schools that may need support moving to an alternative venue.

We recognise the importance of school swimming and would seek to avoid disruption, particularly during the academic year.

15. Will there still be leisure opportunities available in New Parks?

Yes. If the proposal proceeds, the Council would work with local community organisations to develop alternative group exercise opportunities such as yoga, Pilates etc within New Parks using local community venues.

The intention would be to retain access to group based physical activity opportunities in the local area while recognising that swimming and squash facilities could only be provided from the other leisure centres.

16. How far is Braunstone Leisure Centre from New Parks Leisure Centre?

Approximately 1.9 miles. Many existing New Parks users already use Braunstone Leisure Centre. The Council's assessment found significant overlap between the catchment areas of New Parks, Braunstone and Leicester Leys Leisure Centres, with many customers already travelling between centres.

However, we would like to understand through the consultation whether travel to alternative facilities would present challenges for some users.

17. Why can't the Council simply repair New Parks Leisure Centre?

Independent condition surveys have identified around £4 million of work needed to repair and maintain New Parks Leisure Centre. Around £2.8 million of this is essential work required to address ageing infrastructure and building condition issues. This means that most of the investment would be spent on repairs needed to keep the centre running safely and reliably, rather than delivering noticeable improvements for users, such as new activities, upgraded facilities, or a significantly enhanced customer experience.

Repairing the building would not address some of the wider challenges identified through the review, including relatively low usage compared to other centres, overlapping catchment areas and the long-term affordability of operating the facility.

The Council faces difficult choices about how limited resources are used and must ensure any investment delivers the greatest possible benefit for residents. No decision has been made. A key purpose of this consultation is to understand residents' views on whether investing in repairs at New Parks Leisure Centre would be the right approach, and to hear any alternative ideas or suggestions before any future decisions are considered.

18. Will the swimming pool at Leicester Leys Leisure Centre close during any development works?

At this stage, no detailed design or construction programme has been agreed. If investment proposals proceed, the Council would seek to minimise disruption to customers wherever possible and would communicate any temporary changes well in advance.

19. Why was New Parks Leisure Centre selected rather than another leisure centre?

Our proposals for Phase 3 of the leisure programme are focused on redeveloping and improving facilities in the west of the city.

The assessment identified New Parks Leisure Centre as having the lowest overall usage, significant maintenance requirements and substantial overlap with nearby facilities at Braunstone and Leicester Leys. These factors led to the proposal being brought forward for consultation.

No decision has been made, and we would like to hear residents' views during the consultation.

20. Could the Council keep New Parks Leisure Centre open and still invest in Leicester Leys?

Retaining New Parks Leisure Centre alongside investing in Leicester Leys is simply not affordable. Both facilities require substantial investment, making it unfeasible for the Council to fund both.

Condition surveys have identified around £4 million of repairs and maintenance needed at New Parks, including £2.8 million over the next five years. Much of this expenditure would be required simply to keep the ageing building operational and safe, with limited improvements to facilities or the customer experience.

The Council must also consider where investment will deliver the greatest long-term benefit. Leicester Leys continues to attract high levels of use, serves a large catchment area and remains one of the city's most popular leisure destinations. By contrast, usage at New Parks has declined over time, while many of its activities can also be accessed at nearby facilities, particularly Braunstone Leisure Centre.

For these reasons, the Council is consulting on whether continuing to invest in New Parks Leisure Centre represents the best use of limited public resources, or whether investment should be focused on facilities that serve larger numbers of residents and offer greater long-term benefits across the city.

21. How will the Council support people who do not have access to a car?

Travel and accessibility will almost certainly be a major consultation issue. We recognise that travelling to alternative facilities may present challenges for some residents. One purpose of this consultation is to understand the potential impact on different groups, including people who rely on public transport, walking or other forms of travel.

Feedback received through the consultation will help inform any future decisions and transition planning.

22. Is there enough capacity at other Active Leicester facilities?

Capacity assessments indicate that there is enough space across Active Leicester facilities for activities currently provided at New Parks Leisure Centre.

The Council is speaking with affected users and groups to understand the facilities, times, accessibility and support they may need. The possible effect on existing programmes and customers at other facilities is also being considered.

If the proposal is approved, the Council would work with those affected to identify suitable alternative arrangements. No individual arrangements have been agreed at this stage.

23. How are the needs of people and groups that use New Parks being considered?

The Council is speaking with affected users and groups to understand how the proposal may affect them and what they would need from any alternative arrangements.

This includes considering accessibility, travel, suitable times and whether other facilities meet the particular needs of users and activities currently provided at New Parks.

The information gathered will form part of the consultation and will be considered before any final decision is made.