

Councillors' Request in Terms of Standing Order No 3

“Purpose of meeting

The purpose of the Special Council Meeting is to;

- 1) Request a suspension of Standing Orders to enable the reversal of decisions taken at the Special Council Meeting held on 22nd of February 2023
- 2) Subject to a vote on item one on the suspension of Standing Orders, reverse the Council's decision on the following recommendations that were approved at Full Council on 22nd February 2023, at Agenda Item 6;

“The Council is asked to approve the following recommendations: -

(1) To approve the following recommendations made by the Board of SLLC:

- a. That the individual general concession for SLLC services be amended from 50% to 25% of the adult rate.
- b. That the additional U16s Club discount (75% of the adult rate) reverts to 50%.
- c. That the Halls under 5's and over 60's group discount (75% of the full rate) reverts to 50%.”

Statement of reasons

When the changes to concessionary rates were decided, in practice some clubs and teams faced price rises of 114%. There was no consultation with them before this decision was taken. Many have expressed their fears that their organisations will no longer be sustainable, or that they will have to pass on price rises to club members – again threatening their sustainability if members have to withdraw their membership as a result.

There have been mass protests over the lack of consultation and engagement of these changes, attended by hundreds of club members and organisers, parents and children, and a petition which has garnered over 8,000 signatures.

The promised 'engagement' with clubs and teams after the decision was taken to pause the implementation has been highly unsatisfactory. The sessions were not advertised by SLLC as a chance to discuss the situation but rather as workshops on other topics. They were scheduled to take place in only one geographical area – far removed from the areas of largest protest - and many clubs have reported that they were not aware of the sessions' scheduling or apparent purpose. There has been no attempt to co-design the engagement process with stakeholders, nor engage directly with young people affected.

These changes were unadvertised, unwelcome, and threaten the sustainability of grassroots sports and activities across South Lanarkshire.

Council have recently vetoed another recommendation they received regarding price rises, concerned about their potential effects. Now that the full impact of the decision to change concessionary rates is apparent, Council cannot allow these rises to take place and threaten access to physical activity, and its associated wellbeing benefits, for thousands of South Lanarkshire's residents."