

Dear Cllr Higgs,

I have read your press statement regarding the appoint of an operator for the Turkish Baths .

You've said, "a tender process is not possible at this stage as work is continuing on finalising the plans for the Station Gateway development which includes The Pools site".

But the Gateway Project does not include the Turkish Baths. Why are you not appointing an operator for the Turkish Baths when you know it is not part of the Gateway Project and you know that Better Leisure will cease to operate the Baths when the new Pools open at The Sands Centre in October?

You've said, "the City Council and Cumbria County Council are currently looking at options for the refurbishment". We are not asking you to agree to refurbish the Turkish Baths, we are asking you to appoint an operator for them so they remain open after the new pools open. Are you saying that without an operator the Turkish Baths will close when Better Leisure relocate their staff to The Sands Centre?

You've said, "a feasibility study is currently in production". You commissioned the feasibility study 12 months ago and it's still not finished? Implementing the recommendations of the study will now be a decision for the new unitary authority. All we want the city council to do is ensure there is an operator in place to run the Turkish Baths in the meantime.

If you won't appoint an interim operator - and without an operator the Baths will close - have you decided to close the Turkish Baths in October? If no, please explain who will operate them after the Pools open at The Sands Centre.

Yours Faithfully

Paul R Cross

Chair

Sustainable Carlisle