

**POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR TAIN
ROYAL ACADEMY COMMUNITY
COMPLEX
– ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION
FEEDBACK**

8th September 2025

Final Report

streets-uk



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TRACC Consultation – Analysis

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TRACC Consultation – Analysis

1 Background

The new Tain Campus project is a co-location of Tain Royal Academy (TRA), Craighill and Knockbreck Primary Schools and St Duthus School into modern, fit-for purpose facilities.

The Tain Royal Academy Community Campus (TRACC), which includes a swimming pool and leisure facilities, is located at the existing Academy site. The complex was opened more than 50 years ago, the building is reaching the end of its natural lifespan and will continue to deteriorate without further investment.

The Highland Council made an assessment of potential options for the future of leisure services currently provided at TRACC and wished to establish the views of the Tain community on these options and their potential impact. To this end, the Council undertook a public consultation on the options during a 12-week period from 9th May to 1st August 2025.

streets-UK have been commissioned to analyse the feedback from the consultation, based exclusively on the survey data and other feedback provided by the Highland Council.



Swimming pool at existing TRACC facilities

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

2 Summary

- The Individual Users Survey received 521 submissions, 9 groups completed the Groups/Organisation Survey and the Young People Survey had 75 responses.
- The themes and sentiment of all 3 surveys were consistent and appear to be reflective of the vast majority of consultees being active users of the existing facilities. Over 95% of the of the Individual Users Survey go more than once a month and over 50% attend every week. Likewise, the groups who completed the Group Survey all use the facilities very regularly and 34% of those completing the Young People Survey said they use the facilities every day.
- 69% of the Individual User Survey respondents were female and 44% were in 31-50 age group suggesting a lot of parental concern at loss of facilities for children.
- Amongst those completing the surveys, there is clear consensus that the community wants significant investment, either through a new build or full refurbishment. Closure and minimal refurbishment are overwhelmingly rejected. The majority see TRACC's current state as unsustainable and demand a long-term solution.
- Respondents recognise that there are alternative centres in the locality, but TRACC remains essential because of local convenience, affordability, and accessibility. Many currently see the alternatives as supplementary, not replacements.
- The consensus is that improved transport would be the most critical support to utilise other facilities, but even with better buses and opening hours, many respondents doubted whether alternatives could realistically replace TRACC. These measures are seen more as damage limitation than solutions.
- The overwhelming consensus is that TRACC is a vital community asset. Its benefits extend beyond sport to include children's safety, social connection, and community wellbeing. The pool and children's lessons dominate responses, but health, fitness, and accessibility for all ages are also key themes.

(Continued)

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

2 Summary (Continued)

- A further consensus is that TRACC's pool and gym are non-negotiable facilities. While there is strong recognition that the building is old, the responses demands continuity and investment — either via full refurbishment or a new build. Closure without replacement (Option 5) is rejected, while Option 1 (minimal works) is seen as a stopgap that fails to address real issues.
- The majority of responses views TRACC as a lifeline. Closure without replacement would deepen health inequalities, disadvantage children, and isolate vulnerable groups. Options that leave long gaps or remove facilities entirely are overwhelmingly rejected. Continuity of provision is not just desirable, but seen as essential for social equity.
- The consensus is that TRACC's closure would result in widespread exclusion. For some, it would mean longer and costlier journeys; for many others, it would mean losing access altogether. Children, older adults, disabled users, and non-drivers are at highest risk of being left without any leisure provision.
- Respondents to the surveys believe there are possible funding routes, but there is deep mistrust in Council leadership to deliver them. The most constructive suggestions point to community involvement, grants, and shared facilities, but these are often coupled with criticism that the Council should have already been planning and securing funds.
- Frustration was expressed through comments within the surveys, emails submitted to the Council and at a public meeting held during the consultation period. This frustration principally related to the survey itself, the 5 options available and the perception that the issue of a community pool and other facilities should have been addressed earlier in the appraisal process for the new Campus.
- This report acknowledges that a well-attended public meeting organised by the community took place during the consultation period (30th June) with the aim of identifying a further option that the community could support.
- It is also acknowledged that a formal petition supporting the additional option (known by some as Option 6) was submitted to the Council on 1st August.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

3 The Consultation

The consultation primarily comprised an online survey which was hosted on Highland Council’s website. There was also a public drop-in event on 12th June. Both the online survey and the drop-in event were widely publicised on the Council’s own website and social media channels. The notices were also shared by a range of community groups and organisations and were covered by the local press.

3.1 The Online Survey

Consultees accessing the online survey were encouraged to read an information brochure, ‘TRACC – Launch of Public Consultation’ before completing the survey. The brochure, which is included in this report as **Appendix 1**, outlined the background to the deteriorating condition of TRACC, the new Tain Campus and 5 potential options for the future of the TRACC building.

For Options 1 and 2, the existing TRACC building would be retained, and the remainder of the Tain Royal Academy (TRA) buildings would be demolished to allow that part of the site to be redeveloped for housing. For Options 3, 4 and 5, the TRACC building would also eventually be demolished and the entire site redeveloped for housing. The brochure also stated that, as things stand, there is no funding allocated in the Council’s capital programme for any of the options.

The brochure concluded by stating that the public consultation would close on 1st August 2025. Once the responses had been collated and evaluated, a report would be presented to a future Council or Committee meeting to outline the proposed way forward.

Consultees were also provided with a link to a digital version of the presentation boards from the drop-in event and FAQs related to the options. These are included as **Appendix 2**.

Consultees could choose from three versions of the online survey;

- **Response Form 1 - Individual Community Stakeholders and Users Survey**
This survey was aimed at all individual members of the community over the age of 12
- **Response Form 2 – Young People’s Survey**
This survey was aimed at primary school age young people up to 12 years old
- **Response Form 3 – Community Groups**
This survey was aimed at collative collective responses from community groups and organisations

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

3 The Consultation

3.1 (continued)

The Highland Council provided streets-UK with all the raw data from the survey submissions. This data has undergone quantitative analysis for the scoring questions, highlighting aggregate scores, and qualitative analysis for the open-ended questions. The qualitative analysis identified themes, patterns and sentiment for each question and also identified direct quotes to support these.

3.2 Public Drop-In Event

A public drop in event was widely publicised and took place at TRACC on 12th June. A series of explanatory boards were on display as well as printed versions of the information brochure and the FAQs highlighted above and detailed in **Appendices 1 and 2**. Printed versions of the survey were also available for those who wished to complete the survey by hand.

Staff from the Highland Council were present to explain the contents of the display boards, answer queries and listen to comments and observations.

The drop-in was attended by approximately 750 people with 225 paper survey forms completed on the day.



TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

This survey was aimed at all individual members of the community over the age of 12 and comprised questions around current use of TRACC, potential impacts of the 5 options and details of the respondent. There was a total of 521 surveys completed. Just over half were online however 225 paper versions were completed at the drop-in and elsewhere. These were then digitised and then both sets of data were collated together to allow analysis.

Tables 1 to 4 outline the breakdown of respondents by sex, age groups, postcode and access to a car

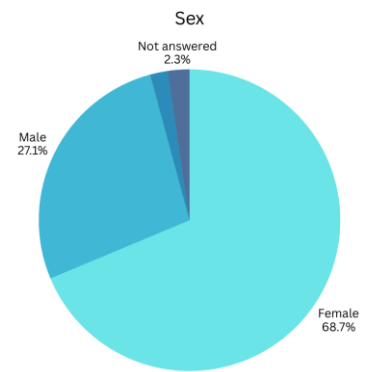


Table 1

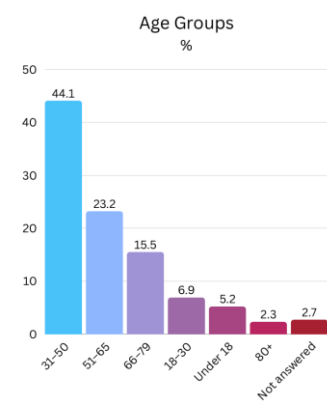


Table 2

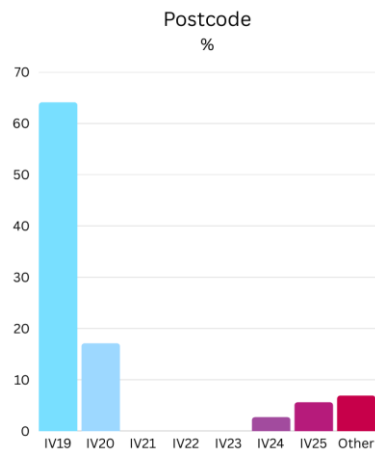


Table 3

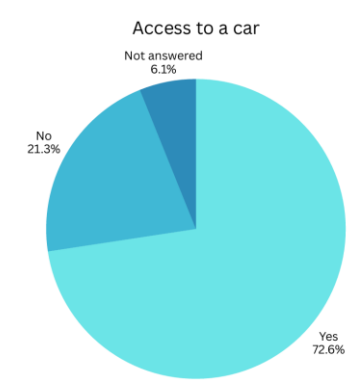


Table 4

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 1 - How often do you use the TRACC facilities?

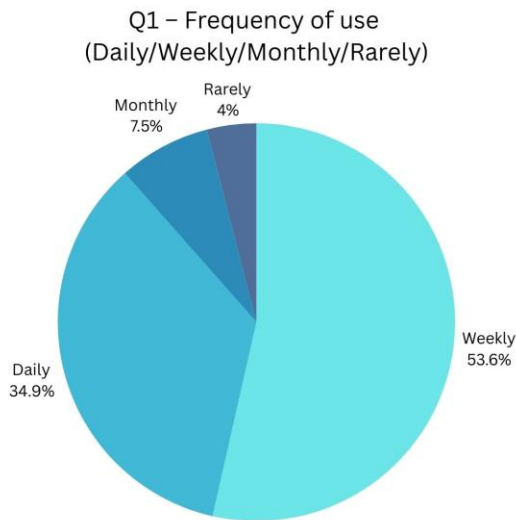


Table 5

Question 2 –What do you use TRACC for?

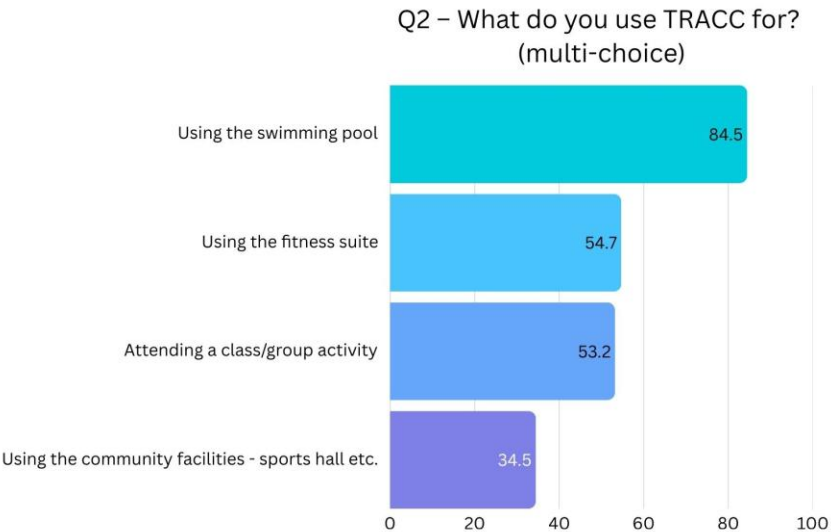
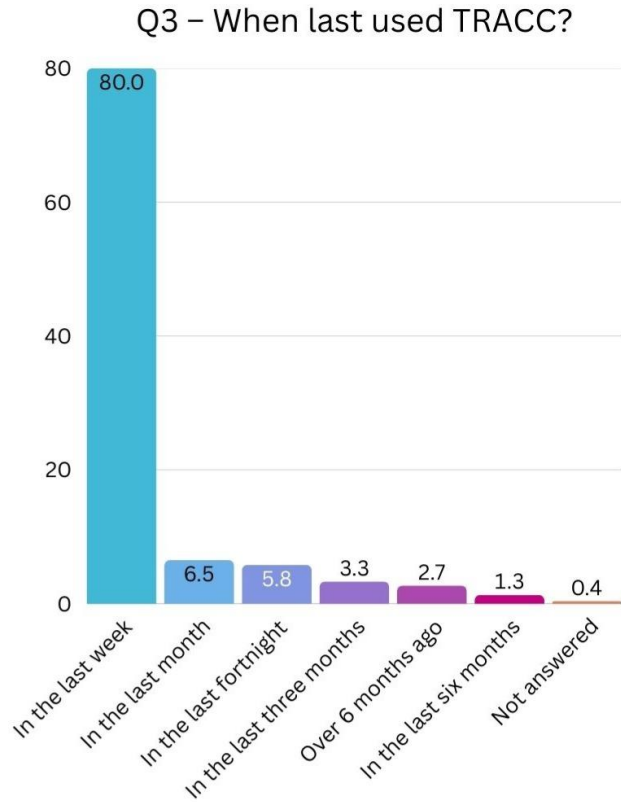


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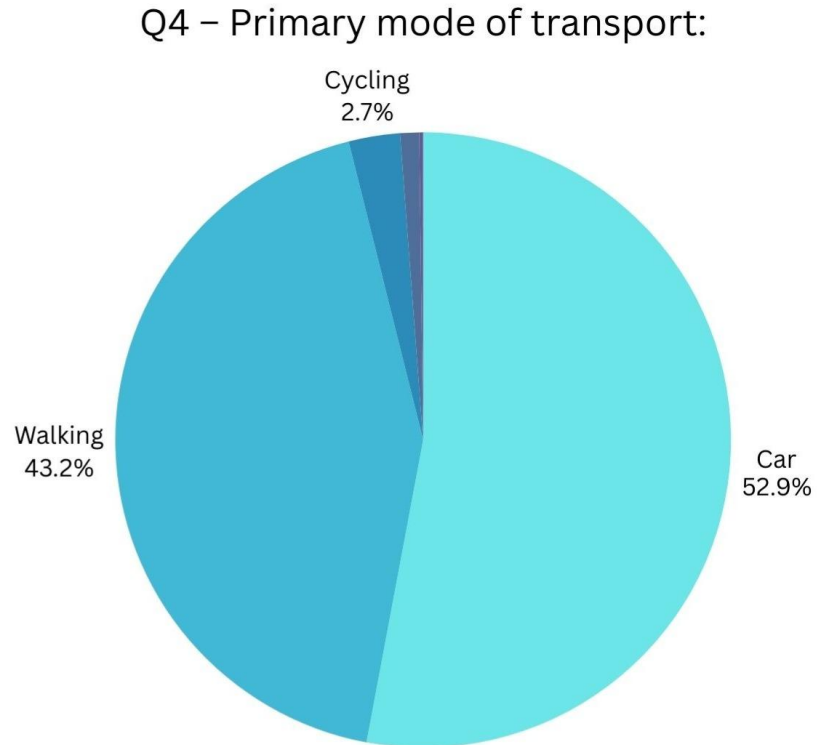
TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 3 - When did you last use the TRACC facilities?



Question 4 –What is your primary mode of transportation to the community centre?

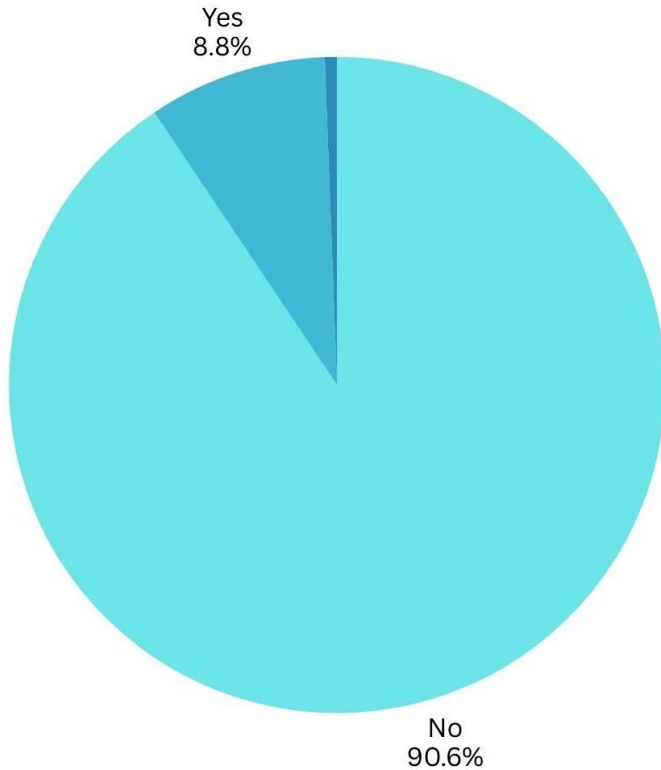


TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 5 - Do you or your family have any specific accessibility needs when using TRACC?

Q5 – Accessibility needs (Yes/No)



Question 6 – If yes (to Q5), please specify

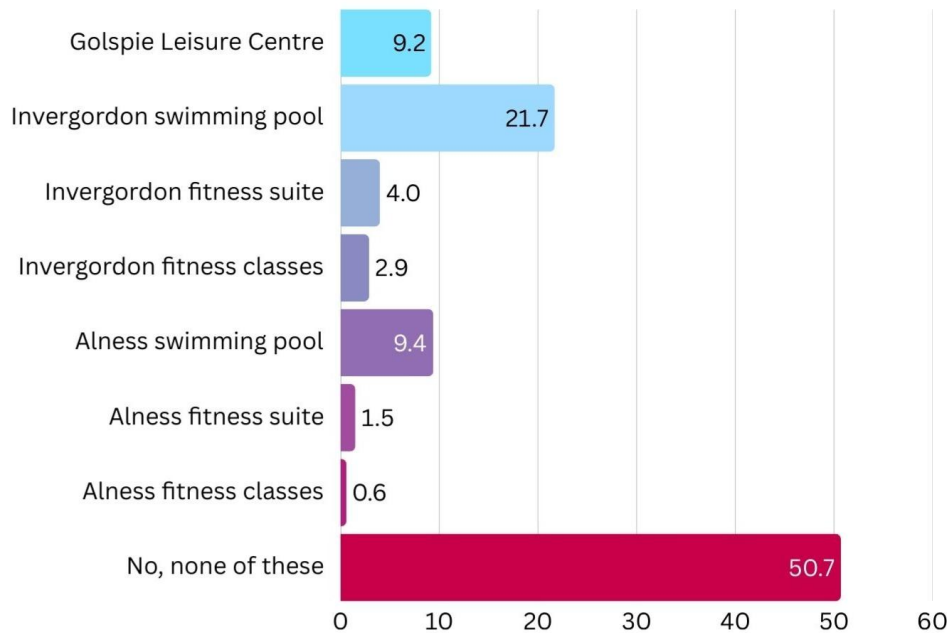
- Accessible parking: 33 respondents (6.3%)
 - Accessible toilets/changing facilities: 25 respondents (4.8%)
 - Wheelchair access: 16 respondents (3.1%)
 - Assistance for individuals with cognitive disabilities: 9 respondents (1.7%)
 - Hearing assistance (e.g. hearing loops): 7 respondents (1.3%)
 - Visual aids (braille, large print): 2 respondents (0.4%)
 - Other individual mentions: clear wide routes, extra disabled parking, hoist into pool.
- Key Patterns**
- Parking and toilets dominate accessibility concerns, cited more than any other category.
 - Mobility issues (wheelchair access, flat routes) are strongly represented.
 - Hidden disabilities are present but less common (hearing, cognitive, visual aids).
 - A few bespoke “other” responses show additional needs, e.g. use of a pool hoist.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 7 - Do you use other leisure facilities in the local area?

Q7 – Other leisure facilities used
(multi-choice)



Key Takeaways

- Invergordon pool is the most common alternative, but not accessible to all.
 - Alness and Golspie are secondary options.
 - Nearly 20% report no use of alternatives, reflecting reliance on TRACC.
 - Transport and cost barriers limit ability to use facilities outside Tain.
 - Closure of TRACC would push demand elsewhere while excluding non-drivers and low-income families.
-
- **Note** - The Council received several emails shortly after the survey went live on the 9th May complaining that this question did not have an option for 'No' or 'Other' and, due to it having to be completed to progress in the survey, consultees had to either choose one of the other leisure facilities even if they didn't use them or not complete the survey. The Council updated the live survey on the 12th May to include an option for 'Other'.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 8 - What are the current benefits of the current facility to you and your family?

- **Theme 1: Swimming and Water Safety**
 - Swimming lessons for children were highlighted as essential for confidence, skills, and safety, particularly in a coastal community.
 - Adults also valued swimming as an accessible form of exercise.
- **Theme 2: Health and Fitness**
 - The gym, fitness classes, and the pool were linked to maintaining physical health, mental wellbeing, and daily routines.
 - For some older respondents, TRACC was the only way they could stay active.
- **Theme 3: Children and Families**
 - Parents praised TRACC as a safe, structured environment for children's recreation.
 - Lessons and youth activities were framed as vital to confidence, socialisation, and healthy habits.
- **Theme 4: Community and Social Benefits**
 - TRACC was described as a community hub, offering opportunities for people to meet, socialise, and feel connected.
 - Several mentioned its role in reducing isolation, particularly for older people.
- **Theme 5: Accessibility and Local Value**
 - Respondents emphasised the importance of having a facility within Tain, reducing the need for costly and time-consuming travel. The local setting made activities affordable and accessible, especially for families

Sentiment Profile

- Positive (75%) – appreciation for health benefits, swimming, community hub role.
- Neutral (20%) – factual descriptions of use.
- Negative (5%) – complaints about limited timetables or ageing facilities

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 9 -For each of the proposed options, please tell us what you think the scale of the impact could be on *you*

- **Option 1** (Minimal works, £4M, no long-term extension):
Most respondents said this would cause some or significant difficulty, reflecting concerns that it is only a temporary fix.
- **Option 2** (Full refurbishment of TRACC, £9M, 18-month closure):
Split opinions: while refurbishment is seen positively long-term, the extended closure period was seen as causing difficulty for families reliant on TRACC.
- **Option 3** (New pool + fitness suite at Campus, £11M, TRACC closed once new build operational):
Many saw this as helpful or positive in the long term, though some flagged disruption in the interim.
- **Option 4** (New facility at Campus + interim TRACC improvements, £15M):
Attracted strong support — respondents felt this balanced continuity with investment. One of the least negative options.
- **Option 5** (Closure, no replacement):
Overwhelmingly seen as causing significant difficulty, with very little support.

Key Patterns

- **Options 3 and 4** received more positive ratings, especially when continuity of services was considered.
- **Option 1** was widely seen as insufficient, a “sticking plaster” solution.
- **Option 2** split respondents due to its closure period.
- **Option 5** was universally rejected.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 10 - Please explain why you chose your answer for Q9

Qualitative Themes

Theme 1: Importance of the Swimming Pool

The pool was consistently described as essential for children’s swimming lessons, safety, and community health. Closure would deprive children of a life skill and remove affordable exercise.

Theme 2: Support for a New Facility

Many respondents acknowledged TRACC’s age and called for investment in a new, modern pool and gym. Strong support emerged for Options 3 and 4 as the most realistic long-term solutions.

Theme 3: Concerns About Interim Closures

Some respondents worried about the 18-month closure period under refurbishment (Option 2) or the gap before a new build (Option 3). Families highlighted this would leave them with “nothing local” for a prolonged period.

Theme 4: Community Impact and Fairness

TRACC was described as a lifeline for the town, and closure was widely seen as unfair compared to neighbouring areas where facilities remain. Some linked this to rural inequality and fairness in council investment.

Theme 5: Opposition to Option 5 (Closure)

Option 5 was almost universally rejected — seen as catastrophic for health, wellbeing, and community life.

Sentiment Profile

- Positive (40%) – hopeful about new investment, support for building a modern facility.
 - Neutral (30%) – descriptive reasoning (e.g. “the pool is important for children’s safety”).
 - Negative (30%) – frustration about ageing facilities, anger at the risk of closure, concern over interim loss of provision.
-

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 10 - Please explain why you chose your answer for Q9 (Continued)

Consensus / Interpretation

The consensus is that TRACC's pool and gym are non-negotiable facilities. While there is strong recognition that the building is old, the community demands continuity and investment — either via full refurbishment or a new build. Closure without replacement (Option 5) is rejected, while Option 1 (minimal works) is seen as a stopgap that fails to address real issues.

Notable Comments (Anonymised)

Parent, 31–50: "My children's swimming lessons are essential – we cannot lose the pool."

Male, 51–65: "A new facility is needed, TRACC is too old, but closure without replacement would be disastrous."

Female, 18–30: "Refurbishment is a waste if the building is nearing end of life – better to invest in something new."

Female, 66–79: "Tain deserves the same as other towns – it's unfair to remove our only facility."

Parent, 31–50: "Closing TRACC leaves families with nothing local – we cannot travel miles every week."

Key Takeaways

- Swimming pool provision is the single most important issue.
- Strong preference for new or fully refurbished facilities, with Options 3 and 4 attracting support.
- Options 1 and 5 are rejected — minimal works are seen as a short-term fix, and closure without replacement as unacceptable.
- Continuity is critical — long closures or interim loss of the pool would be highly damaging.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 11 -For each of the proposed options, please tell us what you think the scale of the impact could be on *your family*

- **Option 1 (Minimal works, £4M, no long-term extension):**
Most families said this would cause significant or some difficulty, reflecting that small repairs do not meet their long-term needs.
- **Option 2 (Full refurbishment, £9M, 18-month closure):**
Responses were mixed. Families valued refurbishment in principle, but the long closure period was a serious concern for those relying on TRACC weekly.
- **Option 3 (New pool + fitness suite at Campus, £11M, TRACC closes once new build is ready):**
Many families saw this as positive for the future, though some flagged the gap in provision during construction.
- **Option 4 (New facility at Campus + interim improvements, £15M):**
Attracted the strongest support. Families felt this balanced investment in the future with continuity of services.
- **Option 5 (Closure, no replacement):**
Overwhelmingly rated as causing significant difficulty. Very little family support for this option.

Key Patterns

- **Families** are more sensitive to closures and gaps in provision than individuals.
- **Option 4** is the clear preference, as it reduces disruption while delivering modern facilities.
- **Option 5** is universally rejected.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 12 - Please explain why you chose your answer for Q11

Qualitative Themes

Theme 1: Impact on Family Health and Wellbeing

Families linked TRACC closure directly to worsening physical health, reduced activity, and deterioration of mental health. Several suggested this would increase pressure on the NHS.

Theme 2: Dependence on TRACC for Daily Family Use

Families described using TRACC every day; disruption would significantly affect routines and wellbeing.

Theme 3: Loss of Children's Activities

Swimming lessons and children's clubs were highlighted as essential. Respondents said closure would mean "children's swim club would cease to exist."

Theme 4: Lack of Alternatives

Invergordon was often cited, but families reported it is "already at capacity" and not feasible for regular travel. Non-drivers noted they would be excluded altogether.

Theme 5: Concerns About Long Closures

Options involving refurbishment or new build were criticised for leaving families "with nothing local" for long stretches.

Sentiment Profile

- Negative (70%) – frustration and fear of exclusion, anger at closure periods.
 - Neutral (20%) – factual descriptions of reliance.
 - Positive (10%) – hope for long-term improvement if a new facility is delivered.
-

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 12 - Please explain why you chose your answer for Q11 (Continued)

Consensus / Interpretation

Families consistently emphasise that TRACC is essential for health, children's development, and social wellbeing. Closure, even temporarily, is seen as catastrophic. The consensus is that investment must ensure continuity of family access, not just long-term promises.

Notable Comments (Anonymised)

Parent, 31–50: "All my family use this space daily."

Female, 51–65: "Children's swim club would cease to exist. Physical and mental health would struggle."

Male, 66–79: "If the facility is shut down for any period of time the health impact and decrease in socialising would affect the family."

Parent, 18–30: "Our nearest adjacent centre is Invergordon. They are turning people away because of full capacity."

Male, 31–50: "Because none are options that keep a pool open, all result in closure for a significant time."

Key Takeaways

- *Families link TRACC closure to serious health and wellbeing risks, including added NHS pressures.*
- *Daily reliance means disruption is not manageable for many households.*
- *Children's swimming and clubs would be lost, harming development and safety.*
- *Alternatives are inadequate – Invergordon is already full, and travel is not possible for all.*
- *Continuity of service is the key demand: families reject options that create long gaps in provision.*

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 13 -For each of the proposed options, please tell us what you think the scale of the impact could be on *the community*

- **Option 1 (Minimal works, £4M, short-term fix):**
Most respondents said this would cause significant or some difficulty for the wider community, as it does not address long-term sustainability.
- **Option 2 (Full refurbishment, £9M, 18-month closure):**
Opinions split: refurbishment seen as helpful long-term, but many rated the closure period as a major difficulty for the community.
- **Option 3 (New pool + fitness suite at Campus, £11M, TRACC closes once new build opens):**
Many rated this as a positive or helpful change for the community, although concerns about the gap before new provision is ready remained.
- **Option 4 (New facility + interim improvements at TRACC, £15M):**
Attracted the strongest community support, with most saying this would be a change for the better because it balances continuity with investment.
- **Option 5 (Closure with no replacement):**
Overwhelmingly rated as causing significant difficulty for the whole community, with very few supportive responses.

Key Patterns

- The community perspective is broader but mirrors family concerns — continuity of provision matters as much as future investment.
- Options 3 and 4 are widely seen as the best long-term solutions.
- Option 5 is universally rejected as a risk to health, equity, and social wellbeing.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 14 - Please explain why you chose your answer for Q13

Qualitative Themes

Theme 1: TRACC as a Community Hub

TRACC is described as a place where people of all ages meet, socialise, and exercise. Its loss would damage community cohesion, particularly for the elderly and isolated.

Theme 2: Children and Swimming Lessons

Families stressed that hundreds of local children attend swimming lessons at TRACC each week. Nearby pools are already at capacity, so closure would deprive children of a key life skill.

Theme 3: Health and Wellbeing

TRACC is framed as a lifeline for health and activity. Closure would worsen physical inactivity and mental health across the community.

Theme 4: Transport, Access, and Carbon Impact

Respondents highlighted that many do not have cars and public transport is inadequate. Travelling elsewhere would increase exclusion and raise environmental costs.

Theme 5: Inequality and Deprivation

Several responses linked closure to wider inequality. Tain is already in a deprived area, and removing facilities would deepen disadvantage.

Sentiment Profile

- Negative (70%) – fears of exclusion, deprivation, and loss of community hub.
 - Neutral (20%) – factual statements about capacity and travel.
 - Positive (10%) – some support for long-term investment (Options 3 and 4) if provision continues.
-

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 14 - Please explain why you chose your answer for Q13 (Continued)

Consensus / Interpretation

The community views TRACC as a lifeline. Closure without replacement would deepen health inequalities, disadvantage children, and isolate vulnerable groups. Options that leave long gaps or remove facilities entirely are overwhelmingly rejected. Continuity of provision is not just desirable but seen as essential for social equity.

Notable Comments (Anonymised)

Parent, 31–50: “Hundreds of kids locally do weekly swim lessons – nearby pools already have waiting lists.”

Female, 66–79: “Elderly people are terrified of losing here as that’s what they get up for – to go to their swim class.”

Male, 31–50: “Think carbon footprint – all that travel to other locations.”

Parent, 18–30: “In an area of deprivation many don’t have the ability to access pools elsewhere.”

Male, 51–65: “TRACC is a lifeline to so many people. Other centres won’t cope with the influx.”

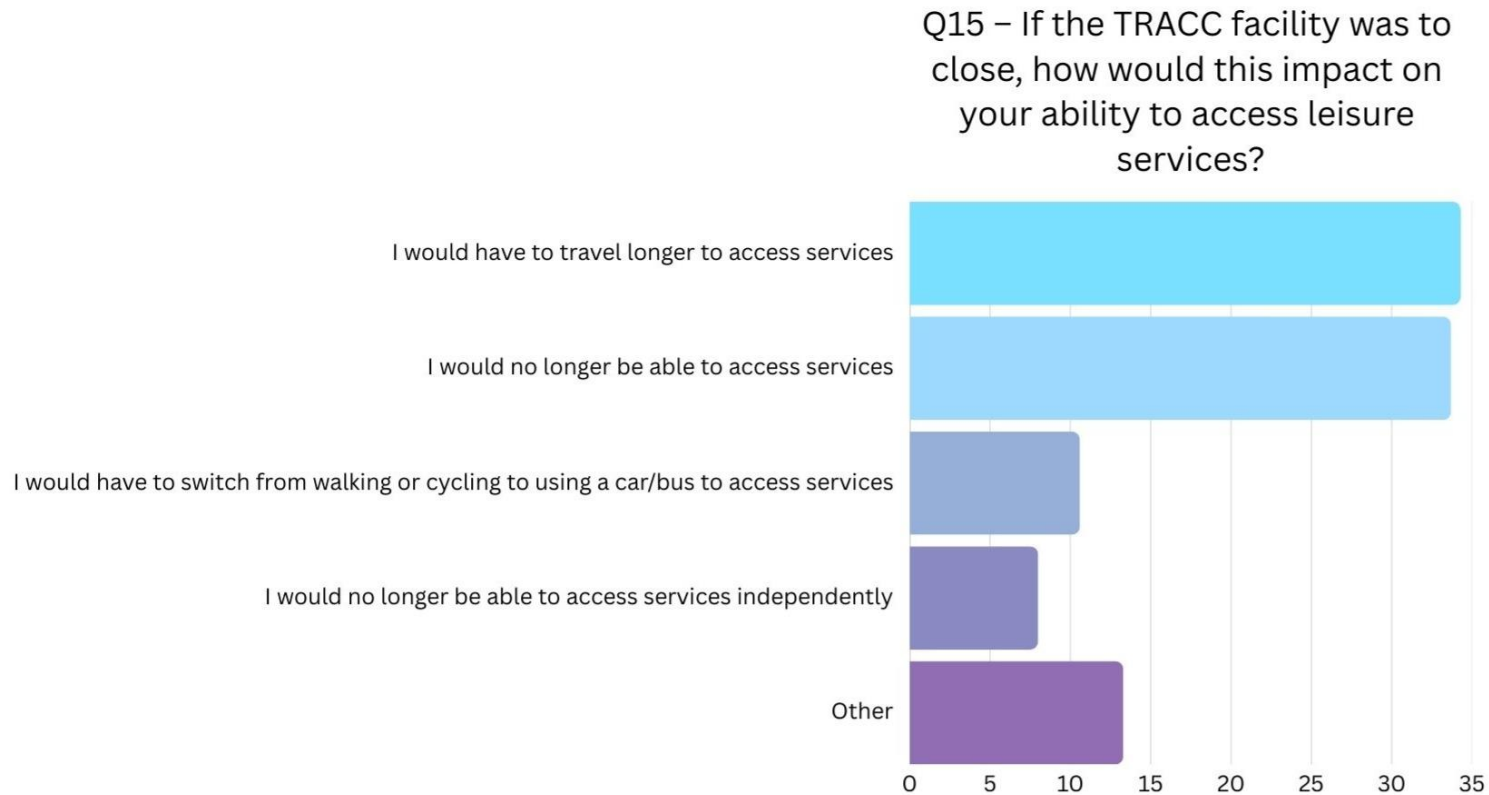
Key Takeaways

- TRACC is seen as a lifeline and community hub.
- Children’s swimming lessons are at risk, with no capacity in nearby pools.
- Closure would worsen health inequalities, especially in deprived and rural areas.
- Transport and access barriers mean alternatives are not realistic for many.
- Options involving closure (especially Option 5) are universally rejected as harmful to the wider community.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 15 - If the TRACC facility was to close, how would this impact on your ability to access leisure services?



TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 15 - If the TRACC facility was to close, how would this impact on your ability to access leisure services? (Continued)

73 responses (14%) completed ‘other’ – this is the overview from these responses

Qualitative Themes

Theme 1: Travel Burden

Over one-third would face longer journeys, raising issues of time, cost, and practicality.

Theme 2: Total Exclusion

Another third said closure would mean no access to services at all. This group includes those without cars, people with disabilities, and families unable to travel with children.

Theme 3: Loss of Independence

Some would no longer be able to travel alone, meaning increased dependence on family or carers.

Theme 4: Children’s Opportunities Lost

Several noted that children’s swimming lessons and youth clubs would end, reducing opportunities for young people.

Theme 5: Inequality and Financial Strain

Travel costs were a repeated barrier, especially for lower-income families.

Sentiment Profile

- Negative (75%) – strong frustration, exclusion, anger at being left behind.
 - Neutral (15%) – factual recognition of longer travel.
 - Positive (10%) – a very small group said they would not be greatly affected.
-

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 15 - If the TRACC facility was to close, how would this impact on your ability to access leisure services? (Continued)

73 responses (14%) completed 'other' – this is the overview from these responses

Consensus / Interpretation

The consensus is that TRACC's closure would result in widespread exclusion. For some, it would mean longer and costlier journeys; for many others, it would mean losing access altogether. Children, older adults, disabled users, and non-drivers are at highest risk of being left without any leisure provision.

Notable Comments (Anonymised)

Parent, 31–50: "I would not be able to access swim lessons for my children."

Female, 51–65: "I would have to travel longer, unlikely able to commit due to costs and time."

Male, 66–79: "I would no longer be able to access services independently."

Parent, 18–30: "This would be horrendous. You cannot leave us with nothing."

Key Takeaways

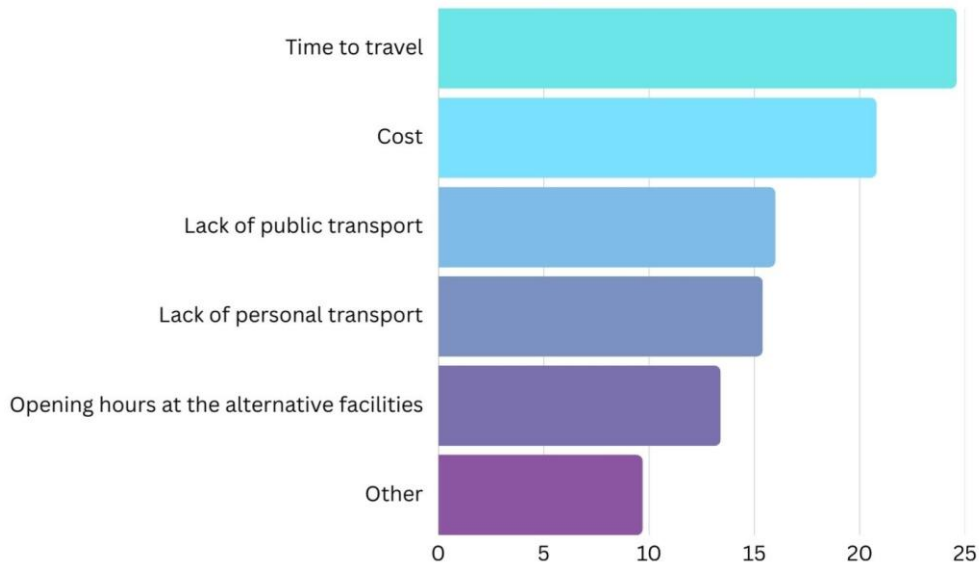
- One-third would face longer travel, another third total exclusion.
- Children's lessons and youth activities would be particularly affected.
- Travel and cost barriers mean closure would deepen inequality.
- Continuity of local provision is essential to prevent exclusion.
- Options involving permanent closure are unacceptable to most respondents.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 16 - If you have indicated (in Q15) that you would no longer be able to access services, please explain why this might be?

Q16 – Barriers to Access



Consensus / Interpretation

There is strong consensus that closure would create structural barriers to access. Travel time, cost, and transport dominate concerns, but social and personal impacts — like independence, peer support, and caring responsibilities — add further layers of exclusion.

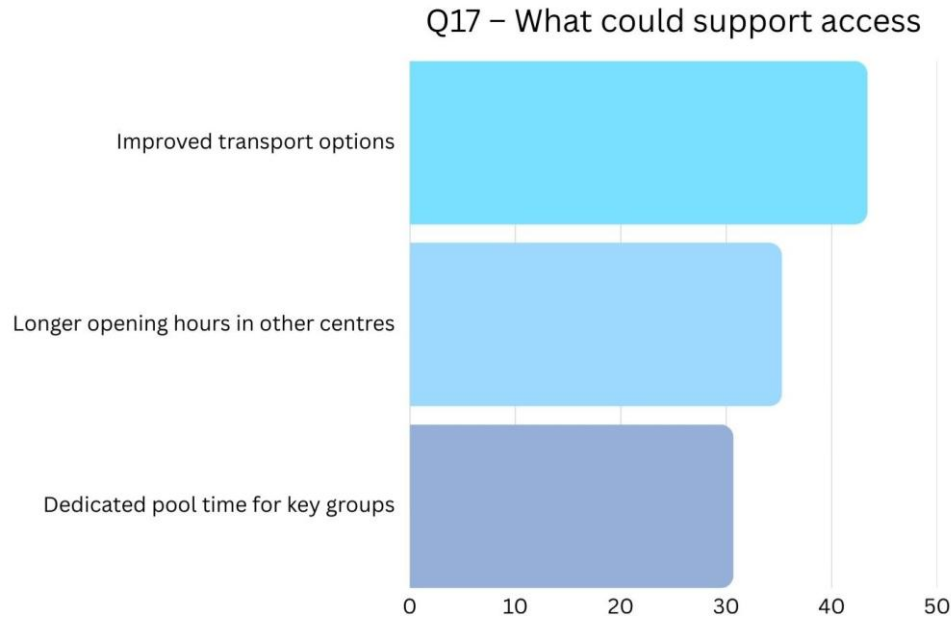
Key Takeaways

- Travel time and cost are the biggest barriers to accessing alternatives.
- Lack of transport (both public and personal) disproportionately affects vulnerable groups.
- Opening hours and scheduling conflicts limit alternatives even further.
- Independence, carers, and social wellbeing issues show that closure impacts are broader than just logistics.
- Closure without replacement would therefore create multiple overlapping barriers to participation.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 17 - What could be put in place to support you to access facilities in other locations?



Consensus / Interpretation

The consensus is that improved transport is the most critical support, but even with better buses and opening hours, many respondents doubted whether alternatives could realistically replace TRACC. These measures are seen more as damage limitation than solutions.

Key Takeaways

- Improved transport is the single most requested support.
- Longer opening hours would help offset longer travel times.
- Dedicated pool access for children and key groups is necessary to protect lessons and inclusivity.
- Respondents remain sceptical that these measures could adequately replace a local facility, reinforcing the importance of TRACC.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 18 - Please share any ideas you may have for a sustainable funding model?

Qualitative Themes

Theme 1: Community-Led Funding

Proposals for fundraising events, voluntary contributions, and community trusts or ownership models.

Theme 2: Grant and External Funding

Suggestions to pursue Scottish Government, sport development, lottery funding, or private grants.

Theme 3: Shared Use of Facilities

Some suggested integrating TRACC activities with school or new campus facilities to reduce costs and maximise use.

Theme 4: Criticism of Council Priorities

A strong theme of anger directed at the council for failing to plan or set aside funds. Respondents suggested money is wasted on unnecessary projects or salaries.

Theme 5: Frustration and Scepticism

Several respondents said it was unrealistic to expect communities to come up with sustainable models in a short consultation.

Sentiment Profile

- Positive (35%) – constructive, solution-focused ideas (community fundraising, grants, shared use).
 - Neutral (25%) – factual observations about funding needs.
 - Negative (40%) – frustration at council, scepticism about viability of consultation process.
-

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 18 - Please share any ideas you may have for a sustainable funding model? (Continued)

Consensus / Interpretation

The community believes there are possible funding routes, but there is deep mistrust in Council leadership to deliver them. The most constructive suggestions point to community involvement, grants, and shared facilities, but these were often coupled with criticism that the Council should have already been planning and securing funds

Notable Comments (Anonymised)

Male, 51–65: “Stop wasting money on high salaries for top management in the council.”

Female, 31–50: “Fundraising, community-owned pool and seeking grants or funds.”

Parent, 18–30: “Could the facilities in the new campus be utilised for the fitness services.”

Female, 66–79: “The council have failed in forward planning – this should have been prepared years ago.”

Key Takeaways

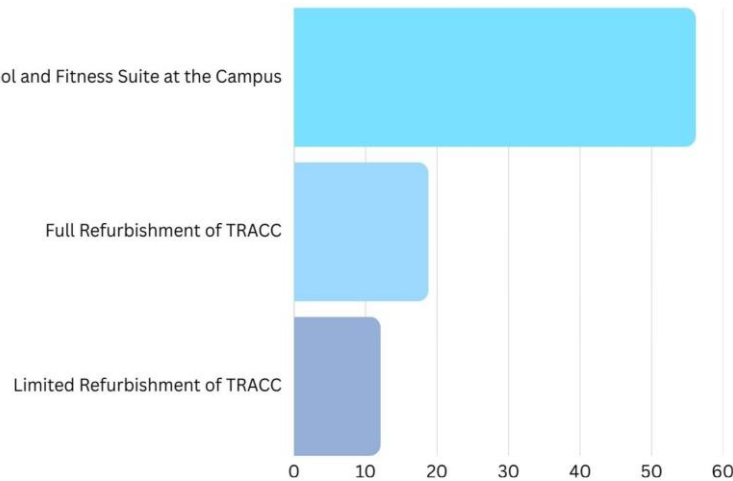
- Community-led solutions (fundraising, ownership models) are supported but seen as only part of the picture.
- External funding and grants are identified as key to sustainability.
- Shared use with schools or the campus could reduce costs.
- Strong frustration with council planning and priorities undermines confidence in funding discussions.
- The consultation revealed both creative ideas and scepticism, showing that future engagement must combine community energy with clear council commitment.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Question 19 - Please rank your preferred option in order of preference?

Q19 – Preferred option ranking
(first choice)



Consensus / Interpretation

There is clear consensus that the community wants significant investment, either through a new build or full refurbishment. Closure and minimal refurbishment are overwhelmingly rejected. The majority see TRACC's current state as unsustainable and demand a long-term solution.

Key Takeaways

- New build is the preferred option (56%).
- Full refurbishment (19%) is seen as the fallback solution.
- Limited refurbishment (12%) has little support and is viewed negatively.
- Closure is universally rejected.
- The community is asking for serious investment in leisure facilities in Tain, not temporary fixes.

Notable Comments (Anonymised)

Parent, 31–50: "TRACC is too old; a new modern facility is needed."

Female, 51–65: "Full refurbishment would help but a new build is better long-term."

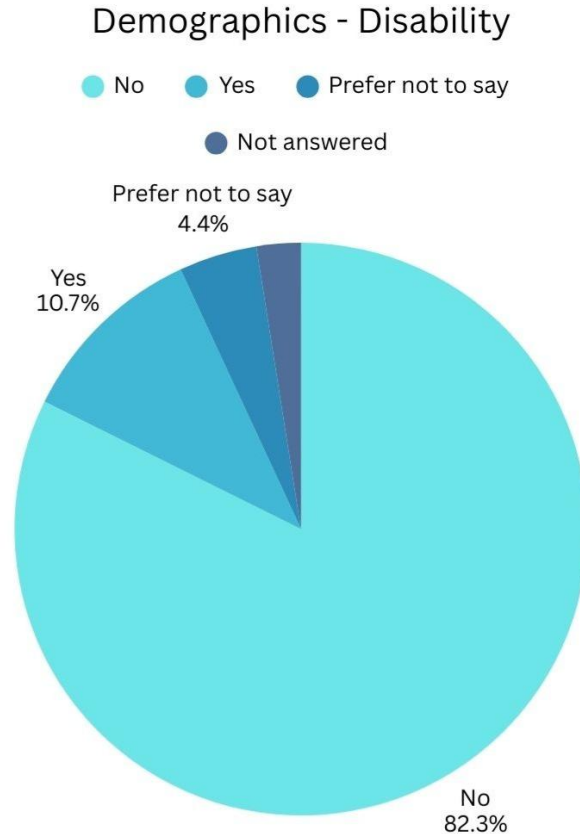
Male, 66–79: "Limited refurbishment is just a sticking plaster – money wasted."

Parent, 18–30: "Closure is not an option for families like ours."

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Q23 - Do you consider yourself to have a disability?



Interpretation

- Around 1 in 10 respondents identified as disabled, a meaningful proportion that highlights the importance of accessibility in future planning.
- A further 4% preferred not to say, meaning the true proportion may be slightly higher.
- This confirms that disability access is a cross-cutting issue, even if the majority of respondents do not consider themselves disabled.

Key Takeaways

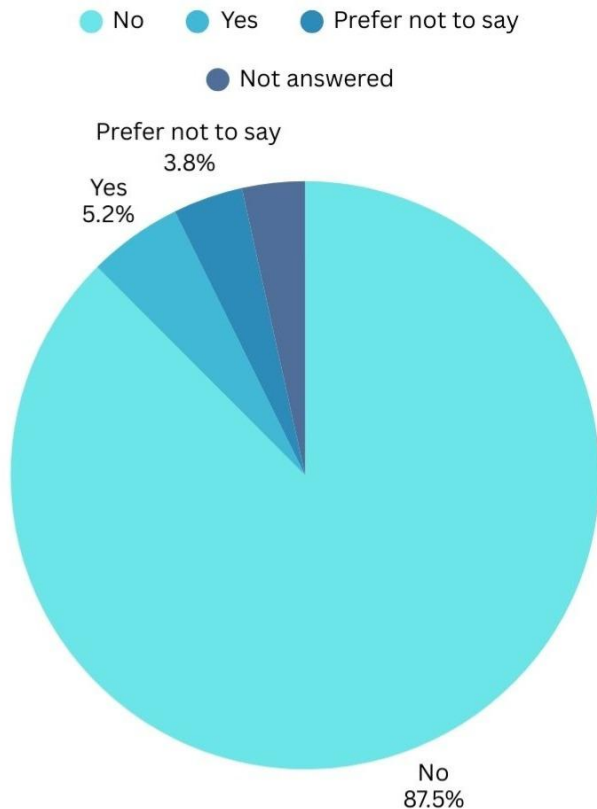
- Over 10% of respondents live with disabilities, reinforcing the significance of earlier accessibility findings (Q5–Q6).
- Accessibility must be central to TRACC’s future — from design (toilets, parking, ramps) to inclusion of hidden disabilities (hearing, neurodiverse needs).
- Even though the majority (82%) reported no disability, the voices of those with additional needs carry weight under equality duties.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Q24 - Do you have any specific accessibility needs when using community facilities?

Demographics - Accessibility needs



Q25 –If ‘Yes’ (to Q24), please detail below?

Consensus / Interpretation

Although a minority reported accessibility needs, their responses are specific and consistent with broader findings in Q5/Q6. Physical access (parking, toilets, corridors) and health-related adaptations (aqua exercise, clear sound) remain central. This demonstrates the importance of embedding inclusive design features across all community facilities, not just TRACC.

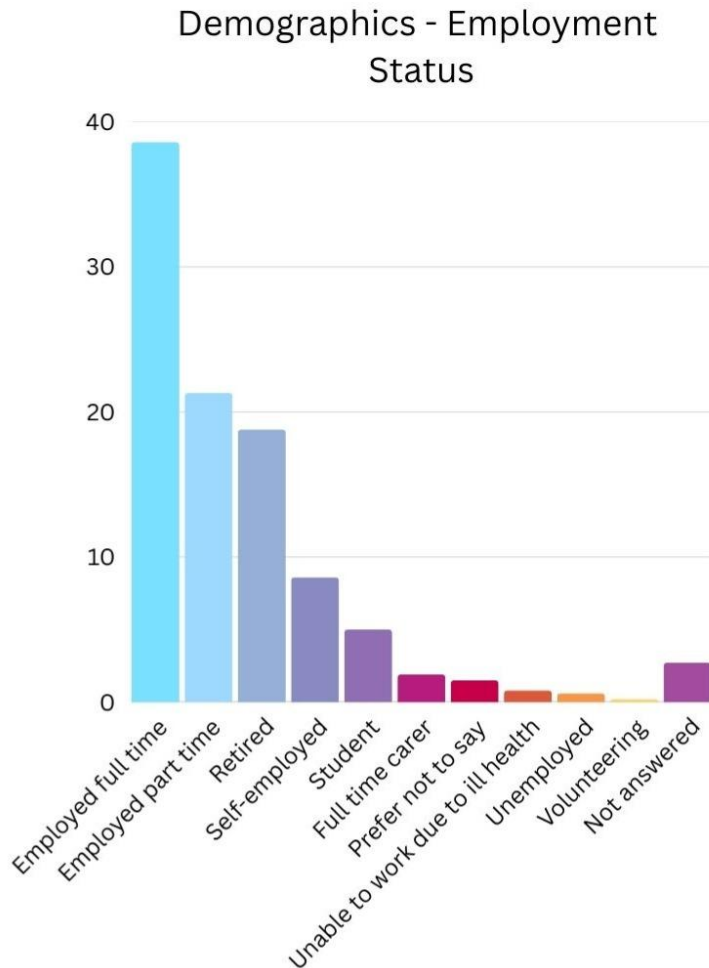
Key Takeaways

- 5% of respondents reported accessibility needs, mostly around mobility and age-related issues.
- Physical access improvements (parking, toilets, corridors) are the main requirements.
- Exercise as therapy (e.g. aqua aerobics) is vital for those with chronic conditions.
- Sensory support (sound, clear signage) also matters for inclusion.
- Even as a minority, these voices reinforce that universal design is critical.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Q26 – What is your employment status?



Interpretation

- The majority of respondents (60%) are in employment (full or part-time).
- A significant proportion are retired (19%), reflecting TRACC's role in supporting older adults' health and social activity.
- Students (5%) and self-employed (9%) also represent meaningful groups, highlighting the facility's reach across age and occupational categories.
- Carers and those unable to work due to ill health (3% combined) represent vulnerable groups whose voices underline accessibility and affordability issues.

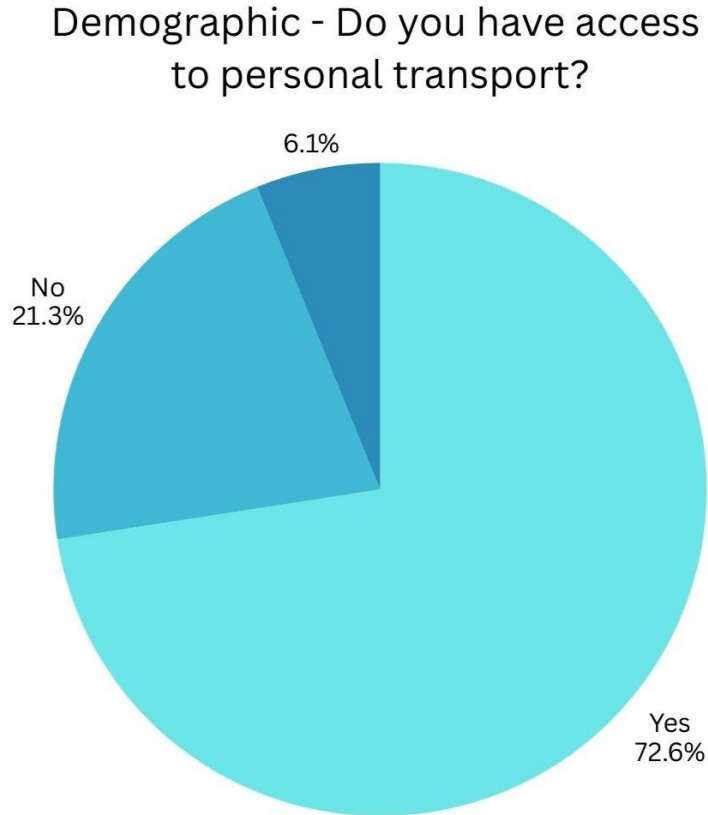
Key Takeaways

- TRACC serves a working-age majority but also has strong engagement from retired and older residents.
- Vulnerable groups (carers, ill health, unemployed) are a minority but their reliance on local, affordable provision makes their input crucial for equality considerations.
- The dataset reflects a broad cross-section of economic backgrounds, strengthening its validity as a community consultation.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.1 Survey Responses – Individual Stakeholders

Q27 – Do you have access to personal transport?



Interpretation

- While the majority (nearly three-quarters) have access to a car or personal vehicle, a significant minority (over 1 in 5) do not.
- This group without personal transport is particularly vulnerable to exclusion if TRACC were to close, given the lack of reliable public transport raised in earlier questions (Q16).
- The responses reinforce why travel and access barriers emerged so strongly in open-text feedback: personal transport is not universal.

Key Takeaways

- Most respondents rely on cars (73%), making TRACC accessible as a local and regional hub.
- 21% without personal transport would struggle or be excluded from accessing alternatives further afield.
- This confirms that closure or relocation would disproportionately impact non-drivers, including young people, elderly residents, and low-income households.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

This survey was issued to community groups and organisations in the area with a current involvement with TRACC and 9 completed submissions were received from the following groups;

- **Tain Amateur Swim Club** – 6 submissions from different groups within TASC
- **TCD Tain Cheerleaders**
- **Tain Swim Club**
- **St Duthus Walking Football Club**



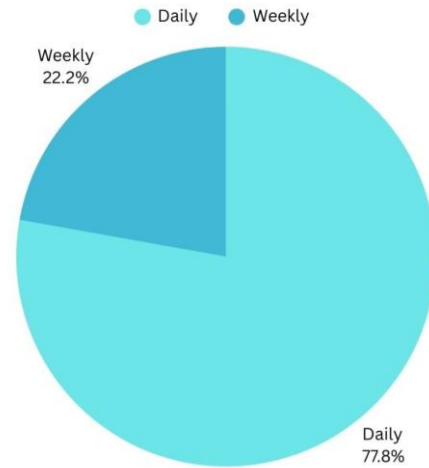
TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

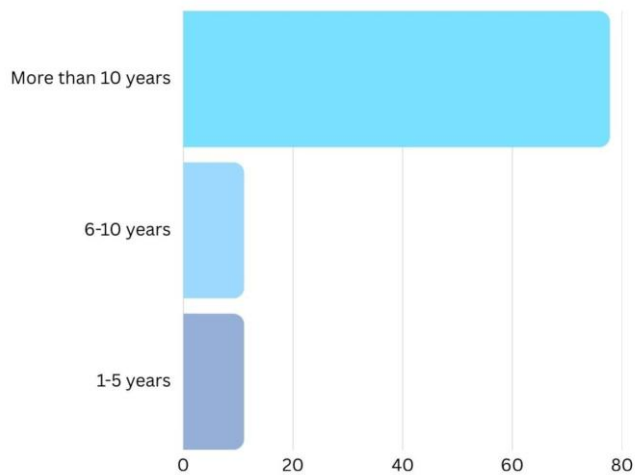
Question 1 – 5 About Your Group

- 1 Name of Community Group or Organisation
- 2 Name of person completing this on behalf of the group
- 3 Contact email of the person completing this form
- 4 Has the response been agreed by the group?
(8 answered Yes, 1 answered No)
- 5 Please indicate the type of group
(all answered Sports Group)

Question 7 – How often does your group use TRACC facilities?



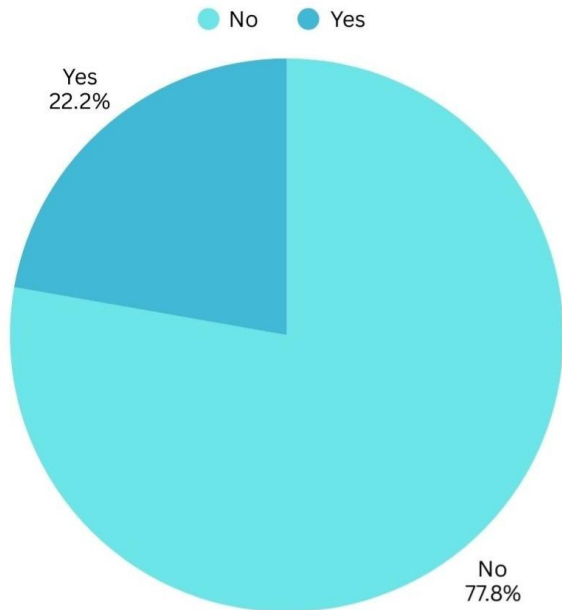
Question 6 – How long has your group been active in the community?



TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 8 - Does your group have any specific accessibility needs when using TRACC?



Question 9 - If yes (to Q8), please specify

- “Accessible parking; Accessible restrooms.”
- “Accessible restrooms; Assistance for individuals with cognitive disabilities.”
- “Whilst we do not currently have accessibility needs, we may in the future.”

Themes

Accessible Parking: Ensuring safe, close parking is a priority.

Accessible Restrooms: Adapted toilets remain essential.

Support for Cognitive Disabilities: One group flagged non-physical accessibility needs.

Future-proofing: Recognition that accessibility may be needed in the future.

Consensus

Even with only a few groups highlighting accessibility needs, the responses point to core design features (parking, restrooms) and hidden disabilities as areas that must be addressed.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 10 - What does the group use TRACC for?

Quantitative Overview

Each of the 9 groups gave distinct responses:

- **Swimming pool / swim training** (multiple clubs): 6 groups (66.7%)
- **Swim club** (regular training sessions, squads, competitions): 3 groups (33.3%)
- **Cheerleading & dance practice**: 1 group (11.1%)
- **Astro pitches & games hall** (for inclement weather): 1 group (11.1%)

(Percentages exceed 100% because groups often listed multiple facilities/uses in their answer.)

Interpretation

- The majority of groups use TRACC primarily for swimming and swim club activities, underlining that the pool is the core facility.
- Other users exist (cheerleading, dance, astro pitch, sports hall), showing TRACC's multi-purpose role for youth and community sport.

Consensus

- TRACC is primarily seen as a swimming facility for clubs, but it is also a hub for other organised sports and training.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 11 - How important is the swimming pool to your group's overall activities?

Quantitative Overview

- Very important: 6 groups (66.7%)
- Somewhat important: 1 group (11.1%)
- Not important: 1 group (11.1%)
- Not answered: 1 group (11.1%)

Interpretation

- Two-thirds of groups rated the swimming pool as very important, confirming its central role in group activities.
- A small minority viewed it as less important, but these are exceptions.
- Non-response (11%) likely reflects groups not directly linked to swimming.



TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 12 -What are the current benefits of the current facility to your group/wider community?

Qualitative Themes

Theme 1: Physical Health and Fitness

Strong emphasis on fitness for both competitive athletes and the wider community.

Theme 2: Swimming and Water Safety

Learning to swim is seen as essential, especially in a coastal town. TRACC supports swimmers at district/national levels.

Theme 3: Mental Health and Wellbeing

Exercise described as vital for mental health, self-esteem, and confidence.

Theme 4: Social and Community Impact

TRACC is a hub for socialising, role modelling, and discipline in youth sports. Provides a safe, structured environment for children.

Theme 5: Opportunities for Youth & Competitions

Competitive swimmers and cheerleading groups highlighted access to facilities as crucial for youth development and pathways to higher-level competition.

Sentiment Profile

- Positive (90%) – strong praise for TRACC’s role in health and community.
 - Neutral (10%) – factual statements about use.
 - Negative (0%) – no criticism in this question.
-

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 13 -For each of the proposed options, please tell us what you think the scale of the impact could be on *your group*

- **Option 1 – Minimal works:**
 - 5 groups said “Could cause significant difficulty”
 - 2 groups said “A change that could be coped with”
- **Option 2 – Full refurbishment:**
 - 5 groups said “Could cause significant difficulty”
 - 1 group said “Would make no difference”
 - 1 group said “A change that could be coped with”
- **Option 3 – New pool & fitness suite:**
 - 4 groups said “Could cause significant difficulty”
 - 3 groups said “Could cause some difficulty”
- **Option 4 – New facility + interim improvements:**
 - 4 groups said “Could cause significant difficulty”
 - 1 group said “Could cause some difficulty”
 - 1 group said “A change that could be coped with”
 - 1 group said “May be a helpful change”
- **Option 5 – Closure, no replacement:**
 - 7 groups said “Could cause significant difficulty”
 - 1 group said “Would make no difference”
 - 1 group said “A change for the better”

Interpretation

- **Minimal works** and **full refurbishment** are still seen as difficult for groups, possibly because of disruption during works.
- **New build options (3 & 4)** caused mixed views: still high disruption, but some groups acknowledged they could cope or benefit.
- **Closure (Option 5)** is overwhelmingly negative — most said “significant difficulty”, though two outliers responded otherwise.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 14 - Please explain why you chose your answer for Q13

Qualitative Themes

Theme 1: Dependence on TRACC Pool

Swim clubs emphasised that closure would leave them without anywhere suitable, as other pools cannot accommodate numbers.

Theme 2: Concerns About Temporary or Permanent Closure

Even refurbishment options carry risk of closure periods that would cause disruption.

Theme 3: Transport Barriers

Alternative facilities are not viable for some groups due to transport issues.

Theme 4: Need for Larger, Better Facilities

Some expressed desire for a bigger pool with diving facilities, not just maintaining the status quo.

Theme 5: Conditional Adaptability

A small minority said they might manage temporary closure if the facility reopened stronger, but this was not the dominant view.

Sentiment Profile

- Negative (80%) – strong opposition to closure/disruption.
 - Neutral (15%) – factual statements.
 - Positive (5%) – slight acknowledgement of coping if temporary closure led to improvements.
-

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 14 Please explain why you chose your answer for Q13 ? (Continued)

Consensus / Interpretation

Groups are overwhelmingly against closure — whether temporary or permanent. Even refurbishment is seen as disruptive if it involves closure periods. The pool is described as irreplaceable due to scale, youth demand, and transport limitations.

Notable Comments (Anonymised)

“All options have potential for a negative impact as all result in closure, temporary or permanent.”

“No other pool available to hold this number of kids.”

“Need a bigger pool with diving.”

“Transport issues make alternatives unworkable.”

Key Takeaways

- Closure = unacceptable (temporary or permanent).
- Pool capacity and uniqueness are critical.
- Transport barriers amplify exclusion.
- The only acceptable way forward is ensuring continuity and expansion, not disruption.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 15 -For each of the proposed options, please tell us what you think the scale of the impact could be on *your community*

- **Option 1 – Minimal works:**
 - 5 groups → Significant difficulty
 - 2 groups → Could cope
- **Option 2 – Full refurbishment:**
 - 5 groups → Significant difficulty
 - 2 groups → Could cope
 - 1 group → Helpful change
- **Option 3 – New pool & fitness suite (Campus):**
 - 6 groups → Significant difficulty
 - 1 group → Some difficulty
 - 1 group → Helpful change
- **Option 4 – New facility + interim improvements:**
 - 4 groups → Significant difficulty
 - 2 groups → Could cope
 - 1 group → Some difficulty
- **Option 5 – Closure, no replacement:**
 - 7 groups → Significant difficulty
 - 2 groups → Change for the better (outliers)

Interpretation

- Across all options, the **dominant response** is “**significant difficulty**”.
- **Closure (Option 5)** is overwhelmingly negative, though 2 groups marked it positively (likely in error or as protest responses).
- Even new build options (3 & 4) are seen as disruptive, though a few groups recognised possible benefits in the long term.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 16 - Please explain why you chose your answer for Q15

Qualitative Themes

Theme 1: Health & Wellbeing Risks

Closure would severely affect mental and physical health for all ages.

Theme 2: Accessibility & Transport Barriers

Non-drivers would be excluded if forced to travel to other towns. Other facilities already have waiting lists.

Theme 3: Need for Continuity

Strong demand for TRACC to remain partially open during refurbishment or rebuild.

Theme 4: Community Belonging

TRACC is viewed as a hub for sport and fitness; closure = loss of social connection.

Theme 5: Balanced but Cautious Views

Some groups acknowledged the need for better facilities but stressed this cannot come at the expense of current access.

Sentiment Profile

- Negative (80%) – anger, fear, exclusion.
 - Neutral (15%) – factual observations.
 - Positive (5%) – acknowledgement of future improvements if done well.
-
-

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 16 - Please explain why you chose your answer for Q15 ? (Continued)

Consensus / Interpretation

Groups emphasise that TRACC's closure would create serious disruption, not only for their activities but for the whole community's health and wellbeing. The pool is critical and alternatives are not realistic due to transport and capacity barriers.

Notable Comments (Anonymised)

"Closing TRACC even temporarily would drastically impact mental & physical health."

"If you don't drive, how do you get to another pool? Waiting lists are already long."

"All options will cause accessibility challenges unless retention is ensured."

Key Takeaways

- Closure = health risks for the whole community.
- Transport & waiting lists make alternatives unrealistic.
- Continuity of provision is essential during any works.
- Groups stress TRACC's role as a community health hub.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 17 - One of the options is for the TRACC facility to close. It is important to understand the impact upon people if this was no longer available. If the TRACC facility was to close, how would this impact on the wider community?

Qualitative Themes

Theme 1: Health Impacts

Closure would harm mental and physical health of the wider community.

Theme 2: Loss of Fitness Opportunities

General exercise and fitness opportunities would be lost if TRACC closed.

Theme 3: Travel Barriers & Frustration

Closure means longer travel to alternatives, causing annoyance and barriers to participation.

Theme 4: Impact on Swim Club & Pathways

Swim clubs would lose their home base. Closure would disrupt progression from learn-to-swim to competitive swimming.

Theme 5: Capacity & Local Demand

TRACC is already at full capacity — closure would worsen shortages rather than relieve them.

Sentiment Profile

- Negative (100%) – strong frustration and fear about closure.
- Neutral/Positive (0%) – none.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 17 - If the TRACC facility was to close, how would this impact on your ability to access leisure services? (Continued)

Consensus / Interpretation

Groups unanimously oppose closure. They argue it would undermine health, fitness, and swimming pathways while forcing longer travel and creating capacity crises at other facilities.

Notable Comments (Anonymised)

“Closing TRACC even temporarily would drastically impact the mental & physical health of people of all ages in the community.”

“No one could keep fit.”

“If TRACC got closed and a new pool was not made people will get annoyed because they will have to drive further to get to other leisure waters.”

“Likely impact our swim club negatively as no place to train — space at other pool is a premium. Reduced pathways for learn-to-swim into competitive swimming.”

“TRACC is currently so busy with lets etc., how can these be covered if TRACC was to close? We need more facilities locally, not less.”

“No swim club.”

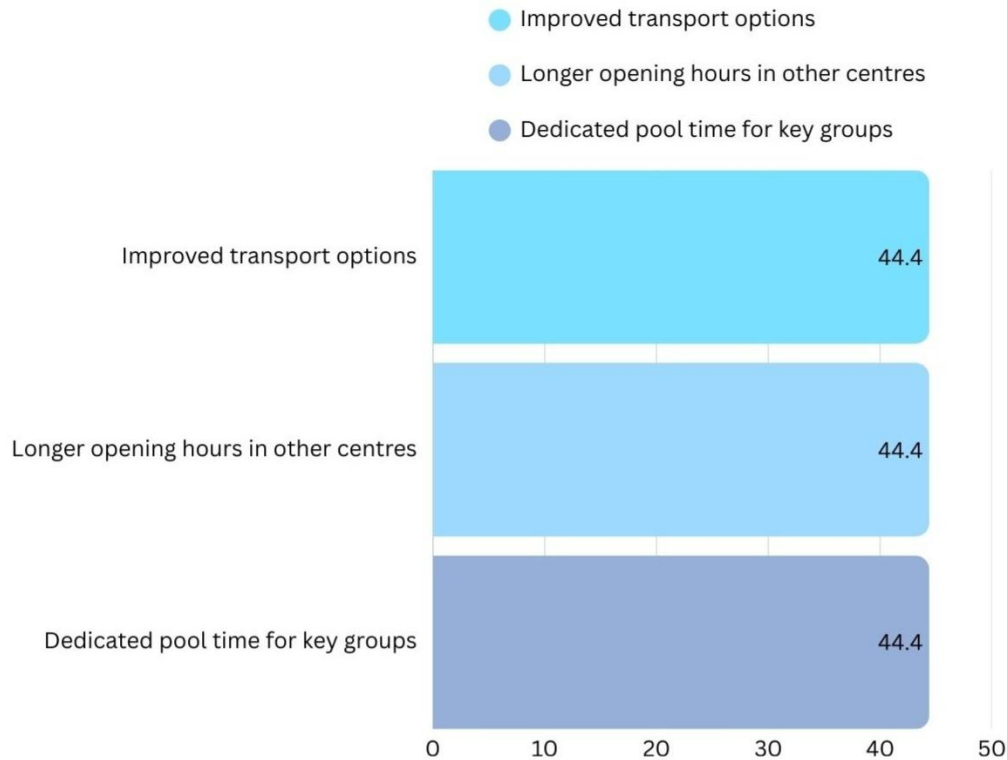
Key Takeaways

- Closure = loss of health, wellbeing, and fitness opportunities.
- Swim clubs see closure as devastating for their continuity and pathways.
- Alternatives are not realistic due to travel and capacity barriers.
- Groups want more facilities, not fewer.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 18 - What could be put in place to support you to access facilities in other locations?



Interpretation

- Every support measure was equally important, with groups highlighting transport, time, and access priority as essential if TRACC were not available.
- This shows that simply providing alternative facilities is not enough — they must be accessible, flexible, and inclusive.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 19 - Please share any ideas you may have for a sustainable funding model

Themes

Theme 1: Community-Led Models

Suggestions of charity fundraising, community stakeholder groups, and community ownership.

Theme 2: External Funding & Grants

Calls to apply for Scottish Government, UK Government, and other public funding.

Theme 3: Council Responsibility

Some groups placed the burden firmly on the council to fund the facility, given their perceived failure to plan ahead.

Theme 4: Development Opportunities

Ideas to repurpose unused land or buildings to generate income for TRACC.

Theme 5: Non-Negotiable New Pool

Some insisted the only sustainable solution is a new pool in Tain, with no compromise.

Sentiment Profile

- Positive (50%) – constructive ideas for community-led or grant-based funding.
 - Negative (40%) – frustration at council’s lack of planning and responsibility.
 - Neutral (10%) – factual suggestions.
-

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 19 - Please share any ideas you may have for a sustainable funding model? (Continued)

Consensus / Interpretation

Groups believe sustainability will require a mix of community effort and government/council funding. While many suggested creative models, the strong consensus is that responsibility lies with the council, and that a new pool in Tain is non-negotiable.

Notable Comments (Anonymised)

“Please consider a community stakeholder group to increase community role.”

“Apply to Scottish & UK Governments for funding.”

“Funding from the Council since it’s their fault.”

“Only acceptable solution is to provide a new pool in Tain.”

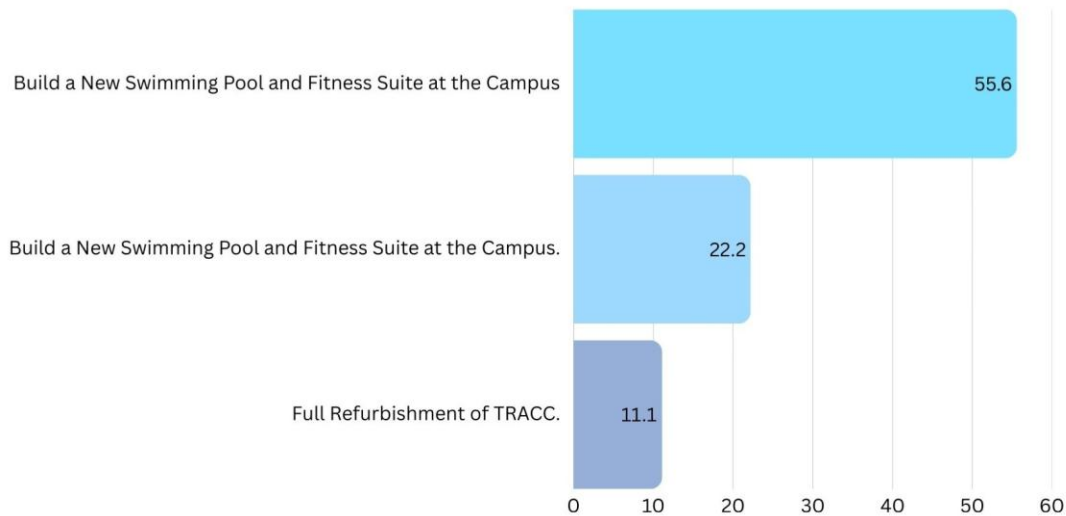
Key Takeaways

- Mixed solutions: fundraising, grants, development opportunities.
- Community-led models could play a role, but most expect council/government to deliver.
- Strong demand for a new pool in Tain as the sustainable outcome.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.2 Survey Responses – Community Groups

Question 20 - Please rank your preferred option in order of preference?



Quantitative Overview (First-Choice Preferences)

- Build a New Swimming Pool and Fitness Suite at the Campus: **5 groups** (55.6%)
- Build a New Swimming Pool and Fitness Suite at the Campus + Keep TRACC with Limited Improvements until New Campus is Completed: **2 groups** (22.2%)
- Full Refurbishment of TRACC: **1 group** (11.1%)
- Other options (minimal works, closure): **0 groups**

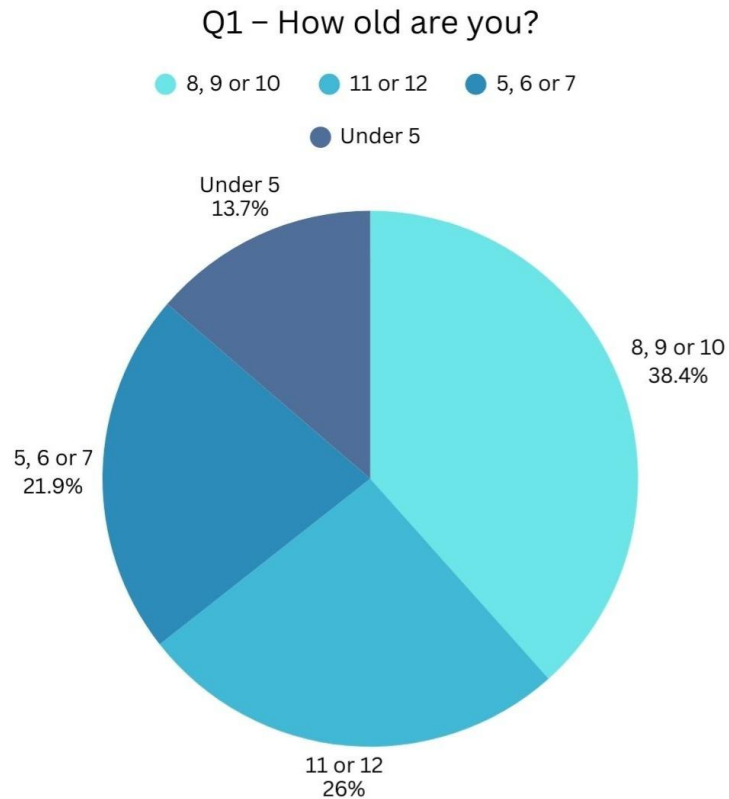
Interpretation

- Strong consensus (78%) in favour of a new build at the Campus, either directly or with temporary TRACC improvements.
- A minority supported full refurbishment of TRACC.
- No support for minimal works or closure.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.3 Survey Responses – Young People - Primary

Question 1 –How old are you?



Question 2 - How long have you been coming to TRACC?

Consensus

TRACC is not a short-term or passing interest — the majority of young respondents have grown up using it over many years, making it part of their routine and development.

Key Takeaways

- Long-term engagement dominates, with almost half using TRACC for 6+ years.
- TRACC has a loyal, embedded user base among children and families.
- Newer users exist but are small in number, suggesting the facility is already well-established in the community.

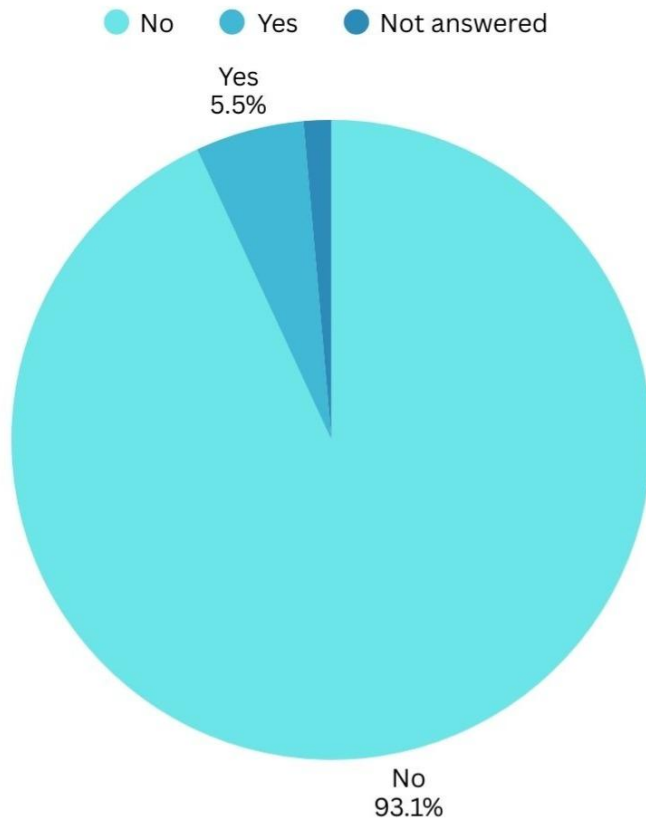


TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.3 Survey Responses – Young People - Primary

Question 3– Do you need special help when you use TRACC?

Q3 – Do you need special help when you use TRACC?



Question 4 - If yes (to Q3), please tell us what help options you need

Qualitative Themes

- Mobility support: One child reported needing help with getting around, including wheelchair access.
- Accessible toilets: Linked to mobility needs, requiring adapted bathroom facilities.
- Hearing support: Two children mentioned support with hearing, such as hearing aids or loops.

Interpretation

- Although very few respondents required additional support, the specific needs identified (mobility and hearing) are critical for inclusion. These align with accessibility concerns raised in the larger 521 dataset.

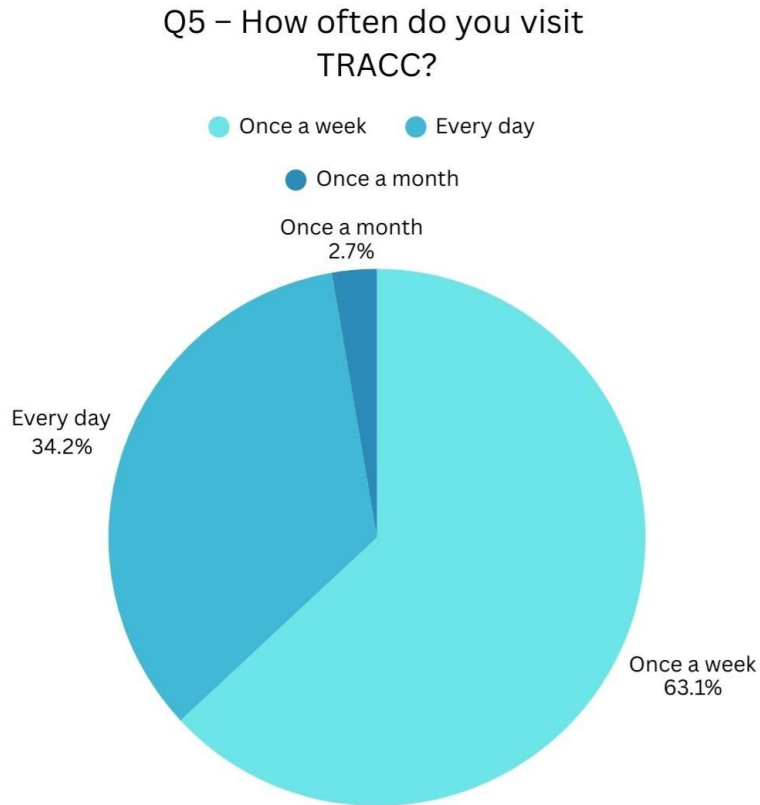
Key Takeaways

- Mobility and hearing are the main accessibility needs.
- Even in a small sample, the needs identified align with those raised in the adult survey.
- TRACC's future must ensure accessible toilets, wheelchair access, and hearing support are built into any redevelopment.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.3 Survey Responses – Young People - Primary

Question 5– How often do you visit TRACC?



Interpretation

- Nearly all children (97%) use TRACC weekly or daily, confirming that it is an integral part of their routine.
- A very small number attend only monthly, showing that TRACC is not a facility used sporadically but rather one embedded in regular habits.

Consensus

- The strong consensus is that TRACC is part of children’s weekly rhythm — whether for lessons, exercise, or recreation.

Key Takeaways

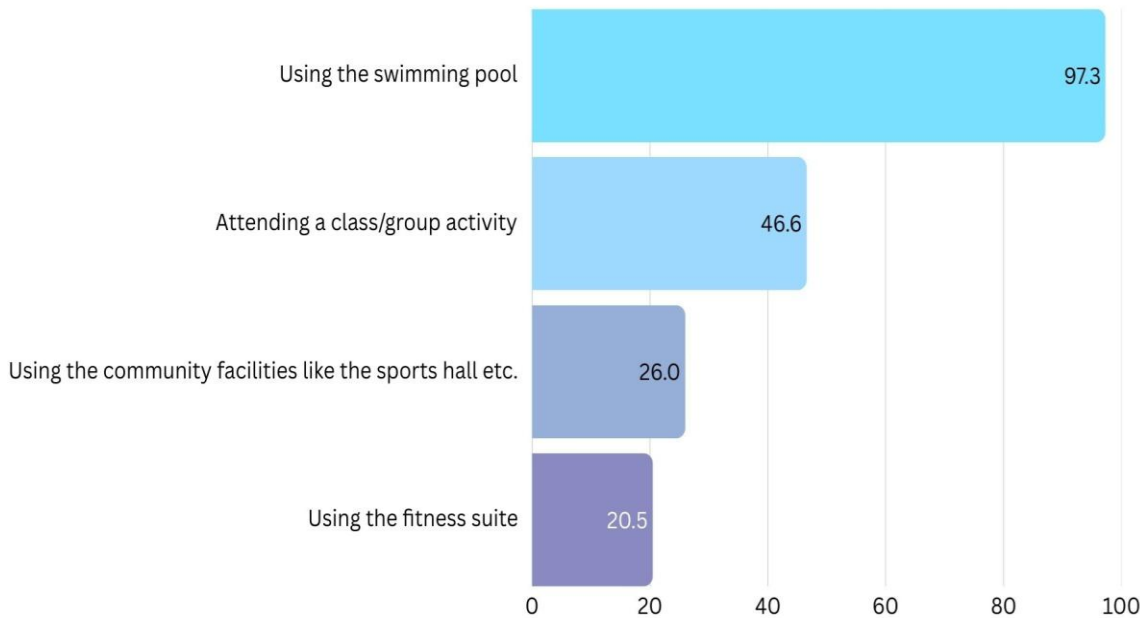
- High frequency of use (weekly/daily) demonstrates TRACC’s importance to children’s lives.
- Closure or disruption would directly affect a majority who rely on it weekly.
- Confirms findings from the adult dataset where regular usage dominated.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.3 Survey Responses – Young People - Primary

Question 6– What do you use TRACC for?

Q6 – What do you use TRACC for?



Interpretation

- The swimming pool dominates — almost every child reported using it, making it the most critical facility.
- Nearly half attend classes or group activities, showing TRACC’s role in structured learning and socialisation.
- Around a quarter use sports hall/community facilities, while one-fifth use the fitness suite — demonstrating breadth of use beyond the pool.

Consensus

- Children overwhelmingly view TRACC as a swimming-first facility, but many also engage with its wider recreational and fitness offer.

Key Takeaways

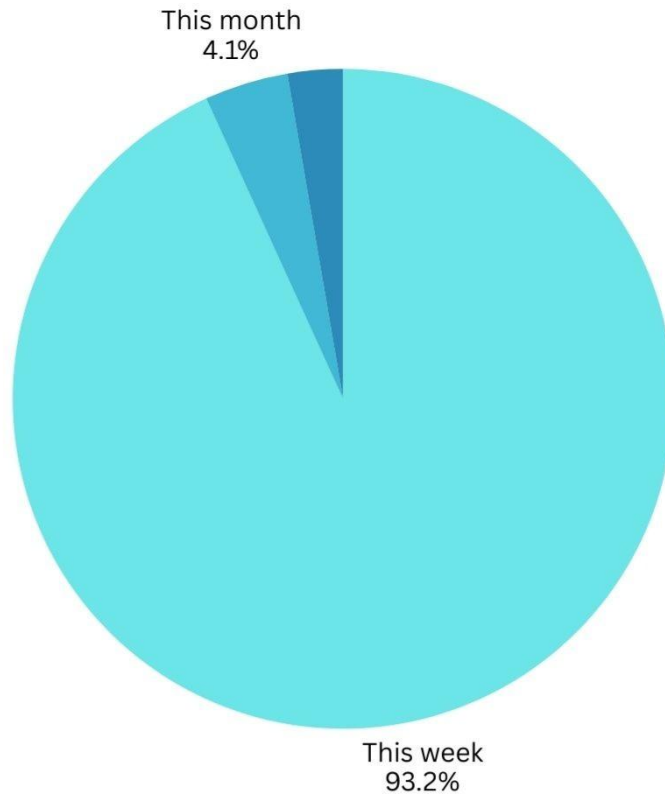
- Swimming is the core use (97%).
- Classes and group activities (47%) are the second most common use.
- Community facilities and gym provide additional but secondary value.
- Confirms TRACC’s multi-use role, but the pool is clearly the most essential for children.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.3 Survey Responses – Young People - Primary

Question 7– When did you last use the TRACC facilities?

Q7 – When did you last use TRACC?



Interpretation

- Nearly all respondents (93%) reported using TRACC in the past week, showing that the survey captured active, current users.
- Only a small minority used it less recently, and very few did not answer.

Consensus

- The clear consensus is that TRACC is regularly used, especially by children, and remains an integral and active part of their weekly lives.

Key Takeaways

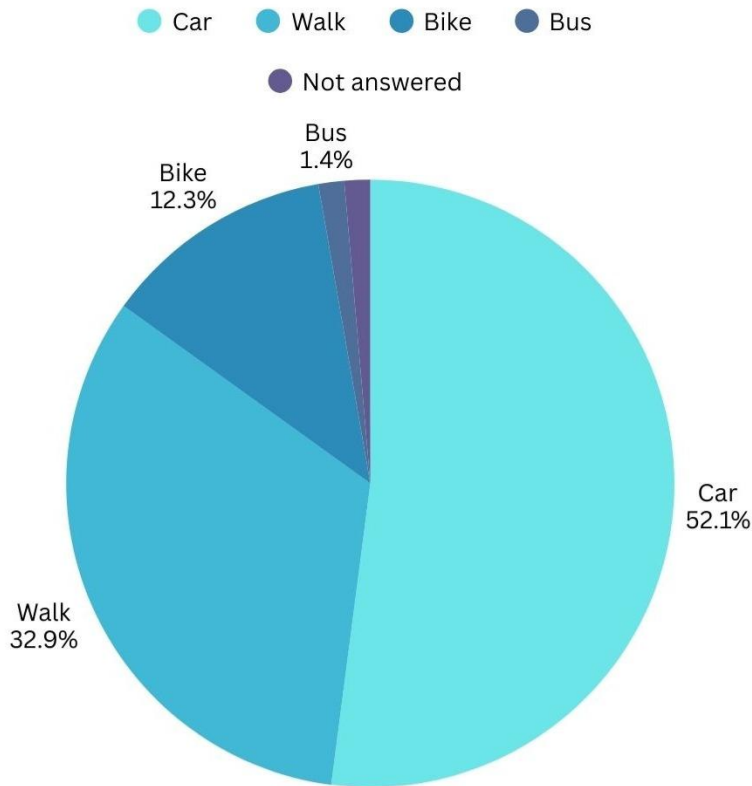
- The clear consensus is that TRACC is regularly used, especially by children, and remains an essential and active part of their weekly lives.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.3 Survey Responses – Young People - Primary

Question 8– How do you usually get to TRACC?

Q8 – How do you usually get to TRACC?



Interpretation

- Over half of children usually travel by car, confirming that parental transport plays a big role in access.
- About one-third walk, showing that many live close enough for TRACC to be part of their local routine.
- A smaller but meaningful number cycle (12%), reflecting independent access for older children.
- Very few use the bus (1%), reinforcing the wider theme that public transport is not a viable option.

Consensus

- Access to TRACC for children is dominated by car and walking, with cycling as a secondary option. Public transport plays almost no role.

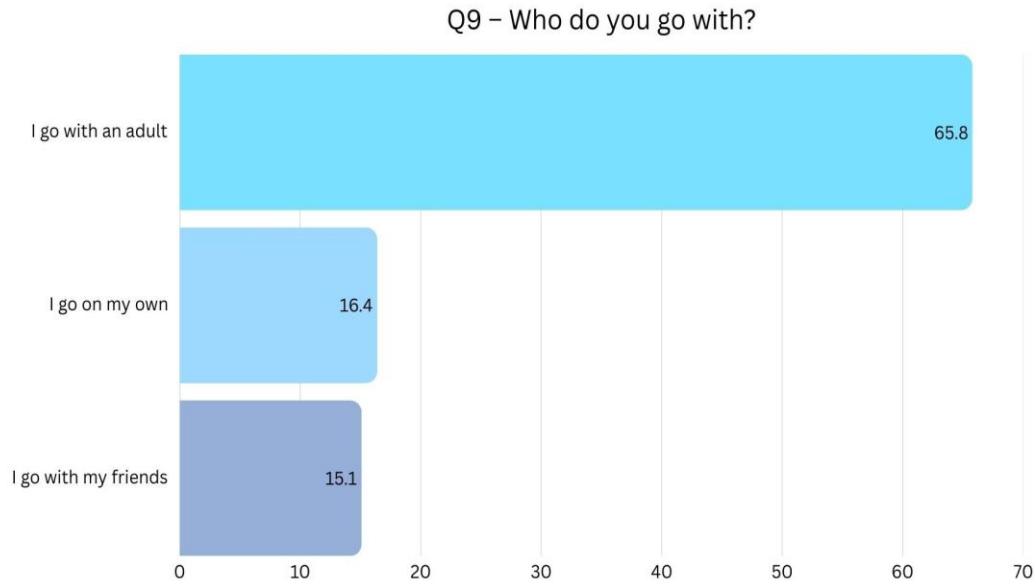
Key Takeaways

- Car (52%) and walking (33%) dominate access methods.
- Cycling (12%) is a meaningful but smaller mode of independent access.
- Bus travel (1%) is negligible, underlining the lack of viable public transport.
- Confirms findings from the adult survey about car dependency and local walkability.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.3 Survey Responses – Young People - Primary

Question 9– Who do you go to TRACC with?



Interpretation

- Nearly two-thirds (66%) go with an adult, reflecting the younger age profile of respondents and reliance on parents/carers for access.
- A smaller but important proportion (16%) attend independently, suggesting older children or those with greater confidence.
- Around 15% go with friends, showing TRACC’s role in supporting peer social activity as well as family use.

Consensus

- The consensus is that TRACC is primarily accessed as a family activity, but a meaningful number of children also use it independently or with peers, underlining its importance across different stages of childhood and early adolescence.

Key Takeaways

Family access dominates (66%), with most children accompanied by an adult.

Independent use (16%) shows TRACC’s role in supporting older children’s autonomy.

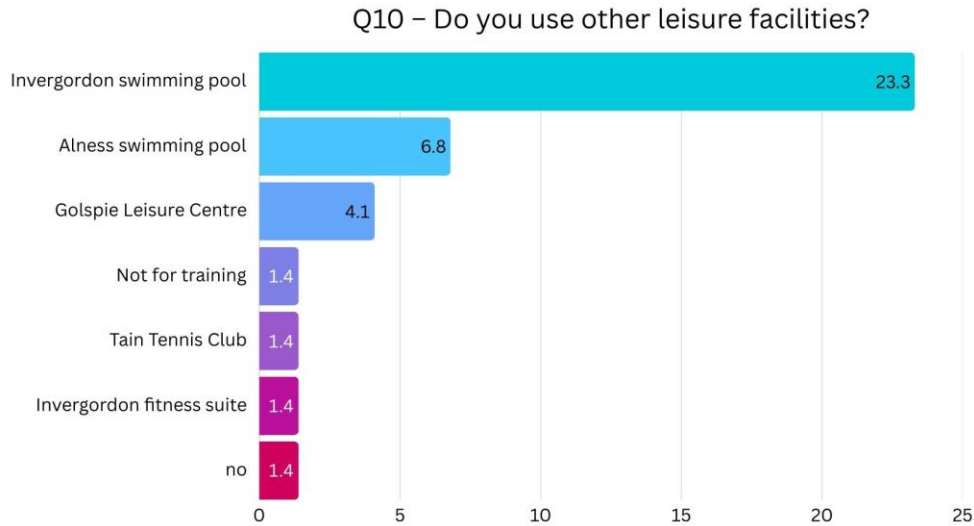
Peer use (15%) reinforces its value as a social hub.

The facility serves both family-based and independent/peer-based access patterns.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.3 Survey Responses – Young People - Primary

Question 10– Do you use other leisure facilities in the local area?



Interpretation

Invergordon swimming pool dominates as the main alternative (23%).

Alness and Golspie were mentioned but by much smaller groups (7% and 4%).

A handful of children reported niche or one-off alternatives (fitness suite, tennis club).

Very few said “no” or “not for training,” confirming that almost all use some other facilities when TRACC is unavailable.

Consensus

- Children overwhelmingly rely on Invergordon pool as the alternative to TRACC, with much smaller reliance on Alness or Golspie.

Key Takeaways

- Invergordon pool is the main substitute for TRACC among children.
- Other facilities are used only marginally.
- Confirms that swimming is the priority activity — children switch to other pools rather than different sports.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.3 Survey Responses – Young People - Primary

Question 11–What do you like about using TRACC?

“The swimming pool.”

“I learn to swim.”

“The swimming and the football training and sometimes camps.”

“It’s a fun place to go. I attend swimming classes and training every week multiple days. I go with my friends. I celebrated my birthday parties at the swimming pool.”

“Learning to swim and meeting other children.”

“I like my teachers. I like swimming. I like going with my friends.”

Qualitative Themes

Theme 1: Swimming and Learning to Swim

The pool dominates responses — children consistently mention swimming as the best part of TRACC. Swimming lessons are valued for confidence building, skill development, and fun.

Theme 2: Social and Community Aspects

Meeting friends, being part of swim club, and social events like birthday parties show TRACC’s role as a community hub.

Theme 3: Fun and Activities Beyond Swimming

Mentions of football training, camps, bouncy castles, and group activities reflect TRACC’s wider role in recreation.

Theme 4: Teachers and Staff

Some children highlighted their teachers positively, showing the importance of supportive staff.

Theme 5: Accessibility and Local Value

A few valued being able to come independently or appreciated that the facility is local.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.3 Survey Responses – Young People - Primary

Question 11–What do you like about using TRACC? (Continued)

“I love my swimming lessons, I used to be nervous in the pool now I love it and I love coming swimming with my mum at the weekends.”

“I can come here by myself. It is local. It has a pool.”

“Exercising, being active, meeting new people, learning how to swim, having fun. Swim club is a very important community which I love going to.”

“Swimming and bouncy castle.”

Consensus

- Children overwhelmingly love TRACC because of the swimming pool — both for lessons and recreation. Social aspects and supportive staff add to its value. TRACC is seen as a fun, safe, and local space that children genuinely enjoy.

Key Takeaways

- Swimming dominates as the best thing about TRACC.
- Fun and friendships are central to children’s enjoyment.
- Staff and teachers play an important role in positive experiences.
- TRACC provides both skills and social belonging — a strong mix of developmental and community value.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.3 Survey Responses – Young People - Primary

Question 12–One of the options is for TRACC to close. If that was to happen, how would that affect you?

"I would feel sad and really miss swimming and being healthy."

"I will be very sad. We'd lose a great place to have fun."

"Where would I learn to swim?"

"I would be angry. I would get fat. I wouldn't get to swim."

Qualitative Themes

Theme 1: Emotional Impact (Sadness and Anger)

Children overwhelmingly expressed feelings of sadness, anger, and loss at the thought of TRACC closing. Words like sad, upset, angry, cry appeared frequently.

Theme 2: Loss of Swimming Lessons and Skills

The biggest concern was losing swimming lessons, with fears that children would miss out on a vital life skill. Mentions of swimming club and water safety training were frequent.

Theme 3: Health and Fitness Concerns

Some children linked closure to negative health impacts: "I would get fat," "I wouldn't be healthy." Reinforces TRACC's role in providing accessible fitness opportunities.

Theme 4: Loss of Fun and Community Activities

Football, clubs, and fun activities (like camps) were cited as things children would miss. TRACC is not just about sport but also social and recreational belonging.

Theme 5: Pressure on Other Facilities

A few noted that other pools and leisure centres are already at capacity, meaning they wouldn't realistically be able to transfer.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.3 Survey Responses – Young People - Primary

Question 11–What do you like about using TRACC? (Continued)

“No swimming lessons, no swimming club.”

“I would not learn to swim or play football or do the other great activities my big cousins have done.”

“Upset and very angry. I don’t want it to happen — I would have to be on a long wait list and might not get back to swimming.”

“My son would miss his weekly lessons, which will affect his swimming skills as he will struggle to get to another facility. Other leisure facilities struggle with demand — how will they manage the 500+ children who attend lessons at TRACC?”

Consensus

- Children consistently view TRACC’s closure as a devastating loss, both emotionally and practically. The pool and lessons are central, and losing them would affect health, confidence, and skills. Capacity limits elsewhere mean many would be excluded entirely.

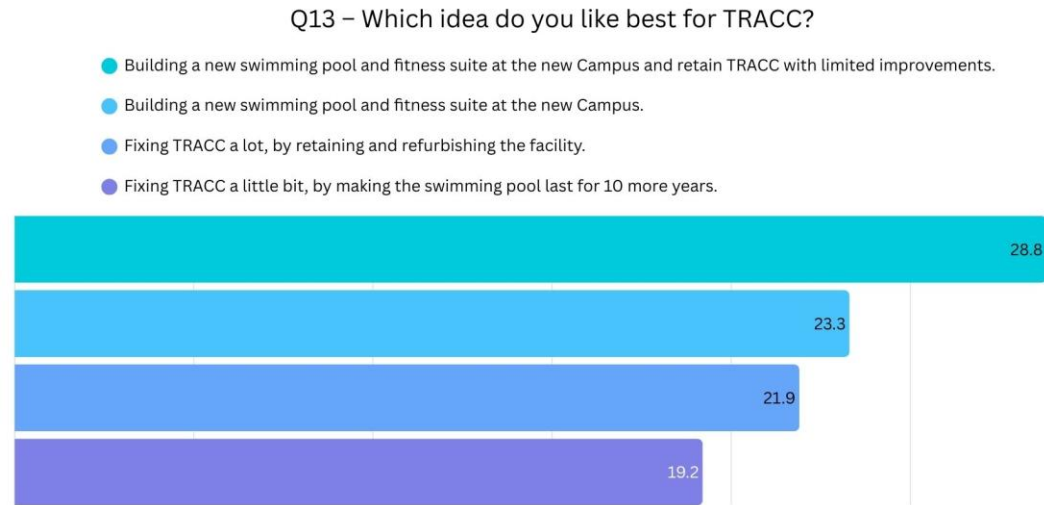
Key Takeaways

- Emotional harm (sadness, anger) would be widespread.
- Swimming lessons and clubs are the single biggest loss.
- Health concerns show children link TRACC to staying active.
- Community and fun activities would also disappear.
- Closure is not seen as a realistic option by children — it is universally viewed as negative.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

4.3 Survey Responses – Young People - Primary

Question 13– Which of these ideas do you like best for TRACC?



Interpretation

- The top preferences split between a new Campus build and keeping TRACC open with limited improvements (both 29%).
- A significant group (23%) preferred a dual approach: new Campus build plus limited TRACC works until completion.
- Full refurbishment (22%) and small fixes (19%) had moderate support, but less than the new build or hybrid options.

Consensus

- Children lean strongly towards new investment in facilities, but also value keeping TRACC running in the meantime. Few were content with minimal fixes alone.

Key Takeaways

- New pool and fitness suite at Campus is highly popular (29%).
- Keeping TRACC open in some form also matters (29% for limited improvements, 23% for interim improvements).
- Full refurbishment (22%) still appeals to many.
- Small fixes (19%) are the least popular solution.
- Confirms children, like adults, want serious investment and continuity, not short-term sticking plasters.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

5 Email Submissions

The home page of the online survey suggested 'You can also respond by e-mail to clestates@highland.gov.uk

Over 30 individuals and groups did this, some of them wishing to make points in addition to having completed, or tried to complete, the survey.

The emails broadly represent the key themes coming across in the online survey submissions regarding;

- Importance of swimming facilities for health & well-being of all ages
- Pipeline of swimming talent over the years
- Swimming safety in a coastal town
- Impracticality of alternative pools due to travel times and existing demand
- Wider funding suggestions
- The requirement for an additional option that does not involve a period of closure of swimming and leisure facilities

Almost 1/3rd of the emails also complain about the questionnaire being 'confusing, misleading, biased'. Several emails from the first two days of the consultation refer to 'Question 6' being problematic as there wasn't a 'None' or 'Other' option available for use of other pools in the area. This problem was addressed by the Highland Council on 12th May. Of the 296 survey responses submitted online, 88 were submitted prior to the change.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

6 Community Meeting and Online Petition

Community Meeting

A community meeting was held on the 30th June in Tain Gala Tent to give voice to a widespread frustration, highlighted in many of the survey responses, that respondents did not like any of the options and believe a further option is required.

Highland Council provided minutes of the meeting, which was attended by approximately 350 people including local councillors and representatives of Tain Community Council and the Highland Council.

The outcome of the meeting was a resolve amongst the community to develop an 'Option 6' that maintained the existing TRACC facility and pool in operational condition until a new facility is built, thereby ensuring no gap in provision.

The ambition stated was to establish a steering group and to work collaboratively with the Council in pursuit of this aim.

Petition

A Petition Submission was received by The Highland Council during the consultation period and following the community meeting. It was dated 1st August and organised by the local representative of Living Rent.

The Petition Statement read 'Hundreds of people rely on TRACC every week. Regular sport and fitness facilities like the swimming pool help to improve physical and mental well-being. The temporary closure during covid illustrated the impact the loss of these facilities can have on people's mental health. The community does not agree with any of the options provided by Highland Council as they all result in TRACC being closed for extended period or permanently.

Therefore, we want Highland Council to work with the community and look at a further option, which is that the Council keeps TRACC open, installs a new Biomass boiler, and ringfences the revenue received from the Blarliath Solar Farm which could raise funds of up to £800k per year to go towards building new facilities at the new Tain Campus

The petition had been signed by 420 local residents

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

7 Integrated Impact Assessment

Individual Community Stakeholders and Users Survey

Theme Extraction

- **Disability & Accessibility** (11% of responses): Frequent mentions of wheelchair access, ramps, disabled parking too far, lifts, autism support.
- “Car park spaces too far from entrance for people with mobility issues.”
- “Autism support isn’t considered in the design of the facilities.”
- **Income & Poverty** (8%): Words like cost, affordability, expensive, subsidy linked to affordability of transport and membership.
- “It’s too expensive to travel elsewhere.”
- **Transport & Access** (27%): Strongest theme. Mentions of bus, car, travel, distance, rural isolation.
- “If you don’t drive, how do you get to another pool?”
- **Children’s Rights & Wellbeing** (19%): Children’s swimming lessons, play, education, wellbeing highlighted repeatedly.
- “My son needs consistency. A move or closure would undo years of progress.”
- **Community Identity & Belonging** (15%): TRACC as a hub for local identity, social connection, clubs.
- “TRACC is a safe place where we feel part of the community.”
- **Digital Exclusion** (rare, <2%): Few mentions, but concerns that online booking systems may exclude those without internet access.

Topic Modelling

- **Barriers to Access:** Transport and affordability dominate.
- **Impacts on Vulnerable Groups:** Disabled users, lone parents, older residents, children with autism.
- **Equity & Inclusion:** Calls for fairness in access.
- **Community Use of School Facilities:** Concerns about clashes if facilities move to the Campus.
- **Mental & Physical Wellbeing:** Strong emphasis on fitness, therapy, social isolation risks.

Key Implications

- Transport and cost are decisive barriers.
- Disabled and neurodiverse users are at high risk of exclusion.
- TRACC closure/relocation threatens community cohesion and wellbeing.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

7 Integrated Impact Assessment (Continued)

Young People’s Survey

Theme Extraction

Disability & Accessibility (6%): Mentions of wheelchair use, autism, sensory overload.

“My son needs consistency. A move would undo years of progress.”

Income & Poverty (minimal, ~3%): Indirect mentions of cost of travel.

Transport & Access (22%): Children highlighted reliance on cars and walking; buses barely used.

“If you don’t drive how do you get to another pool?”

Children’s Rights & Wellbeing (38%): Dominant theme. TRACC seen as vital for swimming lessons, fun, play, socialising, safe space.

“I used to be nervous in the pool, now I love it.”

Community Identity & Belonging (14%): Swim clubs and birthday parties mentioned as social hubs.

Digital Exclusion: Not relevant for this group.

Topic Modelling

- **Barriers to Access**: Mainly transport and travel distance.
- **Impacts on Vulnerable Groups**: Children with autism, children without car access.
- **Equity & Inclusion**: TRACC seen as a safe, inclusive hub.
- **Mental & Physical Wellbeing**: Kids linked swimming to confidence, health, happiness.

Key Implications

- TRACC is not just leisure — it is developmental infrastructure for children.
- Closure risks loss of swimming skills, confidence, and social networks.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

7 Integrated Impact Assessment (Continued)

Community Groups Survey

Theme Extraction

- **Disability & Accessibility** (12%): Groups raised accessible parking, restrooms, cognitive disabilities.
- “Accessible parking and restrooms are essential.”
- **Income & Poverty** (7%): Indirect mentions of affordability for members.
- **Transport & Access** (24%): Clubs stressed barriers if closure forced longer travel.
- “If you don’t drive, how do you get to another pool? Waiting lists are already long.”
- **Children’s Rights & Wellbeing** (21%): Strong focus on youth swimmers, pathways to competitive sport, fitness, mental health.
- “Reduced pathways for learn-to-swim into competitive swimming.”
- **Community Identity & Belonging** (18%): Clubs see TRACC as a pillar of community pride.
- **Digital Exclusion**: Not raised.

Topic Modelling

- **Barriers to Access**: Transport and limited capacity at other pools .
- **Impacts on Vulnerable Groups**: Swim clubs with children/young people most at risk.
- **Equity & Inclusion**: Fear that closure reduces opportunities for local youth .
- **Community Use of School Facilities**: Concerns about Campus pool availability for clubs.
- **Mental & Physical Wellbeing**: Clubs stressed TRACC’s role in discipline, self-esteem, and fitness.

Key Implications

- TRACC is critical for organised youth sport and swimming pathways.
- Closure creates capacity crises at other facilities.
- Continuity of provision during redevelopment is essential.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

Appendix 1 – Launch Document



Tain Royal Academy Community Complex Ionad-Coimhearsnachd Acadamaidh Rìoghail Bhaile Dhubhthaich



Launch of Public Consultation

Background

The Highland Council is seeking the views of the Tain community on a range of options for the future of leisure services currently provided at the Tain Royal Academy Community Complex (TRACC).

The TRACC facility was opened more than 50 years ago. The building is now reaching the end of its natural lifespan and will continue to deteriorate without further investment.

The new Tain Campus project represents an investment of £74M to co-locate Tain Royal Academy (TRA), Craighill and Knockbreck Primary Schools, and St Duthus School in modern, fit-for purpose facilities.

The new campus building is due to be operational later this year and the existing TRA and Craighill buildings will be demolished thereafter and the sites redeveloped for housing.

The facilities at the new Tain Campus will include a 4-court games hall, a 2-court games hall and a dance studio along with a full-sized synthetic pitch, a full-sized grass pitch, a 7-a-side synthetic pitch and 3 multi-use games areas.

The TRACC facilities currently comprise a 4-lane 20-metre swimming pool, fitness suite, 4-court games hall and two smaller sports halls, along with access to a full-size synthetic playing field and 2 grass pitches.

An assessment has been made of potential options for the future of the TRACC building which will form the basis of the public consultation to understand the views of the local community and assess the potential impact. A survey document has been prepared, and members of the community are encouraged to complete this.

For Options 1 and 2, the TRACC building would be retained, and the remainder of the Tain Royal Academy (TRA) buildings would be demolished to allow that part of the site to be redeveloped for housing.

For Options 3, 4 and 5, the TRACC building would also eventually be demolished and the entire site redeveloped for housing.

As things stand, there is no funding allocated in the Council's capital programme for any of the options listed below.

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

Appendix 1 – Launch Document

Options

Option 1

Retain the TRACC facility as a standalone building with minimal improvement works.

Isolate the TRACC building prior to demolition of the rest of the TRA buildings, install new heating plant and utility connections, and carry out holding action works only.

Estimated Cost
Up to £4M
(over a 5-year period)

This would not extend the remaining life of the building and ongoing maintenance and life-cycle investment would be required in the coming years. There would be a risk that a major failure could occur at some point that would require further investment or potentially result in closure.

Potentially mothball the dry-side facilities as the indoor spaces at the new Tain Campus could be used instead.

Closure period required for TRACC
Up to 12 months for the works.

Option 2

Retain and fully refurbish the TRACC facility as a standalone building.

Isolate the TRACC building from the rest of the TRA buildings prior to their demolition, install new heating plant and utility connections, and carry out a refurbishment.

Estimated Cost
£9M

This would address some of the condition and suitability issues at the building, reduce the risk of a major failure in the coming years and may marginally extend the remaining life of the building.

Potentially mothball the dry-side facilities as the indoor spaces at the new Tain Campus could be used instead.

Closure period required for TRACC
Up to 18 months for the works.

Options

Option 3

Construct a new building on the new Tain Campus site at some point in the future. Permanent closure and demolition of the TRACC facility once the new Tain Campus building is operational.

Construct a new swimming pool building with a fitness suite on the new Campus site.

The design, planning and construction of a new swimming pool and fitness suite extension would take 2-3 years to complete following any decision to proceed and approve the necessary funding.

The above would result in the loss of a swimming pool and fitness suite in the intervening period.

Estimated Cost
£11M

Closure period required for TRACC
N/A (as TRACC building would be demolished)

Option 4

Construct a new building on the new Tain Campus site at some point in the future. Retain the TRACC facility as a standalone building with minimal improvement works in the interim (as per Option 1).

Isolate the TRACC building from the rest of the TRA buildings as outlined in Option 1. The cost of constructing a new swimming pool building with a fitness suite on the new Campus site, and the work required to retain the TRACC building in the meantime.

Estimated Cost
£15M

This option would require the TRACC to be closed for 12 months for minimal improvements.

The new swimming pool and fitness suite building would take 2-3 years to complete following any decision to proceed and agree funding.

Closure period required for TRACC
Up to 12 months for the works

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

Appendix 1 – Launch Document

Options

Option 5

Permanent closure and demolition of the TRACC facility once the new Tain Campus building is operational.

Current building reaching end of life.

No funding in place to replace building.

Possible mitigation measures for the closure of the pool facility and fitness suite would need to be considered, such as the use of other pools in the neighbouring areas and alternative provision of the fitness suite.

Estimated Cost

N/A

Closure period required for TRACC

N/A (as TRACC building would be demolished)

Timeline/Next Steps

The public consultation will close on 1st August 2025. Once the responses have been collated and evaluated, a report will be presented to a future Council or Committee meeting to outline the proposed way forward.

To view the survey document and other information go to:

www.highland.gov.uk/tracc

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

Appendix 2 – Consultation Boards and FAQs

Current Position

- The new Tain Campus building is under construction and the existing Tain Royal Academy (TRA) site is due to be redeveloped for housing.
- For Options 1 and 2, the TRACC building would be retained and the remainder of the TRA buildings demolished.
- For Options 3, 4 and 5, the TRACC building would also eventually be demolished and the entire site redeveloped for housing.
- The timescales for a new Swimming Pool building on the Campus site would depend on the time required to secure the necessary funding.
- As things stand, there is no funding allocated in the Council's capital programme for any of the options under consideration.

1

Option 1 - Retain TRACC With Limited Refurbishment

- This would see the TRACC building retained and all the other TRA buildings demolished. The existing playing fields would be removed.
- New heating plant and an electrical sub-station, with new service connections, would be required as these are in the TRA building.
- The swimming pool plant and other installations are in poor condition, so it is proposed that these would be replaced to reduce the chance of failure in the future.
- A limited refurbishment of the building would be carried out.
- The estimated cost of this option is up to £4M and TRACC would require to be closed for up to 12 months while this work is carried out.

2

Option 2 - Retain TRACC With Full Refurbishment

- This would include all the work outlined in Option 1, including the demolition of the other TRA buildings and removal of the existing playing fields.
- A full refurbishment of the building would be carried out to bring it up to modern standards, including improved energy performance.
- The estimated cost of this option is £11M and TRACC would require to be closed for up to 18 months while this work is carried out.

3

Option 3 – Close TRACC; Plan For A New Swimming Pool

- Take forward a proposal for a new Swimming Pool to be built at some point in the future subject to securing the necessary capital funding; this building could include a fitness suite or other facilities.
- The TRACC building would close at the same time as TRA moved to the new campus.
- This would obviously result in the loss of the swimming pool facility while the funding options, design and planning work for a new building was being developed – this would take at least 3 years.
- The estimated cost of the new build option is currently £11M but this would increase in line with inflation if delayed.

4

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

Appendix 2 – Consultation Boards and FAQs

Option 4 – Retain TRACC; Plan For New Swimming Pool

- Take forward a proposal for a new Swimming Pool to be built at some point in the future subject to securing the necessary capital funding; this building could include a fitness suite or other facilities.
- The work outlined in Option 1 to retain TRACC as a standalone building in the meantime would be required. TRACC would require to be closed for up to 12 months while this work is carried out.
- The estimated cost of the new build option is £11M and the work required to retain TRACC would be £4M – a total of £15M. Again, the estimated cost of the new build would increase in line with inflation if delayed.

5

Option 5 – Permanent Closure Of TRACC

- The TRACC building would close after TRA moves into the new Campus building.
- This would obviously result in the loss of the swimming pool facility.
- Options to provide a new fitness suite elsewhere in Tain would be explored.
- Other mitigation measures would also be considered.

6

Next Steps

- An online event will be held if necessary for members of the community that are unable to attend today.
- The public consultation will close on 1st August 2025.
- Once the responses have been collated and evaluated, a report will be presented to a future Council or Committee meeting to outline the proposed way forward.

7

TRACC Consultation – Analysis

Appendix 2 – Consultation Boards and FAQs

TAIN ROYAL ACADEMY COMMUNITY COMPLEX (TRACC) PUBLIC CONSULTATION DROP-IN EVENT 12/06/25 – FAQ'S

1. Is there capital funding available for any of these options?

No, the Council's current capital programme does not include funding for any of the 5 options being considered.

The budget for the new Tain Campus project does include funding for the demolition of the Craighill Primary and Tain Royal Academy (TRA) buildings, but not for any work to the TRACC building.

2. How long would it take for capital funding to be allocated once a preferred option is agreed, and what impact would this have on the timescales?

Any capital funding decision would be made at either a meeting of the full Council or the appropriate Committee.

The timescales set out in the consultation document assume a decision within approximately 3 months of the consultation closing, so a longer decision period could affect the timescales.

3. Will the Public Library be relocating to the new campus?

A decision has yet to be made on the future location of the library.

An exercise to review all Council owned assets in Tain (including the library) will be conducted in due course and there will be engagement with relevant partners and stakeholders.

4. What would be the opening hours of a new pool facility?

The opening hours would have to be confirmed, but the pool could be operated independently of the campus for all options, in a similar way to the current arrangements.

5. The option for a new swimming pool and fitness suite building adjacent to the new campus does not include any games halls or other spaces similar to those at the current TRACC building – could additional facilities be included in a new build?

The new Campus building will include a 4-court games hall, a 2-court hall, a movement studio and a dance studio as well as changing facilities.

Any additional facilities would require further capital funding and to be supported by a business case justifying this investment.

6. Is there another option that could keep the TRACC facility operational while minimal works are carried out once TRA has relocated to the new building?

For the TRA buildings to be demolished, new services and plant would be required to allow TRACC to be isolated and remain operational.

The only alternative would be to retain much of the TRA buildings that contain the existing plant, but this is not a sustainable long-term option.

7. Could the classes that currently take place in TRACC during school hours be accommodated in the new campus at the same times?

The classes that currently run in TRACC during school hours (outwith the fitness suite and pool) could potentially be accommodated in the new Campus, subject to the timing of school activities which would take priority.

8. Do the Craighill and TRA sites have to be redeveloped for housing?

Yes, the Campus site was originally purchased by the Council's Housing Development team for new housing.

Following the decision to build the new Campus on this land, it was agreed that the Craighill and TRA sites would be cleared and swapped for the new site.

9. Could part of the TRA site be kept if the TRACC building is retained, and could additional leisure facilities also be provided here?

Any decision requiring a different approach to the use or retention of land would require Council approval and there would be a financial implication.

There is no capital funding for additional sports facilities on the TRA site, and again any investment would have to be supported by a business case.

10. Can you provide more information on the costs and timescales for each of the options?

Further details of the costs and timescales are provided in the presentation boards and FAQ's. Officers will be present at the event to answer any questions in relation to this.

11. How will you engage with some of the more vulnerable users and younger children?

Targeted and facilitated focus groups, both in person and online, will be arranged to gather views, as necessary.

12. What would be the impact on other swimming pools and leisure facilities if the TRACC building were to be closed?

This would have to be considered, and the opening hours and staffing arrangement at other facilities reviewed.