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**LONDON ASSEMBLY LABOUR**



**Andrew Dismore AM**

**Date:** 30 November 2016

Dear Cllr Cornelius,

**Re: Save Barnet Diving**

I am writing to you about the report to the Policy and Resources Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> December regarding the diving facilities at Copthall Lesiure Centre. The report provides two options which are both recommended as unviable financially. I urge you to consider other options for the diving facilities. This centre could be a resource for the whole of North West London, if the booking issues and advertising problems identified by the campaigners are resolved.

The report suggests that only 132 divers currently use the diving facilities. I do not believe this accurately reflects current usage; in any event, the business case should consider what is the probable usage if the issues identified by the users rectified. It seems to me that this report has been conducted in bad faith because the Council has no intention of providing diving facilities and never has had.

It is not an understatement to say that Barnet Council did not enter into the spirit of the 2012 Olympics. However, refusing to lift a finger to prevent existing Olympic sport facilities in the borough from being scrapped is a betrayal of the hopes and dreams of the many Barnet children who will not now take up diving, despite the enthusiasm from this year's Olympic success.

Barnet's approach to public health, youth services, and sports is at best lukewarm. A few outdoor gyms do not discharge the Council's duties. The Council should have some ambition for the borough and its residents.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Dismore".

**Andrew Dismore**

Labour London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden