

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board - Mayoral Question Time



Agenda

Date: Monday, 24 April 2017

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: The Writing Room - City Hall, College Green,
Bristol, BS1 5TR

Distribution:

Councillors: Nicola Bowden-Jones, Tom Brook, Charlie Bolton, Jude English, Geoff Gollop, Gill Kirk, Brenda Massey, Olly Mead, Graham Morris, Anthony Negus and Steve Pearce

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Date: 26th April 2017



Agenda

1. Members' Questions

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QUESTIONS have been received as follows:

Councillor Tim Kent - Hengrove Park and Hartcliffe Campus Community Engagement Strategy

1. Will the Mayor confirm that the consultation will ask genuine questions and include consultation on housing numbers and the division of land for development and recreation?
2. Does the Mayor accept that the formula used by officers to determine viability, a market assessment, results in developments that maximise profit over affordable housing for local people? Will the Mayor consider innovative design that delivers higher density and more affordable housing?



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QUESTIONS/ANSWERS as follows:

Councillor Gary Hopkins

Jubilee Pool

Q1 Equalities Impact Assessments are important tests, the Mayor said that the plan to close Jubilee Pool, which was voted through, was a mistake. Will he therefore apologise for the non-objective Equalities Impact Assessment that was written to justify the closer in August?

A1 The closure of Jubilee pool was initially put forward as a saving in terms of the 60k subsidy and on this basis an Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken. This is done to help understand the impact of a potential proposal that affects service provision.

I do not accept that this Equalities Impact Assessment was not objective. Following discussions with the service provider and prior to going out to public consultation on this proposal we considered other options to stop the subsidy spend but keep the pool open.

I know that Guy Fishbourne (Sport and Physical Activity Manager) met you to explain that there was an inaccurate reference in the budget papers to closing the pool and made clear that the intention was to achieve savings through reducing the subsidy to zero.

A2 Thanks to our energetic local campaign, Parkwood Management have confirmed that they will keep the facility open without subsidies from Bristol City Council and have communicated this to the Council. Continued uncertainty is damaging for the pool, why then, do we not have a clear statement from Bristol City Council that the facility will continue? This will allow us to fully implement the marketing plan.

Q2 Council officers have been in close contact with Parkwood Management to find a sustainable model for the pool since August last year, and I am pleased that these negotiations are moving close to resolution. Parkwood Leisure has presented some proposals and once we have been able to consider this we will update you on our position.

