

# Public Health & Communities Policy Committee 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025



## Public Forum – Questions

**Please note:** The views and information contained within the public questions are those of individuals concerned and not of the Council.

### Public Forum Questions

The following Public Forum Questions have been received for the Public Health & Communities Policy Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> March:

Number	Name	Subject
Question 1	Paul Wheeler	Libraries
Question 2	Katherine Jacob	Easton Leisure Centre cuts (netball)



## **Public Forum Questions**

### **Question 1 – Paul Wheeler**

#### **Libraries**

Can you tell me if the working party being established to consider the future of the libraries service will have meetings open to the public and if these meetings will be included in the calendar of meetings on the Council's website.

#### **Officer response:**

A report on the establishment of a Libraries Task & Finish Group will be submitted to the Public Health & Communities Policy Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> May. Task & Finish Groups generally meet in private but will ultimately bring forward any recommendations to a Public meeting of the Public Health & Communities Policy Committee.

### **Question 2 – Katherine Jacob**

#### **Easton Leisure Centre cuts (netball)**

Why is Bristol City Council going ahead with plans to reduce the size of the main sports hall at Easton Leisure Centre in favour of a new reception area, women's gym and soft play, that would see the loss of regular adult sports groups such as netball, volleyball, indoor football, cricket and basketball? If this question can be answered in the light of a 2022 consultation where only 35 Easton Leisure Centre users responded, where 40 people commented the full sports hall size needed to be maintained and where none of the existing activity groups have been specifically invited to comment.

#### **Officer response:**

The upgraded facility will enable a broader range of services to be delivered for the local community and ensures Easton Leisure Centre remains financially sustainable for years to come. Once the works have been completed the new sized sports hall will be available for all existing groups to continue using.

The upgrade to Easton Leisure Centre followed the council's consultation process as part of the Leisure Facilities Investment Strategy. This was advertised widely and throughout the leisure centres and swimming pools, to gather the views of both users and non-users of the facilities. 35 is **NOT** the total number of respondents to the consultation who use Easton Leisure Centre. Out of 1988 respondents to the consultation 465 were users of Easton.