

Question: PQ23.07&08

Cabinet – 1 September 2020

Re: Agenda item 23 – Hengrove PFI Leisure Centre

Questions submitted by: Julie Laming

Q1

Can the Mayor explain how the PFI deal allows for the provision of £900k in subsidy funding for BAL, a profitable private company, for Hengrove Leisure Centre only and not Jubilee Pool? This does not accord with the Council's Corporate Strategy Alignment objectives nor meet the five itemised city benefits as highlighted in the Committee Report. Excluding Jubilee Pool from BALs £900k financial subsidy means that:

- The Council is not working in partnership with BAL to secure Bristol's leisure services across both its leisure centres and swimming pools as they operate both Hengrove Leisure Centre and Jubilee Pool.
- The Council is not providing continued cost effective and efficient service provision that provides for the needs of the local community and contributes towards the city's strategic outcomes.
- The Council is not working for local residents to ensure that they and BAL mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and continue to work in partnership to increase participation and realise maximum health and social benefits for people, increase family and community connectedness, improve community networks and social capital, reduce the sense of isolation and loneliness and enhance peoples social skills and self-esteem.
- The Council is not supporting their local residents to be more physically active, which will impact on a range of public health and adult social care outcomes such as increasing obesity levels, social and health inequalities, reduced healthy life expectancy, an increase in the number of falls and injuries in the over 65s and early deaths from cardiovascular diseases, cancer and respiratory diseases.

Q2

Can the Mayor please explain why the Council negotiated such an appalling PFI deal for the development of Hengrove Leisure Centre and is not attempting to renegotiate this in light of current circumstances, which means that he is willing to sacrifice a much loved and well used community facility in Jubilee Pool and allow Bristolians taxes to subsidise a hugely profitable private organisation?