

## Save Jubilee Pool (Golden Motion)

This Council is concerned that the future of this much-loved south Bristol swimming pool ~~has once again been put~~ is regrettably under a cloud of uncertainty because of rising costs due to the coronavirus (covid-19) pandemic. ~~by the Labour Mayor.~~

The last review, conducted in 2017, over the cost of running this heritage facility, resulted in a plan and a promise to subsidise it for a further five years.

This Council is therefore surprised notes:

~~that~~ (i) a consultation has now been launched around its proposed closure, with the Mayor indicating a willingness to consider other options including unless a community asset transfer (CAT) can take place; ~~even though the Administration's own consultation does not recommend this course of action.~~

(ii) the impact of the Hengrove PFI deal, signed in 2010;

(iii) more than 1,000 new public swimming pools opened under the previous Labour Government, contrasted with numerous pool closures and cuts under Bristol's Lib Dem administrations;

(iv) the loss of at least 300 public owned and state school pools since 2010, contributing to more than one in three children leaving primary school unable to swim, following a decade of Tory cuts to local government;

(v) the unforeseeable and far-reaching impact of the pandemic on leisure facilities in Bristol and around the country.

Given that this leisure pool serves some of the most economically deprived parts of the city, it seems unlikely and unrealistic to expect local users to muster sufficient finance to secure such an acquisition.

Consequently, Council calls on the Mayor to:

- ~~-(i) withdraw this threat over the pool; extend the current consultation for a further month to enable further exploration of options;~~
- ~~(ii) allocate the necessary (and relatively modest) capital and revenue funding to enable it to continue to operate in a COVID secure and safe way, and; establish a cross-party group comprising relevant cabinet member(s) and councillors, working to look at potential solutions including those discounted in the consultation (reopening with additional funding; finding a new contractor; taking the service in-house; awarding the service to a community trust; and a CAT);~~
- (iii) continue to work to assess options on how to honour the previous agreement made with the provider Parkwood Leisure to maintain this public amenity until at least 2022.

Council further resolves to:

- (i) Support the Mayor and Bristol in lobbying in national Government to follow through with their original promise to do “whatever it takes” to compensate councils for the impact of the pandemic;
- (ii) Support the Mayor and Bristol in lobbying in national Government for sector-specific support for particularly-affected industries, including the leisure sector, to support Jubilee Pool and countless other swimming pools in similar situations.

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