

Statement: PS11.14

Cabinet – 8 February 2022

Re: Agenda item 11 - Leisure Facilities Investment and Procurement

Statement submitted by: Rahul Immandira

I am a resident in Bristol and a member of Beaufort Park Badminton Club. I first joined the club in 2018 and I found it to be a very welcoming and diverse club. People of all ages, races, genders and backgrounds come together on Monday nights to enjoy games of badminton together. Additionally, some members of our club also take part in league matches where we play badminton competitively against other clubs based in Bristol across several league divisions. As a citizen of Singapore, who spent my life growing up there, I have always been impressed by the spirit and culture cultivated by a simple badminton club, for which there does not exist an equivalent back home. I was surprised to learn how long the club has been going, and how many members have actually been with the club for as long as they have. And, in spite of that, new members like me are immediately welcomed and made to feel at home. To my disappointment, I heard of the plans to close Kingsdown leisure centre, and I believe this is a big mistake. I fear the closure would affect our club greatly as many members will find the alternate location inconvenient to get to. In addition, many other people also use the leisure centre for various classes and for the facilities in general, and they would be greatly inconvenienced as well since there is a lack of equivalent facilities in the area. I always admired the Bristol council for their progressive and forward looking decisions such as improving bus services, building new bike paths and ensuring a decent supply of affordable housing in the face of rising house prices. I personally was impressed by Marvin Rees showing up at the opening of the Muller Road Lidl at 8am in the morning (picture enclosed), as it showed he was a mayor in touch with the residents of Bristol. I hope that the council can once again show that their priority is indeed the wellbeing of Bristol residents and reconsider their decision to close Kingsdown Leisure Centre.