

Statement: CS011.03

Cabinet – 8 February 2022

Re: Agenda item 11 - Leisure Facilities Investment and Procurement

Statement submitted by: Councillor Mohamed Makawi

I won't mention the history of the place, as it is present in the memory as well as in the city's archives.

This edifice extends within the lives and memories of the residents of Cotham and its surroundings for more than half a century. It is the heart of the neighbourhood and the only outlet for the residents of the neighbourhood to remain healthy for all generations, as well as a social centre for their meetings and events, different types of birthdays, graduations or community meetings to discuss various matters, etc.

The closure of the sports centre is the closure of everything that has preceded and more. It would kill a community that has gathered in this place for half a century and more than ever since it was a swimming pool and then became a sports centre. Relationships were formed in it, including marriages, love relationships, or friendships that continued and continue, in addition to the aspect of physical health and wellbeing and the important role played by the centre and the consequent psychological and mental state of the users of the centre.