

**Question: PQ11.01&02**

**Cabinet – 8 February 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 11 - Leisure Facilities Investment and Procurement**

**Questions submitted by: Paul Collins**

QUESTION 1:

Page 13 of the Draft Leisure Facilities Investment Strategy states that: 'Kingsdown Sports Centre is attracting few new members and is not retaining members in a very competitive environment'.

The Mayor will see from the background information I've supplied (below) that the Council's own data does not support that statement and that all references to the centre attracting few new members and retaining members has been removed from the final strategy document and has not been corrected, or referred to at all, in the Report to this Cabinet meeting.

**Could the Mayor please explain where the data to make that statement came from?**

I ask that this question be answered by Mayor Marvin Rees, as decision maker for Bristol City Council, and that in addition to a verbal response I be given a written reply.

Background context to the question:

The Council has confirmed in their response to a Freedom of Information request (17 January 2021) that (1) the average monthly membership between April 2018 and January 2019 was 889 and (2) the average monthly membership between April 2019 and January 2019 was 1,173. That data does not show that Kingsdown Sports Centre is not attracting 'few' new members nor that it is not retaining members. The Council has also confirmed that membership numbers for previous years (i.e. before April 2018) is not available. Therefore, the Council has very little data on which to make the statement referred to above.

Further, Table 1 at page 31 of the Draft Leisure Investment Strategy (and now Table 1 of page 27 of the Final Draft Leisure Investment Strategy) shows a 9% increase in attendance at Kingsdown Sports Centre between 2015-20 (the highest increase in attendance of the facilities listed).

QUESTION 2:

The Equalities Impact Assessment recognises that there is a statistically significant number of young people in the ward where Kingsdown is situated (i.e. Cotham ward). According to the Council's data, of the 1,988 responses received on the draft strategy less than 20 (less than 1%) were from under 18-year-olds.

**Could the Mayor please confirm what specific efforts were made to consult those young people of school age who either live in Cotham ward or attend**

**schools in the ward, and what evidence does the council have to support their statement that those young people would either want to, or be able to afford, using the facilities operated by Bristol University?**

I ask that this question be answered by Mayor Marvin Rees, as decision maker for Bristol City Council, and that in addition to a verbal response I be given a written reply.

Background context to the question:

The Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) recognises that there is a statistically significant number of young people in the ward where Kingsdown is situated (i.e. Cotham ward). To mitigate that, the Council states there is alternative provision in the area, including the facilities operated by Bristol University.

The EqIA states that responses were under-represented in terms of population proportion from young people and under 24-year-olds.

The EqIA states that responses were monitored throughout the consultation and because of the low numbers of respondents from younger people, efforts were made by the council's external communications team to reach out to those specific communities.

Section 2.3 of The Consultation and Engagement Report of 21 January 2022 sets out how the consultation was communicated to 'reach as broad a range of audiences as possible to maximise response rate'.