

Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee

7 November 2023

Item 7 Pools on the Park – Health Suite

Mr Alan Fransman submitted a written question on this item, as follows,

“Point 9.1 of the report to councillors notes the consultation exercise in August 2021 in which 78% of respondents were in favour of replacing the existing Health Suite with new environmentally sustainable facilities and to maintain the area as a Health Suite facility.

What is the Committee and the Council’s responsibility to residents, members and voters who pay for these facilities through our leisure centre subscriptions, council tax payments and tax contributions that fund the Government grant to the Council.”

The response is as follows,

“The council has a responsibility to deliver a wide range of services including those that are statutory services to its residents, however leisure facilities are non-statutory, meaning the council has discretion in how they are delivered. All local authorities are under increasing budgetary constraints and therefore have to make decisions that balance the provision of statutory and non-statutory services.

In this case the provision of leisure services remains of great importance to this administration as this supports the health and wellbeing of our residents. Our leisure facilities offer a wide range of opportunities for residents to keep active and healthy, and we want to ensure that our services are as inclusive and accessible throughout a residents’ life course. Therefore, the committee agreed to invest in a group exercises studio to support the Council’s ambitions to get more people active, more often. In addition, the new facility will allow a strengthened health offer and more targeted and supported pathways from our health partners. This investment was considered best value from a cost and social value perspective as it is more accessible and available to a wider range of residents”.