

**PUBLIC QUESTION RECEIVED for Place Scrutiny Committee – 8 November 2018 from Ms Aimee Beckett**

To Councillor Bialyk Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport

**Question**

Vivid Economics worked in partnership with the Greater London Authority, National Trust and Heritage Lottery Fund to produce a natural capital account for London's public green spaces. It revealed that for every £1 spent by local authorities on public green space, Londoners enjoyed at least £27 in value. We now have evidence that reducing funding for green spaces is a false economy. Natural capital accounting is rapidly gaining acceptance as a necessary requirement to inform decision-making. Vivid Economics has teamed up with researchers at the University of Exeter to create an easy-to-use toolkit to calculate location-specific economic values of the health, social and environmental benefits of urban green infrastructure.

Will the council consider using the toolkit when it is released to reveal the true value of the nine acres behind Clifton Hill Sports Centre before allowing it to be sold?

**Response**

Councillor Bialyk Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport, responded that there were a wide range of tools available to support decision making and that the toolkit was not one used or had considered using.

Ms Beckett was invited to respond, stating that the finalised toolkit would be released in 2019 and that Exeter University were looking for Local Authorities to work with them. The Clifton Hill Green space had a high pollution level, which impacted on air quality and had been linked to health issues. Keeping the greenspace would make more sense, but she understood the impacts from austerity.