

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RESOURCES - 7 JANUARY 2016

PUBLIC QUESTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 19 FROM MR HAIGH (A representative for Mr Haigh asked the question)

- 1) How can the vast and increasingly sum of money proposed to be spent on the redevelopment of the bus station site be justified when the resulting new bus station will not meet the requirements of a rapidly expanding and successful city and with the swimming pool offering no improvement of facilities than already exists near the town centre, in particular in the provision of seating capacity required to hold events and competitions?
- 1) **ANSWER** - *The decision to deliver a new leisure complex on the bus station site has already been agreed by Executive at their meeting on the 2 October 2012. The leisure complex will deliver a variety of activities with the pool being but one element of the overall development. As regards seating capacity work is ongoing to resolve this issue.*
- 2) With changes to the highways planned in the area concerned, and both schemes having the very real potential to cause further congestion and safety issues in that part of town, would it not be the prudent thing to site the pool outside the town centre and to devote much more priority and space to create a bus station and associated facilities that the city deserves?'
- 2) **ANSWER** - *These matters are issues for consideration in determination of the current planning application for redevelopment of the site and will be addressed in the officers report to committee (the Extraordinary Council) on 20th January. The report will be available to the public from 13th January 2016.*

Members of the Scrutiny Committee - Resources were invited to debate the matter.

A Member referred to Question 1, and the seating capacity of the leisure complex. The Chair was able to respond and advised that the Design Team for the project were currently reevaluating the seating capacity.

Mr Haigh's representative was present and had the opportunity to respond for a maximum of two minutes. He thanked the Member for the response. Although there had been a reference in the report of discussions as early as October 2012, he felt that there had not been sufficient notice of this, and that consultation on this matter had only taken place in early December. He confirmed that the Exeter Swimming Club had raised concerns over the level of seating particularly in relation to competitions.