

PUBLIC QUESTION RECEIVED for Place Scrutiny Committee – 8 November 2018 from Mr Alexander Keen

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

Question

Given that the council is planning to hold a public consultation in 2019 concerning the development of Physical Activity and Built Facilities strategies, and given factual inaccuracies and omissions in the report presented to the Executive on 12 June and Extraordinary council meeting on 13 June, the decision to close the Clifton Hill Sports Centre and sell the entire site without any consultation feels particularly inappropriate and undemocratic.

Would you clarify, please, whether it is legally possible for the council to reverse the decision to close the Clifton Hill Sports Centre and sell the whole site, including the Clifton Hill Green Space?

If you believe it is not possible to reverse the decision, please explain precisely why this is the case.

Response

Councillor Bialyk Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport, responded that he did not agree that the report had material factual inaccuracies and omissions, but apologised that a formal consultation had not been undertaken. However the general public were made aware of the problems at Clifton Hill Sports Centre and had been able to put their case forward prior to the Council decision.

A decision made by Full Council could be reconsidered following a recommendation to do so from a Committee, or the Executive, or by way of Notice of Motion in accordance with Standing Order No.6.

Mr Keen was invited to respond, informing that he was a local resident with a background in design. He considered that the Clifton Hill building was basic and that replacing the roof would provide a further 25 year to life to the building life expectancy. There had been no structural survey undertaken, and highlighted that he unsure where the view that building was unsafe had come from or that a vote to close had been held.