

## **Public Questions - Full Council 14 July 2021**

The following questions have been received from Colin Pearce Resident of Tetbury

### **Question 1**

Concerning loss of Tetbury Leisure Centre

Now CDC have admitted their failure to control financial conditions of grant application for Tetbury Leisure Centre throughout the 4.5 years contract.

When will CDC dig deep and provide Tetbury with a new Leisure Centre with swimming pool as they have done with Bourton on the water/ Chipping Camden / Cirencester.

### **Response from Cllr Joe Harris.**

Cotswold District Council will not be providing new leisure centres

Future leisure provision is covered at section five of the report relating to agenda item 8 which will be considered later this evening. It refers to the leisure strategy adopted by Cabinet in March 2021 which contains recommendations for key service and facility interventions and Cabinet will consider action plans for these recommended interventions later in the autumn.

### **Question 2**

Will CDC do a full financial investigation how £330.00 grant money and estimated £100,000 subscription were lost in just 4.5years which is on average £90k loss per years.

SWR Leisure Ltd accounts show pension assets

2016 £3k raising to £79k in 2018 WHY

Service agreement average £15k per year one would suggest this was paid to the school but yet the school never seem to pay for the use of the facility.

Will there be any accountability for this loss, as CDC district councillor Stephen Hirst was also a director of SWR Leisure Ltd who should of clearly understood and followed the grant agreement.

### **Response from Cllr Joe Harris.**

Thank you for your question.

The task and finish group established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee found no reason for any further investigation of the grant monies paid. The grant was paid to Sir William Romney Leisure Ltd and was then wholly used by them in meeting the costs for the delivery of a service to the community.

The liquidator's report dated 7 December 2020 and held publicly on Companies House website contains the outcome of the investigation into the company's affairs and states that

“there aren’t any matters that justify further investigation”. This provides an independent, expert’s view of Sir William Romney Leisure Ltd and its financial position.

Staff previously employed by Cotswold District Council remained as members of the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Gloucestershire County Council, with Sir William Romney Leisure Ltd becoming responsible for the employer contribution. The contributions payable by Sir William Romney Leisure Ltd across the period of the grant agreement were set on a triennial basis and as determined by an independent actuary appointed via Gloucestershire County Council Pension Fund. The Local Government Pension Scheme is a funded, defined benefit scheme based on a full actuarial valuation. The asset reported reflected the present value of the defined benefit pension obligation at the balance sheet date, less the fair value of Sir William Romney Leisure Ltd’s share of the plans assets at the balance sheet date, out of which any obligations are to be settled.

The liquidator’s report dated 7 December 2020 refers to a £15,000 pension surplus, which the liquidator will report upon in their next report.

Specific to your final point, the evidence provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee did not indicate anything other than grant payment being made for a service provided