



COUNCIL – 9TH OCTOBER 2018

SUBJECT: ANSWER TO QUESTION RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

1. LEISURE PROVISION

To the Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement from Councillor Kevin Etheridge.

- (1) To ask the Cabinet Member for Education to confirm if Leisure Officers have had any discussions with Governors over providing services from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre to Islwyn High School in the last 12 months and prior to the consultation over the Leisure and Sports strategy which ended on 21st September 2018.
- (2) To ask the Cabinet Member for Education to define the content of any discussions with the governors and any provisional agreements on funding of current services from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre to Islwyn High School, and if any discussion and votes have been taken by governors in this respect, and if a "memorandum of understanding " between Council and the School has been discussed and the results of these discussions.

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR PHILIPPA MARSDEN, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND ACHIEVEMENT

LEISURE PROVISION		
1.	To ask the Cabinet Member for Education to confirm if Leisure Officers have had any discussions with Governors over providing services from Pont Leisure Centre to Islwyn High School in the last 12 months and prior to the consultation over the Leisure and Sports strategy which ended on 21/9/18.	Yes.
2.	To ask the Cabinet Member for Education to define the content of any discussions with the governors and any provisional agreements on funding of current services from Pont Leisure Centre to Islwyn High School, and if any discussion and votes have been taken by governors in this respect, and if a "memorandum of understanding " between Council and the School has been discussed and the results of these discussions.	The potential for the transfer of club bookings from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre to Islwyn High has been discussed. Officers offered to make a member of staff available on a temporary basis to assist in any transition. I am not aware of any votes being taken in relation to this. The school facilities are intended for school and community use and during the discussion the need for clarity over who was responsible for what, perhaps through a memorandum of understanding,

		<p>was raised. The content of the discussion has focussed on two aspects of relocating users from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre – the Sports Hall and 3G pitch. The Governing body of Islwyn High has confirmed in writing that it is content for the school's sports facilities to be made available for community use. These facilities, combined with the new 3G pitch being developed at Blackwood Comprehensive School represent higher quality provision than that currently available at Pontllanfraith in terms of sports hall and 3G facilities.</p>
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2. HIGHWAY MATTERS

To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure and Sustainability from Councillor Kevin Etheridge.

To ask the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member to confirm in regard the Sirhowy Bridge Blackwood :

1. Confirm it is a Private Finance Contract and the term left on the contract
2. Confirm all cost of repairs will fall to the private sector
3. Details of the penalty clauses and confirmation no cost will fall to the ratepayers of the County Borough, and the details of the cost so far incurred
4. The works are on track to be completed and the bridge opened end of October.

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR SEAN MORGAN, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

<u>HIGHWAYS MATTERS</u>		
1.	To ask the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member to confirm in regard the Sirhowy Bridge Blackwood.	I would like to confirm that the answers to the questions raised by the member are generally already available to the local members via the fortnightly updates that they receive from SEW Ltd or in information previously supplied.
2.	Confirm it is a Private Finance Contract and the term left on the contract.	Yes it is a PFI scheme and it ends January 2034.
3.	Confirm all cost of repairs will fall to the private sector.	To date all costs have been incurred by the private sector and there are no indications that any costs will be attributable to CCBC.
4.	Details of the penalty clauses and confirmation no cost will fall to the ratepayers of the County Borough, and the details of the cost so far incurred.	The penalty clauses you refer to are lane availability charges, these are hourly lane availability charges incurred by the contractor if the road is unavailable. There are varying charge amounts depending on each day and

		<p>time of day the road is closed. Therefore, the monthly charges do differ each month. As a guide the lane availability charges are approximately £50k per month and to date none of these costs have been payable by the ratepayer.</p>
5.	<p>The works are on track to be completed and the bridge opened end of October.</p>	<p>Latest information posted on our website from the contractor is that works will be completed by the end of October. If the completion date changes all parties involved will be notified through the appropriate channels.</p>