

## **Councillors Written Questions and the Responses**

### **Full Council – 13 December 2023**

**From Councillor Chris Mullins (Cabinet Member for Leisure and Wellbeing)  
from Cllr Hazel Hellier to**

*In November the Government launched its Swimming Pool Support Fund across England. This is intended to support swimming and leisure facilities across the country, to help people stay fit and healthy, and contributing to the Government's aim to cut obesity rates and increase rates of physical activity.*

*I welcome that K2 Crawley will benefit from a grant of £290,444 which is a considerable amount of funding to support the health and wellbeing of Crawley residents of all ages.*

*How does the council intend to use this grant to best support swimming at K2 Crawley? Please include an expected timetable for the spending of this grant in the response.*

#### **Response**

- K2 Crawley received funding from Phase I of the Swimming Pool Support Fund from Sport England. The purpose of this grant is to enable pool operators to continue to provide the same level of provision going forward in spite of the considerable increases in utilities and chemical costs. Phase I is a revenue grant with eligible expenditure classified as expenditure relating to energy or chemical use for the facilities between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. The grant funding agreement is very specific in stating that the revenue grant cannot be used for any purpose other than funding eligible expenditure. Applications had to be placed by local authorities on behalf of any public swimming pool providers within their area. Facility operators are named in the grant funding agreement as the subsidy recipients. As K2 Crawley is operated by Everyone Active this money therefore was transferred to them as per the agreement with Sport England. Utility costs at K2 Crawley have increased from £700,497 in 2021/22 to a forecasted £1,056,374 in 2023/24, an increase of 51%. Chemical costs related to the pool have increased 58% over the same period from £12,500 to £19,700.
- CBC have applied for Phase II funding which is for capital projects linked to energy efficiencies for swimming pool facilities. If successful this money will be used by CBC directly to fund any agreed projects by Sport England. It is anticipated that successful recipients for Phase II will be notified by the end of 2023.

**Question to Councillor Nawaz (Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development) from Councillor Crow**

*From the Question Time agenda item of minutes of the 19 July 2023 Full Council meeting, I have reproduced below my follow-on verbal question to my written question on the ongoing Queen's Square water jets shambles, and the subsequent answer.*

*Councillor Crow to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development Supplementary question to written question – Thank you for the response to the question. It would appear we had two summers in which they were working; 2018 and 2019 but unfortunately as the answer mentions due to works completion they won't be working until late September, and this will be four summers where the town has not had the fountains. I accept there was Covid in 2020 and 2021 but it is disappointing they will not be working this summer, but it would be beneficial if the Cabinet Member could express an apology for the failure for the delay and please could we understand the reasons for the delay and where the liability rests?*

*Councillor Nawaz, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development: There has been a technical fault which has occurred which has unfortunately caused the delay. We are working to resolve the issue and the fountains should be back on this September, although hopefully sooner. We are looking at options with regards to liability after the works are complete.*

*Qu1. September has long passed which happened to be the hottest month of 2023 and the hottest ever recorded September in the UK. It is now December and the water jets are still not operational. Please provide an accurate update as to when the repairs will be completed and when Queen's Square's water jets will be in use once again?*

*Qu2. Is there any risk that due to the sheer number of years that the water jets have not been operational, that other as yet unknown or unforeseen faults could have developed due to the lack of use, that could cause even further delay?*

**Response**

**Ans 1** Please refer to the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023's [Councillors' Information Bulletin](#) for the update on the fountains.

**Ans 2** No, we don't foresee any difficulties with lack of use that won't have been addressed by the current works.