

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 1**

Els de Mets to ask the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport:

**CIL funding report**

Please can the Council advise us of the planned publication date of its report on CIL funding and advise whether the report will be forward as well as backward looking?

**REPLY** by Councillor Page (Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport):

I thank Ms de Mets for her question.

As of 2020, the Council is required to publish an Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). The IFS reports on the collection, allocation and spend of contributions towards infrastructure from both the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 agreements over the previous financial year, in this case 2019-20. This is required by amended CIL Regulations that came into force in 2019.

The Council will publish its IFS on our website before the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. No specific date has been identified as yet, as the process of collation of information is still underway, but it is expected to be during December.

The IFS will cover the spend of both the 'strategic' CIL, meaning the 80% which is used to fund infrastructure provision across Reading, and the 'neighbourhood' CIL, which is the 15% of CIL which should be used for infrastructure in the local area in which development takes place.

The IFS will be forward looking in the sense that the CIL Regulations require it to identify priorities for future spend of both CIL and Section 106. These priorities will need to be tied to the Council's existing policies and priorities in its Local Plan adopted formally in November 2019.

COUNCILLOR QUESTION NO. 1

Councillor White to ask the Lead Councillor for Health, Wellbeing & Sport:

Reading Sports and Leisure memberships

A number of my constituents have contacted me about the reduced Reading Sports and Leisure hours and classes at the moment. Can the Lead Councillor confirm how many people have cancelled their Reading Sports and Leisure memberships since membership charging started again?

REPLY by Councillor Brock (Leader of the Council) on behalf of Cllr Hoskin (Lead Councillor for Health, Wellbeing & Sport):

345 people have cancelled their RSL membership since charging restarted.

As I answer this question we are still digesting the announcement of a new national lockdown starting on Thursday 5 November which is going to close our indoor sports facilities once again.

The Reading Sport & Leisure (RSL) sites, comprising of Meadway Sports Centres, South Reading Leisure Centre and Palmer Park Sports Stadium closed on 16th March, a few days ahead of the government's instruction to close all indoor gyms and sports facilities nationally in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The impact of the Covid pandemic has had a grave impact on the financial state of leisure centres across the country. UK Active tells us that a third of leisure centres in Britain have still not reopened following the 1<sup>st</sup> national lockdown. Here in Reading we've shown our strong commitment to our sport and leisure services by ensuring all our centres have reopened.

Following government guidance issued at the end of July, the Council began a limited and phased reopening of its centres on 3rd August. Since then, RSL centres have opened in a progressive fashion, paying particular attention to controlling the risk of infection transmission to both customers and staff. Some of the control measures adopted include reduced opening hours and limiting the activity programme on offer. This varies from centre to centre.

Currently all three RSL sites are open and all have gym facilities available. Meadway and South Reading have swimming sessions available, and children's swimming lessons have recommenced at Meadway. There is club activity at Palmer Park and South Reading, and both have reopened their artificial sports pitches.

Group exercise classes are available at all sites. Whilst this is still reduced compared to the pre-Covid programme, classes have increased from 14 classes per week at the beginning of August to 56 per week currently. A further 10 classes are planned to recommence next week. Centre opening hours have increased in line with the activity programme.