

## **Full Council 17 July 2018**

### **Questions on Farnham Park Playing Fields Strategy Item 8.2 – Questions asked by Councillor Dhillon**

Cllr Dhillon asked the purpose of the £50,000 budget, which is being funded from the General Reserve and asked what it was being used for and what options were being looked at in respect of the Playing Fields?

Cllr Dhillon asked when a full report on the Farnham Park Playing Fields Strategy would be brought to Members, whether there would be any residential development and whether any sports facilities would be taken away?

### **Written responses provided by Councillor Gibbs (Cabinet Member for Resources) after the meeting**

The Farnham Park Playing Fields are an important open space leisure asset for the District and identified as such in the Draft Playing Fields and Open Spaces Strategy currently under consultation. The facilities on the site are at the end of their useful life, and the asset is underutilised. As a result, it costs over £100k per annum to operate.

The Council report informed members that the South Buckinghamshire Panel has considered options for the site. As the report to Council made clear, the Panel's view is this is an important amenity for South Bucks and consequently a number of options are being considered. This work clearly identified that "doing nothing" is not a viable option. Redevelopment of the leisure facilities to make them more viable and increase usage would require material investment. It is therefore proposed to engage planning consultants to explore the feasibility of limited residential development at the periphery of the site to generate funds for re-investment in the leisure facilities.

When the feasibility work has been concluded, a report will be brought to Members following discussions by the South Buckinghamshire Panel. This is expected to be early in 2019.

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