

Question Number	Question asked by:	Subject
MAYOR JASON PERRY		
CQ008-22	Louis Carserides	CIL Money

CQ008-22 asked by Councillor Louis Carserides for Mayor Jason Perry:

At Cabinet you stated the refurbishment of Purley pool will be funded through CIL monies. CIL money was also earmarked for the new South Norwood library. Does the Mayor intend to re-allocate the CIL money promised to South Norwood library to Purley pool, or is the CIL money promised to Purley pool separate to that already earmarked for South Norwood library?

Reply

At Cabinet on 22nd June I was clear that the reopening of Purley Pool would be funded through unallocated CIL funds. This has previously been approved by the Section 151 Officer as part of the Conservative Group amendment to the 2022/23 Budget which stated “These costs will be met using unallocated CIL monies from existing receipts and those forecast within the period of the MTFS”. Given you and your colleagues voted against this amendment I would have thought you’d be aware of the detail of the proposal. Suggesting the reopening of Purley Pool would come at the expense of South Norwood library has absolutely no basis in fact.

As I wrote to you recently, I remain committed to protecting a library provision in South Norwood, and to be clear, the £500,000 allocated will continue to be protected for investment in South Norwood library. The situation has been made more complicated however by the previous administration’s failure to properly manage their failed housing company, Brick by Brick. BxB have not built the new library space to the required specification and as a result of these deficiencies the £500,000 cost to fit-out the Pump House and make it accessible for residents has more than doubled to over £1m. In light of this, I have instructed council officers to report back to me on options to modernise the existing building.

I was pleased to meet and discuss this with the Friends of South Norwood Library, who also confirmed the desire of the local community for the service to remain in the current ‘brutalist’ building. Unlike the previous administration I am listening to the residents of South Norwood and officers will continue to keep them updated as this work progresses.