

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

23 February 2021

Item 6 – Public Participation

From Caroline Thomas

**To Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling, Cabinet Member for ICT, Digitalisation,
Operational Assets, Leisure and Libraries**

Question (P21-11)

Across the UK and in Wiltshire the Coronavirus Pandemic has highlighted health inequalities and the importance of physical activity. What are Wiltshire's plans to help our residents be more active?

Response

I absolutely agree physical activity is a key part of our work to build stronger communities in Wiltshire. Shockingly over 60% of adults in Wiltshire are either overweight or obese. By providing the right services we can help our residents live active lives supporting them to be a healthy weight. That is why we continue to invest in our leisure facilities; Calne, Cricklade and Clarendon Sports Centre in Trowbridge were all refurbished in 2020. We can't wait to be able to open them when the government permits. Melksham Campus construction is underway and will offer state of the art new facilities. We are also bringing our 10 outsourced leisure sites in house from October 2021 giving us more flexibility in how we focus on reaching the most in need of our support to be active.

To ensure we know which of our services are having the greater impact on getting our residents physically active we will be undertaking an impact review of all our leisure and physical activity services. We hope the findings from this will enable us to target our resources and activities to have the biggest impact. I look forward to sharing with you our findings and our plans.