

**ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
09 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 10.00 A.M.**

**CALL IN OF DECISION MADE BY CABINET 17 JANUARY 2024:**

**SPORTS VILLAGE TRANSFORMATION**

**Called in on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group on Shropshire Council by  
the Group Leader**

We wish to call in this decision of the cabinet which was made last Wednesday.

The Cabinet decision made on 17<sup>th</sup> January is flawed due to the reason set out below because the agreed consultation is only about the decision to build a new pool at the Sundorne Sports Village (SSV) and not about the closure of the Quarry Pool and there is a third option which is not even considered.

Let us compare paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the adopted recommendations in the report presented to Cabinet as follows:

*3.1 Confirm that the previous decision made in December 2020 to develop a dual split site proposal, with new pools being developed at both the Quarry and SSV, is currently unaffordable and development of SSV needs to be prioritised, with a full assessment being undertaken in due course on the future options for the Quarry site.*

*3.2. Authorise an 8-week public consultation on the development proposals for SSV, including a competition standard pool and studio pool and improvements to the fitness centre.*

In 3.1 there is a clear reversal of the policy agreed in December 2020 to develop a pool at SSV followed by redevelopment of the Quarry which is now described as unaffordable. The decision here is to go ahead with the development of a SSV Pool on its own and the abandonment of the intention to redevelop the Quarry Pool.

However in 3.2 the public consultation will only be about “development proposals for SSV”. Surely the consultation should be about whether the public want a new pool at Sundorne or the Quarry since there is only funding for one Pool. For this reason alone this decision should be called in so that a proper consultation can be agreed about both options.

The report also fails to acknowledge that in previous consultations there has been overwhelming support for the retention of a pool at The Quarry – close to 70% of respondents favoured this option. Past public support for the Quarry that has been clear in previous consultations should be made clear to members of the Cabinet, especially recently elected councillors from outside Shrewsbury, who may not be aware of the strong support that the Quarry received in the past. This is a second reason for the call-in.

A third reason for a call-in is an option that was not even considered in the report to Cabinet. At the core of the Smithfield development in the Town Centre will be a leisure offer and some have suggested that a swimming pool and sports complex on this site would draw people into town and also be attractive for those who would like to live in town.