

**QUESTION BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC
UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12**

Council Meeting: Wednesday, 26 November 2025

Question from: Gavin Butler

**Question to: Councillor Dacre, Cabinet Member with
responsibility for Resources**

QUESTION

In the 2024 budget consultation, Question 3.2 offered three options for The Shay—transfer to a club(s), a community-owned company, or open-market disposal—but excluded the option of the Council retaining the stadium. Respondents could only choose “Support / Do not support”, meaning those opposing open-market sale but supporting a community model were still counted as supporting disposal. FOI responses show only four individuals explicitly supported open-market sale, with Cabinet unable to clarify overall support. Does the Council accept that the consultation prevented clear expression, excluded retention, failed the Gunning principles, and will it withdraw its claim of public support?

Response

The Council does not accept the consultation prevented clear expression. As you state, the consultation provided for respondents to oppose any of the options for disposal by choosing “do not support”. The consultation also allowed for respondents to oppose any disposal, or specific types of disposal, in the free text box. As previously stated to you, we are satisfied the consultation did meet the Gunning principles.

Cabinet considered a proposal for lease to a group of supporters under the auspices of ‘The Shay Stadium Trust’, of which you were a part. This was rejected at its meeting of 17th March in favour of an option to sell the Shay to Mr Davy/Huddersfield Giants. Both options were considered on their merits.