

Cabinet Meeting: **Monday, 12 January 2026**

Question from: **Gavin Butler**

Question to: **Councillor Durrans, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities**

QUESTION

FOI response 53680 confirms that the Council holds no internal legal advice, risk assessments, officer briefings, guidance, or analysis demonstrating that the 2024 budget consultation on disposal of The Shay complied with the Gunning principles. It also confirms that consultees were not offered the option of retaining the stadium, and that opposition to open-market sale but support for community or club models was recorded as support for "disposal".

On what documented basis did Cabinet conclude that the consultation was genuinely formative, sufficiently informative, and demonstrated public support for disposal, and will it now correct or withdraw any public statements claiming such support if no such evidence exists?

Response

The Council undertook a comprehensive consultation as part of its financial planning and budget-setting process. This included an online survey, Facebook Live Question & Answer, attendance at ward forums, youth council, and parish council liaison meetings, aiming to reach all stakeholder groups, especially local taxpayers and service users. The survey sought views on the principle of the proposed saving, not on the specific method of disposal, and provided opportunities for free-text comments on each Directorate section.

The consultation was conducted at a formative stage, with sufficient information provided to enable intelligent consideration, and adequate time for responses. All feedback was conscientiously considered, including both quantitative and qualitative data, in line with the Gunning Principles.