

**Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 17 March 2025**

**Question from: Christopher Wilde**

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

### **QUESTION**

In the interests of open government and public consultation are you going to arrange for a public meeting to be held to obtain views on the future ownership and management of the Shay Estate before a decision is made on it? This is in light of Kate Dearden's statement that 'I would expect the process to place fans front and centre, and to consult closely with both sets of supporters to ensure their voices are heard in shaping the future of the Shay

### **Response**

The decision to dispose of the Shay was agreed by Council at its budget meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to realise a budgeted saving of £161,000, although the actual costs of running the Shay are considerably more and are typically between £350,000 to £500,000 to meet the running costs and essential health and safety works required to keep the stadium safe to staff and spectators. Budget proposals are subject to an extensive consultation exercise prior to their agreement and implementation and the proposal to dispose of the Shay was subject to such a consultation process last January. 1,510 people responded to an online consultation process. Of these 55% (837) supported the disposal of the Shay, 34% (513) opposed the disposal and 11% (160) declined to vote, indicating overall support for the proposal and the decision that was ultimately taken.

Although the Shay stadium is important to the spectators the cost of operating the stadium is significant and as such the saving of up to half a million pounds a year is an interest to the 206,000 people that live in the borough as well as the three to four thousand of those who regularly watch professional sport at the stadium.

Two proposals for the Shay will be considered later in the agenda and there are no plans to carry out any further consultation on preferred options as these must take account of the impossible financial position that Calderdale and so many Councils find themselves in and as such it is not simply the choice of spectators, which may also vary. Whilst there are no plans for further consultation, I can confirm that we will communicate to residents and spectators on any developments at the stadium leading up to any transfer that takes place.