

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 46e

Subject: King Alfred Leisure Centre

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Proposer: Cllr Alistair McNair

Seconder: Cllr Anne Meadows

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Conservative Group

This Council notes:

- 1) Residents are worried about the financial viability of the plans at a time when the council is struggling financially;
- 2) The phase three consultation process in 2024 attracted only around 3600 responses¹;
- 3) The proposed facility is smaller than the existing one (e.g. 25m pool, modest 6-court hall), despite claims of a “world-class” centre² while costs have inflated from £47m (2024) to £65m (2025 RIBA 2);
- 4) The residential build is intrinsically related to the build of the leisure centre, and that they should be considered together;
- 5) There is no clear contingency for construction inflation, climate adaptation, or operator underperformance;
- 6) The King Alfred is already popular, and that popularity will be hard to increase given the small-scale nature of the upgrade;
- 7) The predictions of visitor numbers are highly speculative, and the cost will be much higher than the council is forecasting. This is potentially another i360.
- 8) The council is very unlikely to ensure that 40% of the housing stock is affordable.

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Request that Cabinet reconsider:
 - a) A pausing of the approval by cabinet of £2.3m in resources until the plans for housing have been set out;
 - b) And a pausing of approval until the whole of the site is provisionally costed so taxpayers are not left counting the cost.

¹ [Engagement and consultation for King Alfred development](#)

² [Exciting new plans unveiled for King Alfred Leisure Centre](#)

