

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 11TH OCTOBER 2018

**Question to Philip Atkins OBE
Leader of the Council**

By Kyle Robinson

Question

On 26 September 2018, the County Council's Property Sub-Committee met to consider whether to support a financial contribution to Kidsgrove Sports Centre re-opening. I've long argued for the County Council to make a financial contribution so that residents in Kidsgrove have a decent leisure facility that meets local needs. As a matter of public interest can the Leader of the Council inform me precisely why the decision to make a one-off financial contribution to Kidsgrove Sports Centre was deferred and could he also indicate exactly when this decision has been deferred to?

Reply

The County Council has no direct responsibility for the provision of leisure services. Kidsgrove Sports Centre is no longer required for use by the adjacent school since its rebuilding in 2016.

Given this and the fact that it is an old and expensive building presumably it was too expensive for Newcastle Borough Council to continue, therefore they closed the operation in 2017.

The County Council has recently been asked to transfer the centre. That request was presented to the Property Sub-Committee but more information was required in relation to the Council's obligations for the property, the current costs and potential value of the property in order to make a fully informed decision before making the significant contribution asked for.

The next Property Sub-Committee meeting is scheduled for the 7th November.