

Response to supplementary question for Agenda Item 18 Urgent Key Decisions Since July 2025, extract from the minutes below:

Councillor Fouweather asked whether it had been known in 2023 that the ice rink chillers would not be repairable if they failed and whether an independent report on the chillers had been carried out. Councillor Brown responded that she would provide a written answer but stated that it was an urgent decision and was necessary to ensure the ice rink was functioning. She said she was satisfied it met the criteria for both a key decision and an urgent decision.

Response from Councillor Susan Brown, Leader and Cabinet Member for Partnership Working

The surveys undertaken in 2023 were dilapidations surveys, they assess only works required that are the Tenants responsibility under the lease, not those of the Landlord. The chillers were the responsibility of the Landlord in the previous lease and so were not included. An earlier condition survey had suggested they may fail by 2030 but this is not a precise measure and they have failed ahead of this. The ice rink was then running on temporary kit. The chillers were assessed by Serco and the Council for the opportunity to repair but due to the age and the likelihood of further failure once repaired it was deemed more cost effective to replace and ensure the continuity of the facility.

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