1. Question from Councillor Colin Barrett

Recent newspaper reports have suggested that a group of 12 swimmers supported by the Bath Association for Disabled People, stayed in the pool for only 10 minutes during their Thursday afternoon session. This was due to the low temperature of the water. Problems still remain with the Thursday morning session which I have personally experienced.

Does the Executive Member find this situation acceptable given that I raised the issue to her at the October 1st Council Executive?

Although I acknowledge that some sort of Customer Panel will be running next year, what do Aquaterra and the Executive Member intend to do in the short-term to alleviate this problem?

Answer to be given by Executive Councillor Nicole O'Flaherty

The guidelines set by the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG), who advise on Health and Safety, state that public pools with a range of users should not operate above 30 degrees. Aquaterra are required to work within these guidelines, and this is supported by Council officers. Outside of the Remedial sessions on a Thursday, Aquaterra are committed to operating the main pool at 28.5 degrees. Aquaterra are carrying out regular pool temperature monitoring and are displaying the current pool temperatures at the entrance to Bath Sports & Leisure Centre.

To ensure the accuracy of the figures, the Council will be carrying out its own monitoring of the temperature of the main pool. This will be done by Council staff over the coming few weeks.

Aquaterra also plan to install an electronic board, which will show the pool temperature, in the foyer area once the current building modifications have been completed. A letter to users has been produced which explains why temperature changes have been made and this is available at the reception desk.

The user panel is planned to be in place for February and proposals for the membership of this group will be put to the Partnership Board's meeting later this month. Once agreed, a process of recruitment will take place.   In the meantime, options for providing a warmer water environment, for those that need it for medical reasons, are being investigated, along with sources of appropriate funding.

Councillor Barrett asked a supplementary question regarding representation on the user panel.

Councillor O'Flaherty responded that it was up to the users to select representatives for membership of the Panel, and therefore up to them to make sure any requests are flagged up.

2. <u>Question from Councillor Roger Symonds</u>

It appears that the Charter Trustees of Bath are unable to award the Freedom of the City of Bath to Bath's England rugby players. Other authorities have done so, but Bath has a particular problem because it does not have a City Council.

As the successor council to the old Bath City District Council, which was able to award the freedom, will Bath and North East Somerset Council take this opportunity to mark the fantastic achievement of Bath Rugby's players in being part of England's World Cup winning team, by making the players and England forwards coach, freemen of the city?

<u>Answer to be given by Executive Councillor Paul Crossley</u>

The Charter trustee regulations 1996,under which the Charter Trustees of Bath came into being, gave them the right to exercise "any powers to appoint local officers of dignity exercisable" by the former City Council.
I have asked the Solicitor to the Council to research whether, as appears likely, the reference to "officers of dignity" includes the power to confer on individuals the title and privileges of honorary freemen. I can confirm that this power does lie with the Charter Trustees.

Councillor Symonds asked a supplementary question asking that the Leader liaise with the Charter Trustees to make sure the request proceeds.

Councillor Crossley responded that the Charter Trustees are within their rights to make the decision – it is within their power so it is a matter for them.