

# A long-term debt

MRS JO JONES (March 22) asks where the £26million or so is going to come from to pay for the proposed 'Life Centre'. It's my understanding that Mr Tudor Evans and his Cabinet intend to finance the project by means of Private Finance Initiative (PFI): a bit like taking out a mortgage, only a great deal more expensive, as some schools and hospitals in other parts of the country have found to their cost.

Over the 20 or perhaps 30-year life of this 'white elephant' our grandchildren will probably be looking at a total debt in the region of £80million, not counting the maintenance costs (usually hushed up by the signatories of the deal) which will have to be met by the council tax payers. I don't know about you, but I'd be quite happy if they could keep the streets clean.

Unfortunately for us, I don't think there's a single politician in this city who looks beyond the here and now and how he/she can score points over the opposing parties.

**NORMAN MUIR**  
**Plymouth**

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