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Date: 24.03.2023

Dear Councillor Clowes,

Re. Bexton Court and Mountview

Further to your budget queries raised at Committee and our meeting of 2nd February 2023, I have set out below the issues and considerations respect of the budget considerations for The Stanley Centre and Warwick Mews.

As requested, we have reviewed the Council decision made in February 2020, which added two proposals to the Capital Programme Addendum, for the consideration of extra care housing for Bexton Court and Mountview for individuals with learning disabilities, and which would incorporate replacement day care facilities for Carter House and the Stanley Centre, respectively.

In respect of the Capital Programme Addendum, it in its entirety, was removed last year. This was a delegated decision taken by the Section 151 Officer. The capital programme without the addendum lines was approved by Council in February 2022.

Separately, we have reviewed the substance of the business cases in context of the current service requirements.

Bexton Court

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic all proposed projects were suspended. During this period, the Stanley Centre and other building-based Care4CE day services were closed and at the time it was uncertain when and whether they would reopen. As a consequence of our learning during the pandemic we undertook a full review of day services. During this process people with learning disabilities and carers told us that they would like to see a wider day service offer in the community and to reduce their reliance on building-based facilities. This was incorporated into our Day Opportunities Strategy, which set out the aim to move away from building-based provision. The strategy was agreed by Committee in November 2021.

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Mountview

In late 2019 we sought to develop an extra care facility for individuals with a learning disability. Unfortunately, CQC advised that they would not register such a development. An alternative proposal was developed for the provision of supported living at Mountview, which was put out to tender using the housing development framework, with the aim of securing a development partner. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful.

Subsequent to our conversation on 2nd February I can confirm that Housing will be leading a full procurement exercise for re-provision on the site, with a full demolition and re-build. Colleagues are currently seeking advice as to whether this will require a further Committee decision.

The current savings proposals in respect of both the Stanley Centre and Warwick Mews, reflect the immediate and urgent need to identify savings that can be delivered in 2023/24. In addition, they also reflect the agreed strategic priority set out in the Day Opportunities Strategy.

Finally, I do wish to reassure, everyone currently using services at The Stanley Centre and Warwick Mews that there will be full specific consultation on the proposals with individuals and their carers, and that individuals' needs will continue to be met, whatever the outcome of that further consultation. We have now written to the people who use services, or their carers where appropriate, staff, and Ward Councillors, and we have begun preliminary briefings. The final decision on the outcome of the consultations will come to the first committee of the new administration.

I hope that this provides the information that you require. Should you need any additional information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Charlesworth-May
Executive Director Adults, Health and Integration

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