

CARE SERVICES PDS COMMITTEE
17th November 2015

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) From Mr Bill Miller

Manorfields, Avalon Road

Can the Committee please confirm their intentions for publicising/ rescrutinising the business case for the use of Manorfields as a hostel for the homeless in the light of the revision of the number of intended occupants, revised refurbishment plan, and current levels of a) housing benefit and b) comparable accommodation available elsewhere?

Reply:

The business case remains current as there have not been any material revisions which affect this business case in terms of the need for accommodation and projected savings against alternative provision available. Once completed Manorfields will be subject to a post capital works completion report, as we have a report about Bellegrove, which assesses its performance against the business case.

Supplementary Question:

Mr Miller stated that he believed that the business case should be scrutinised, and that if it was not and residents subsequently found any issues then scrutiny would be found to have failed.

Reply:

The Chairman responded that all Members were aware of the comments of some residents on the scheme and that the Committee would not be calling the business case, which had already been scrutinised, back in to Committee.

2. From Bill Miller

Hostel management services

Can the committee please confirm its plans to openly retender the hostel management arrangements when the existing contract is due for renewal in May 2016? Adverse comments reported by Scottish Refugee Council in 2014 and negative comments from Bellegrove residents suggest that all options should be explored, not just an automatic renewal.

Reply:

Contracts are not automatically renewed. The Council is currently considering its options in relation to the temporary accommodation procurement and management contract. This gateway review setting out the options and recommendations will be presented in the New Year as it would be for any other contract let by the Council.

Supplementary Question:

Mr Miller stated that he assumed that there would be transparency in awarding any future contract.

Reply:

The Chairman advised Mr Miller to look at the gateway review reports on the Committee's agendas – these showed that officers looked at all options in detail before tenders were sought. However, it was necessary that certain financial information remained confidential to avoid prejudicing the companies concerned.