

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

14 SEPTEMBER 2017

Report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care

**CONSULTATION ON THE CLOSURE OF HAZELWOOD CARE HOME,
COTMANHAY**

ADULT CARE

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek approval for

- the commencement of consultation on the possible closure of Hazelwood care home, Cotmanhay.
- only essential maintenance and refurbishment work to be carried out pending the outcome of this consultation.
- Cabinet to receive a further report on the outcome of this consultation along with an Equality Impact Assessment on the proposal.

2. Information and Analysis

Hazelwood is a 30 bed care home in Skeavingtons Lane, Cotmanhay. It was constructed in 1972 having four wings with 10 bedrooms on each of three of the wings. The fourth wing, which previously also had 10 bedrooms, was converted into a rehabilitation day unit in 2005 for use by Derbyshire Community Health Services Foundation Trust (DCHSFT). This has since been vacated by DCHSFT and has remained empty ever since.

On 16 June 2015 Cabinet approved plans to consult on the closure of four homes for older people, plus a respite care facility, as part of a revised Strategy for Accommodation and Support for Older People. Following consultation the decision was made by Cabinet on 24 November 2015 to close these homes, namely Hillcrest, Kirk Hallam; The Glebe, Alfreton; The Willows, Ripley; Red House, Chesterfield and the respite facility at Ecclesfold Resource Centre, Chapel-en-le-Frith. It was further approved that an amount of capital funding (£4.2m) would be utilised, alongside the pre-existing

Planned Maintenance Programme (PMP), for the purpose of renovating and refurbishing the remaining 22 homes for older people.

Plans for this work to be undertaken have been devised by Adult Care in consultation with Property Services so that essential maintenance and refurbishment can take place at the same time thereby reducing disruption to residents to a minimum. To date work has been completed at Rowthorne, Swanwick and has been commenced at The Leys, Ashbourne. Priority in this programme of work has been given to those homes which are in most imminent need of repair and the next priority is Hazelwood, due to essential structural repairs being required to the roof. Whilst undertaking this work the current plan was to convert the day unit (Gold Wing) back in to en-suite bedrooms, to provide an additional five beds giving a total of 35 altogether.

The prospective work programme described above would involve one wing at a time being vacated with residents being moved to another part of the building in order that work can be undertaken safely. The roof trusses, however, require replacement which is an additional cost. Advice from Property Services structural engineer is that this work needs to be undertaken as soon as possible, with associated roof replacement, rewiring and re-plumbing of the heating system. Property Services have provided the following estimated costings for the work to be undertaken:

Planned maintenance works	Estimated cost £m	Funding source
Kitchen Ventilation	0.050	PMP 15/16
Pitched roof recover	0.480	PMP 16/17
Rewire associated with reroof	0.220	PMP 17/18
Renew heating pipes	0.150	PMP 17/18
SUB-TOTAL	0.900	
Improvement works		
Bathroom Improvements	0.074	Adult Care Capital
Toilet Refurbishment	0.074	Adult Care Capital
Sluice / Store Room Improvements	0.029	Adult Care Capital
Kitchen Refurbishment	0.120	Adult Care Capital
Gold Wing conversion	0.400	Adult Care Capital
Client contingency	0.028	Adult Care Capital
Fees	0.070	Adult Care Capital
SUB-TOTAL	0.795	
TOTAL	1.695	

The estimated timescale for the work to be undertaken is two years. This would mean that at least 10 of the beds at the home would need to remain

vacant during this time period which would lead to an additional cost. This is estimated to be £0.489m (10 beds at average weekly cost of £469.98 for 104 weeks).

The total cost of the works required and the loss of income has resulted in an alternative option being considered.

Proposal

It is proposed that the refurbishment and remedial work other than any urgent essential work required to keep the property safe is put on hold whilst consultation is undertaken on the possible closure of Hazelwood. The cost of the maintenance and refurbishment identified as being required, plus the loss of income during the time period of work being undertaken, is significant and does not represent the best use of resources if it were to be decided to close the home in due course. However the delay in carrying out these works should not be interpreted as meaning such a decision has already been made. No decision will be made as to whether the existing home will be closed until the consultation is complete and the views expressed during the consultation have been fully considered by Cabinet.

In the area local to Hazelwood there are the following other Council operated care homes, with respective distances to Hazelwood by car for information:

- Florence Shipley Community Care Centre, Heanor (32 beds) 3 miles
- Beechcroft, West Hallam (40 beds) 4.8 miles
- Ladycross, Sandiacre (40 beds) 5.8 miles
- Briar Close, Borrowash (40 beds) 8.6 miles
- Lacemaker Court, Long Eaton (16 beds plus extra care apartments) 8.2 miles

Consultation

There are currently 25 residents living at Hazelwood. In addition regular day care and respite care clients will also be involved in the consultation. Were a decision made to close the home any move would not take place until a comprehensive person centred assessment had been conducted in accordance with the Council's established procedure for closure of establishments set out in the "Major Change and Closure Guidance".

If it is agreed that consultation can commence this will last for 12 weeks beginning on 21 September 2017 and ending on 14 December 2017. Consultation will be publicised by a letter to all residents, their families and carers, and staff; a letter to local statutory agencies and GP practices; a media release; a leaflet for general distribution; and a webpage on the council website.

The consultation will take the following form:

1. Meetings will be held with clients and carers, who will also be able to request a separate individual interview
2. Clients and carers can submit their views in writing via email or letter
3. Clients and carers can telephone their views to the Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Team
4. Clients who do not have capacity and who do not have an advocate to speak on their behalf will spend time with a member of the Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Team who will record their views
5. Staff will be encouraged to submit their views through their manager
6. Local members of the community who have an interest in the proposed closure will have the opportunity to send in their views via letter, email or by telephone
7. Local statutory and voluntary sector agencies, as well as GP practices, will be invited to submit their views

Careful consideration will be given to gathering the views of all clients and carers and to ensure that they have every opportunity possible to make their views known. These will be summarised, alongside all the views of other interested parties, and will form the centrepiece of a further report on the outcome of the consultation. This together with an Equality Impact Assessment will be prepared to enable Cabinet to make a decision on the future of Hazelwood.

3. Financial Considerations

As previously stated maintenance works estimated to cost £0.900m would be carried out with costs met from the Planned Maintenance Programme budget, refurbishment works estimated to cost £0.795m would be met from the capital allocation set aside for this purpose. The additional cost of lost income estimated to be £0.489m per annum could be offset by reducing staffing costs during this time period; that is by not recruiting to all vacancies as they arise. Many of the posts at Hazelwood are essential however and this is thought to have limited potential beneficial impact. An additional cost will also be where residents live in other local care homes rather than Hazelwood during this time period when capacity is reduced.

4. Human Resources Considerations

If, as a result of the consultation on the proposed closure of Hazelwood, a decision is made by Cabinet to close these facilities, appropriate consultation with staff and trade union representatives would need to be undertaken, the details of which would be provided in a further Cabinet report.

5. Legal Considerations

Proposals to make changes in service provision such as those outlined in this report require consultation with those affected, including service users, staff, carers and any other interested parties. Any final decisions must also take into account the rights of service users as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998, specifically Article 8, “Right to respect for private and family life”. In assessing these proposals, the Council should also have regard to its statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 and equalities legislation.

6. Social Value Considerations

Hazelwood is a care home which accommodates some of the most vulnerable members of society. In addition the home is in an area of high deprivation with high rates of unemployment and associated increased levels of social disadvantage. The proposals in this report have the potential to have a significant impact on the local community and this will need to be fully considered as part of the proposed Equality Impact Assessment which will be presented to Cabinet along with the outcome of the proposed consultation.

7. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: Legal and Human Rights, equality of opportunity, health, environmental, transport, property and crime and disorder considerations.

8. Background Papers

Major Change and Closure Guidance

9. Is it required that the Call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report?

No

10. Officer's Recommendation

That Cabinet:

- 11.1 Approves the commencement of consultation on the possible closure of Hazelwood care home, Cotmanhay.
- 11.2 Approves a delay in essential maintenance and refurbishment work other than urgent work pending the outcome of this consultation.
- 11.3 Receives a further report on the outcome of this consultation along with an Equality Impact Assessment on the proposal.

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