



**QUESTIONS TO THE
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, CABINET MEMBERS
AND/OR
CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES**

Thursday 24 May 2018

**1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR DEWHIRST
Re: Haldon View Respite Unit estate**

The former Haldon View Respite Unit in Exeter is to be offered for sale after being declared surplus to requirements.

Can the Cabinet Member explain why it has taken 3 ½ years to offer this building up for sale after being closed?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

The Learning Disability respite unit operating from Haldon View was suspended in 2014, pending a review of the respite service across the County.

**2. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR DEWHIRST
Re: Haldon View Staff**

Can the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health Services explain why it has taken 3 ½ years to offer a Haldon View staff member a permanent contract at New Treetops Respite Unit? Where have the rest of the staff at Haldon View gone to?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR LEADBETTER

With regards to the staff, at the point of the service being suspended in 2014 all the staff were temporarily redeployed into other roles in Devon County Council pending longer term decisions on service delivery being made. The final decision to close the unit was only made recently. In the meantime, all staff have moved on as follows: some gained substantive employment elsewhere in DCC, 1 person retired, some gained employment elsewhere and 1 person who had transferred to Treetops on a temporary basis has now been made permanent.

**3. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR DEWHIRST
Re: Haldon View maintenance**

Does the Cabinet Member for Resources and Asset Management consider the £85,039 spent maintaining this vacant property good value? Can he estimate how much the maintenance backlog of £331,000 has increased since the Unit closed in 2014.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

Devon County Council have a responsibility to ensure that its property assets remain safe and secure and as such there are costs associated with this duty. Where possible costs have been

minimised and our property contractor's costs are market tested on a regular basis to ensure value for money.

The Condition survey includes indicative costs for maintenance based on BCIS (British Cost Indices Service). Reflecting cost price increases since the date of the last full Condition Survey in 2011 it could be estimated that broadly maintenance backlog costs for Haldon View would now be the region of £365,000.

4. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR DEWHIRST
Re: Haldon View ongoing costs

Can the Cabinet Member for Resources and Asset Management indicate how long Corporate Estates might take to sell this building and does he consider the ongoing cost of £22,135.89 (£18,248.60 plus 15% contingency) money well spent?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

Once formally declared surplus (and Members will note that the decision to declare the property surplus and dispose of the property has now been called in and will not be considered by Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny until 12 June 2018), the length of time taken to sell the property will depend on the conditions of sale and the basis on which offers are made by interested parties, in the meantime the Council will need to ensure that the property is safe and secure and in that context the money is well spent. Of note the 'ongoing cost' for the last full financial year was c£12k (the figure of £22,135 was the budget figure).

5. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR DEWHIRST
Re: Haldon View and Treetops Respite Centre

Does the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health Services consider that Adults with special care needs in the Exeter area are now adequately served by New Treetops Respite Unit considering that New Treetops is half the size of Haldon View and sits in grounds that are just over a third of the size?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR LEADBETTER

The Learning Disability respite unit operating from Haldon View was suspended in 2014. More people are now choosing community based services to remain at home.

A review was completed of supply and demand and with the alternative community based options and the Respite service in Exeter at New Treetops it was identified that there was sufficient provision to meet current and future demand.