

STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE – 19th JUNE 2007.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT, COMMUNITY & HOUSING SERVICES

DUDLEY LOCAL IMPROVEMENT FINANCE TRUST (LIFT)

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Area Committee of progress on the LIFT Scheme in Lye which is currently under development.

Background

2. As part of the NHS Plan published in 2000, funding was made available for investment in primary health care facilities. One of the funding methods available to Primary Care Trusts (PCT's), certain other NHS bodies and Local Authorities for the delivery of health and social care facilities, is through a Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT).
3. The principle is similar to PFI or a Public Private Partnership with the public sector partner providing capital investment and facilities management through a joint venture company (LIFTCo), which grants leased facilities to PCTs and/or Local Authorities for 20-25 years.
4. Dudley PCT obtained approval to create the Dudley LIFT in August 2002 and sought public sector partners to participate in this initiative.
5. The Council at its meeting on 20 January 2003, agreed the involvement of Dudley MBC on limited terms.
6. There were 3 initial schemes:
 - A learning disabilities assessment and treatment at Ridge Hill, that opened in October 2006;
 - A Health & Social Care Centre at Stourbridge (on the former Corbett Hospital site) that is expected to open in September 2007;
 - A Health & Social Care Centre at Brierley Hill, where detailed negotiations between the partners should be concluded very shortly.
7. More recently, the Council has agreed to work with the PCT and LIFTCo on a joint Health & Social Care Centre in Lye, which would include the Older People's Team for Stourbridge and the Lye Advice Centre. It would also include a range of community health and primary care services.

8. This Lye Scheme is at a very earlier stage of development and the PCT are currently engaged in consultation with those Health bodies who may potentially occupy the building, as well as with DMBC.
9. The PCT are also putting in place a public consultation process which is expected to start in the autumn and the results of that will be reported to the Committee.

Law

- 10 Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2000 enables the Council to do anything that it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the social, environmental, or economic well-being of its area.
- 11 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory functions.
- 12 The Council is required to provide premises and facilities for social care purposes and therefore may exercise its powers and duties under the Community Care Act 1989 and the Health Act 1999.

Equality Impact

- 13 Integration of services and new or improved facilities will support equal access to services for people from different ethnic groups, disabled people and other groups, such as young people.

Recommendation

- 14 It is recommended:
 - That the Area Committee notes that work is being done to develop a Health and Social Care Centre in Lye, which will provide a range of integrated services within a purpose-built facility.



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