

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of **the IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PEOPLE** held on 6 December 2021.

**PRESENT**

Councillor T Kemp (in the Chair)

Councillors C Dale, E Fordham, R Iliffe, P Rose, D Taylor, J Woolley and M Yates.

Also in attendance – Councillors A Clarke, R George, N Hoy, G Kinsella, P Niblock and H Barrington, H Jones, S Stevens.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors S Burfoot, R George, A Griffiths, and J Wharmby.

**17/21 CALL-IN OF DECISION – THE FUTURE OF CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

At its meeting on 18 November 2021 Cabinet considered and approved a report relating to the Future of Direct Care Homes for Older People. The report sought approval to the undertaking of a public consultation, including consultation with the current residents and their families, on the future provision of accommodation for older people in a number of the Council's residential care homes.

In accordance with the provisions of the County Council's Constitution, Councillors E Fordham, R George, A Hayes, J Dixon, N Gourlay, P Niblock, S Burfoot, R Mihaly, A Clarke, G Kinsella, C Dale, M Yates and B Bingham had asked that the decision be called-in. It was their opinion that that the decision breached Articles:

- 7.2 (e) respect for human rights and equalities;
- 7.2 (f) a presumption in favour of openness;
- 7.2 (g) clarity of aims and desired outcomes.

The principles in question were: that this did not significantly differ from the previous consultation; this would cause real stress, fear and worry to an already vulnerable group of residents; the report did not address the information contained in previous reports on the viability of the homes; consultation with councillors, where the care homes had residents and associated relatives interested in the care homes, had been non-existent or cursory; and the final Market Position Statement was yet to be seen and to take account of the viability of the PVI sector following the impact of the pandemic and of the 2022/23 financial settlement on the sector (which would not include the additional Infection Control funding that had kept the sector going over the last 2 years).

Information had been provided in support of their request and an explanation why they had called-in the decision. Mr S Stevens and Councillor N Hoy presented information in support of the decision taken. The Executive Director Adult Social Care & Health Helen Jones also attended the meeting to comment on the issues raised and respond to Councillors' questions.

The Committee considered the information that had been put before them and considered whether the decision had been made in accordance with the decision-making principles, as set out in the Constitution. The Chairman asked the Committee to vote on the officer's recommendation and Members voted 5 to 2 with 1 abstention in favour that the principles of decision-making had not been breached.

**RESOLVED** to agree that the decision made by Cabinet on 18 November 2021 to approve (1) the programme of formal public consultation on the future of the homes listed (one of which included an integral day centre), including possible closure, for a period of 12 weeks, to be conducted as set out in the report: Ladycross House (Sandiacre); Beechcroft (West Hallam); East Clune (Clowne); Holmlea (Tibshelf); The Spinney (Brimington); Goyt Valley House (New Mills); and Gernon Manor (Bakewell); and (2) that a further report would be received following the conclusion of the consultation and market engagement processes, including a full Equality Impact Analysis had been taken in accordance with the decision-making principles and, therefore, no further action be taken on the call-in.