

From: Dan Watkins, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
Richard Smith, Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health

To: Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee – 19 September 2024

Subject: **Petition scheme debate – Closure of Blackburn Lodge**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary: Position statement responding to the petition on the closure of Blackburn Lodge

1. Position statement

- 1.1. Kent County Council (KCC) recognises and appreciates the continued impact of the temporary closure of Blackburn Lodge Care Home, Isle of Sheppey and the surrounding area and acknowledge fully the depth of feeling expressed locally and KCC is committed to ensuring the Isle of Sheppey has the right mix of care services to meet people's needs.
- 1.2 All options set out in the consultation document have been explored and a considerable amount of time has been spent assessing the consultation feedback. The 10 week consultation ran between Wednesday 28 February and Tuesday 7 May 2024. 273 consultees took part in consultation and 198 of the responses were from people providing an Isle of Sheppey postcode.
- 1.3 For Blackburn Lodge to meet current Care Quality Commission Standards (CQC), a total refurbishment, including major structural works will need to be carried out. The refurbishment would cost in excess of £4million and would take at least 13 months to complete.
- 1.4 The CQC has confirmed the layout of Blackburn Lodge would not meet the current standards for registration as a care home if it were to be built now. It means that aside from the major structural works, the building would require significant reconfiguration and upgrade to provide 'high needs' dementia and nursing care – which is the level of care that today's Sheppey residents require and we are working, with partners, to provide."
- 1.5 We are actively engaging with local businesses and organisations as well as local people to understand the future needs and develop services which meet the needs of local people and are fit for purpose and have been working hard with partners, including the local Borough Council to find solutions, including to develop local Extra Care Housing for older people.

- 1.6 Further information on the proposal for the Future of Blackburn Lodge Care home will be considered by the [**Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 19 September 2024.**](#)