

## Response to Cllr Griffiths' Question

### Part 1) of the Question

1. *Can you clarify why we are showing a base budget for 20/21 of £187,030, which, according to one of the appendix documents excludes employee costs? Given that there is a cost centre for employees' involvement in using Spendells as temporary accommodation, why are direct and indirect staff, based, or providing services at the site, not included in the cost?*

The £187k budget referred to in the report is the existing non-employee budget which establishes the base funding position that is available to support homeless accommodation and other initiatives.

The proposals set out in the report seek to establish Spendells House as temporary homeless accommodation, so from a budgetary perspective, the overall cost of the scheme (including employee and other costs) would need to be less than this existing base budget of £187k, otherwise it would present a cost pressure to the General Fund. The purpose of the analysis set out in Appendix A is to demonstrate that the full costs can be accommodated within this existing base budget of £187k.

2. *I note the decision is to change this complex to emergency housing. Given that the clientele could range from homeless families, to single parents, couples, and single individuals, with an element of communal shower / washing facilities, what provisions are in place to screen individuals before we agree to accommodate them in Spendells?*

*How do we as an authority intend to safeguard the vulnerable to ensure that we do not have residents living next door to individuals who have the ability to have an adverse impact on their well-being?*

*For example, can we guarantee that we will not have an individual with an unhealthy interest in small children dwelling next door to a single mother, or those with a drug, alcohol or mental health issue living next to a family?"*

Those who experience homelessness are in a vulnerable position already and we would not want their placement in temporary accommodation to increase their vulnerability. The arrangements for making placements will be no different to those we have in place currently. A homelessness application usually involves a thorough assessment of an individual's or family's circumstances and past housing situation and nobody will be placed into accommodation where they are believed to pose a risk to others.

The scheme will be operated on a zero tolerance basis with regard to alcohol and drug use and other unacceptable behaviour.