

Councillor Chris Holley
Convener
Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny
Performance Panel
BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Councillor Rob Stewart
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Our Ref: RS/CM
Your Ref:
Date: 20th December 2018

Dear Councillor Holley

Thank you for your letter dated 13th November 2018 and I would respond as follows.

1. Why is there a historic underspend on Disabled Facilities Grants?

Demand for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) had increased significantly for a number of years running up to 2017/18. This along with issues surrounding the Occupational Therapy (OT) Service's capacity to carry out assessments for DFG, had necessitated the need for carry forward of budget from previous years, to ensure demand could be met. However in 2017-18 DFG demand stabilised and the backlog of OT assessments had been addressed, meaning the carry forward budget was not needed in full.

2 What is causing the delay in the Pipehouse Wharf Move

Whilst the disposal plans are progressing in line with our expectations we have been dependant on the site we are relocating to being sold to the council as part of a land exchange. Unfortunately the owners of this site have been providing difficult and unfortunately confirmed last week that they no longer wish to progress with the sale. as such we will review our options and locations as quickly as possible to minimise any delays. I would be happy to update as alternative proposals develop

3. Why is there a delay preventing commencement of scheme 5 in the Sand fields?

The Sandfields Renewal Area Housing Improvement Scheme 5 could not commence until sufficient funding was available. The tender submission period, evaluation and authorisation resulted in the contract not being awarded until mid-March 2018 and the mobilisation period required by the contractor resulted in the scheme not being able to commence until 2018/19. Works started on 30th April 2018.

4. Can you please give us an update on the overspends in the table above?

Unfortunately I think there may be a misunderstanding in your letter as it refer to “overspends in the table above” when in fact the table is headed underspends. However I can confirm that these are not in any event underspends but totals budgets /spend for the areas listed and not overspends/underspends. I hope that this therefore clarifies the matter

I trust the above clarifications are helpful and can I think scrutiny for taking the time to review this works

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Stewart', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**COUNCILLOR ROB STEWART
LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY & STRATEGY**