

Councillor Mary Jones
Chair
Scrutiny Programme Committee

BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Councillor Rob Stewart
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Our Ref: RS/CM
Your Ref:
Date: 13 May 2020

Dear Councillor Jones

Thank you for your letter following the Pre-decision Scrutiny session which took place on 20th April and was reported to Cabinet on the 27th April

Firstly can thank the Scrutiny Committee for participating in the pre decision process on such a critical project and also the fact that it was carried out remotely was equally welcome. Your comments were fully considered as part of the Cabinet decision making process on the 27th April.

Can I also thank you for your positive comments in relation to the Council's involvements in the delivery of the Bay surge Hospital which has been an outstanding achievement with the first phase already handed over the remaining phases due for completion by the first week in June I know everyone who has seen the site and the standard of the work involved has been overwhelmed by the scale and the standard of workmanship involved

In relation to the specific questions I can respond as follows;

1. Be satisfied around the complete reimbursement of Council costs from Swansea Bay University Health Board and Welsh Government, and clarify the process for cost recovery by the Council and timescale, and possible impact on capital and revenue budgets.

As part of the Cabinet report the Council drafted a collaboration agreement which sets out the respective roles and responsibilities and the repayment of the costs incurred by the Council. In line with the approved recommendations presented to Cabinet officers were tasked with finalising all legal documentation to enable full cost recovery to take place. I am advised that the Health Board have agreed the final draft as it just awaiting legal sign off to allow the costs incurred to be recovered. I am happy to confirm this directly and also provide a final approved copy of the collaboration agreement when signed. This will also include confirmation of the final costs involved although this aspect will not be known until sometime after final completion due to the need to capture all costs involved by the contractors

2. Ensure that discussion is held with the Health Board / Welsh Government about the possible permanence of the facility, beyond the current emergency, as necessary additional health capacity.

I fully endorse this recommendation and have personally actively promoted the retention of the facility on a permanent basis. This is of course a matter for the Health board Welsh Government and the current leaseholders to agree, but the Council will continue to advocate its retention for the reason stated.

I trust this answers the questions posed and thank you again for taking the time to carry out the pre decision process on such an important project

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob Stewart', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Y CYNGHORYDD/COUNCILLOR ROB STEWART
ARWEINYDD/LEADER**