



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI631748675

Thank you for your request for information relating to cost of Children's Home being built at Pearl Hyde School Dorchester Way.

You have requested the following information:

1. Please provide details of the budgeted, and if different the latest forecast, for all costs associated with the site clearance, planning and building of the children's home currently being built in Dorchester Way.

The Residential Children's Homes Strategy 2023-2026 was approved by Cabinet in July 2023. For your reference, please find; a link to the minutes from this meeting below, where you will also find the link to the Strategy document:

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=124&MID=13063#AI38915>

We are therefore not required to disclose the information as per Section 21 of the Act.

A separate, private report was submitted in respect of the Residential Children's Homes Strategy as it contains details of financial information required to be kept private in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The grounds for privacy are that it contains information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The Council has considered the public interest in disclosure of this information:

Arguments in favour of disclosure.

- Promote accountability and transparency for the Council's decisions and in its spending of public money.
- Assist the public to understand and challenge our decisions.
- Inform the public of the activities carried out on their behalf, allowing for more user involvement and collaborative decision making.
- Enable the public to better scrutinise the public monies spent

Arguments against disclosure.

- There is a public interest in allowing public authorities to withhold information which if disclosed, would reduce providers' ability to compete in a commercial environment.
- The successful providers operate in a competitive market. If prejudicing the commercial interests of the successful providers in the market would distort competition in that market, this would not be in the public interest.
- Disclosure of information may cause unwarranted reputational damage or loss of confidence in the Council.

The public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

To assist, public information in relation to your query about costs associated with site clearance, planning and building of the children's home at Dorchester Way, the contracted demolition and building works were competitively tendered in line with the Council's procurement rules. The awarded tender information for both the demolition works and the building works can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder>. Planning application costs are calculated based on the sqm area of works, which for this project was a cost of £2,300.10.

2. Please also provide details of the justification for this project and the source of funds for the overall cost.

Please refer to the residential strategy in Question 1.

As required by the Sufficiency Duty, local authorities are required to ensure so far as is "reasonably practicable" that there is sufficient accommodation within their area to meet the needs of its children in care.

The strategy has been supported by a recent sufficiency needs analysis, which has identified the need for additional provision of residential care for children in Coventry, particularly provision for children and young people in care with disabilities and those with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance