

People and Communities Select Committee
18 September 2020

Item 5; Public Questions:

None Received

Item 6; Local Member Issues/Questions:

Question from Cllr Emma Corlett

The cessation of day services at 5 locations announced by Independence Matters last week, including the Vauxhall Centre in my division, came as a shock to myself, service users and affected staff.

In its 2018/19 annual report, Independence Matters reported a £67,000 surplus after tax and states “we have a strength and depth within the group to survive and thrive.”

As the Chairman of the People and Communities Select Committee sits on the Independence Matters Enterprise Board, which oversees development of this social enterprise, please can she clarify what oversight and information she has been provided with in the lead up to this decision and her input into it?

Response from the Chairman:

Independence Matters is an independent social enterprise and is not run by the County Council. Its governance no longer includes the Enterprise Board, following new IM governance arrangements put in place from April 2019. Like other Members I was briefed by the Cabinet Member about the decision IM has taken, and I was also contacted by the Director of Commissioning to explain the background. My particular concern as Chairman of the People Select Committee is that people affected are supported by Adult Social Care and alternative ways of meeting their needs are found, and I have been in touch with the Executive Director to discuss this.