

COUNTY COUNCIL – 15 OCTOBER 2019

WRITTEN QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9.2

1. Question from Councillor Lorna Dupre

Would the Chair of the Children & Young People Committee please provide a table with columns showing

1. The name of each children's centre in Cambridgeshire which was operational before 1 July 2017
2. The district in which each centre is or was situated
3. Whether each centre is now (A) a Child & Family Centre, (B) a Child & Family Zone, or (C) neither
4. For each centre marked as (C) above
 - a. Whether the building is occupied and/or used, and for what portion of the week or year
 - b. Who occupies and/or uses the building
 - c. Under what contract and/or other arrangement, and
 - d. What issues are currently outstanding relating to its current and/or future occupation, use and/or funding?

Response from Councillor Simon Bywater, Chairman of Children and Young People Committee

	Name of centre operational prior to July 1st 2017	District located in	Status now A = Child and Family Centre B = Child and Family Zone C = neither	For all marked as C: a. Whether the building is occupied and/or used, and for what portion of the week or year b. Who occupies and/or uses the building c. Under what contract and/or other arrangement, and d. What issues are currently outstanding relating to its current and/or future occupation, use and/or funding?
1	Romsey Mill	Cambridge City	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Romsey Mill. C. Owned by Romsey Mill, not a CCC building. D. None
2	The Fields	Cambridge City	A	
3	Fawcett	Cambridge City	B	
4	Homerton	Cambridge City	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Homerton Nursery. C. Not a CCC building. D. None
5	Cherry Hinton	Cambridge City	C	A. Occupied year round. B. This site is still used as a delivery site for the Child and Family Centre for half the week. The rest of the time it is used by the school. C. Service level agreement in place between the school and the Cambridge City district team. D. None
6	North Cambridge	Cambridge City	A	
7	Chesterton	Cambridge City	A	
8	Littleport	East Cambs	A	
9	Soham	East Cambs	B	
10	Ely	East Cambs	A	

11	Sutton	East Cambs	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Paintbox pre school. C. Lease agreement being developed with property colleagues D. A review of the 'Less than Best' process is currently being undertaken in relation to early years provision in CCC buildings. This work is likely to influence the ongoing terms of any occupancy agreements.
12	Bottisham	East Cambs	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Cambridgeshire County Council C. Owned by Cambridgeshire County Council. D. None
13	Oasis	Fenland	A	
14	Whittlesey	Fenland	B	
15	Wisbech South	Fenland	A	
16	Murrow	Fenland	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Murrow pre school. C. Lease agreement being developed with property colleagues D. The 'less than best' review may also have an impact at this site.
17	March	Fenland	A	
18	Chatteris	Fenland	A	
19	Eynesbury	Hunts	A	
20	Eaton Socon	Hunts	A	
21	St Ives	Hunts	B	
22	Huntingdon Town	Hunts	A	
23	Brampton	Hunts	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Brambles pre school (school run pre school). C. As this is a Maintained primary school this is via an agreement letter between the governors of the school and the LA. If the school was to become an academy, the pre-school space would be protected for under 5's use as part of the lease arrangements D. None unless the school becomes an academy.

24	Godmanchester	Hunts	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Godmanchester Bridge Academy. C. Leased. D. There are outstanding matters to be resolved regarding the under-letting by the Godmanchester Bridge academy of the early years space
25	Ramsey	Hunts	B	
26	Sawtry	Hunts	B	
27	Farcet	Hunts	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Cambridgeshire County Council including as an outreach venue for child and family centre activities C. Sub-let back to CCC as part of the academy process. D. None
28	Somersham	Hunts	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Little steps pre school, Parkhall Playgroup and Somersham time club C. Tenancy at will in place D. Review of provision due end of 2020
29	Melbourn	South Cambs	B	
30	Cambourne	South Cambs	A	
31	Caldecote	South Cambs	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Caldecote pre-school C. Tenancy at Will in place D. The 'less than best' review may also have an impact at this site.
32	Bassingbourn	South Cambs	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Bassingbourn pre-school C. Lease in place D. The 'less than best' review may also have an impact at this site.
33	Sawston	South Cambs	B	
34	Linton	South Cambs	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Used by the Child and Family Centre as an outreach venue alongside community health provision C. Leased by CCC from the Cathodeon trust D. None

35	Histon	South Cambs	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Histon Early Years Centre C. Owned by Histon Early Years Centre D. None.
36	Bar Hill	South Cambs	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Leap & Learn pre school. C. Tenancy at Will in Place D. Licence to underlet needed from the academy and then a formal lease with the setting.
37	Papworth	South Cambs	C	A. Occupied year round. B. Pendragon pre school (school run pre school). C. As this is a Maintained primary school this is via an agreement letter between the governors of the school and the LA. If the school was to become an academy, the pre-school space would be protected for under 5's use as part of the lease arrangements D. None unless the school becomes an academy.
38	Waterbeach	South Cambs	B	
39	New Sites			
40	Northstowe	South Cambs	B	
41	Peacock Centre	Cambridge City	B	
42	Huntingdon Youth Centre	Hunts	A	

2. Question from Councillor Nichola Harrison

One of my residents died recently and his elderly widow tried to register the death at the Cambridge registry office. She was unable to get an appointment within the 5 day rule and was obliged to go to the Ely office. Apparently that office had itself been closed the day previously as its only staff member had been diverted away in order to keep the Huntingdon office open.

My resident, in profound grief after 55 years of marriage, has little money, does not drive and has general mobility difficulties. She wants to know, and I want to know, why the county council was unable to provide her with a properly functioning registry service at her time of need.

My questions are:

- a) Do you think it is good enough that this person had to travel from Cambridge to Ely to register a death within the 5 day period?
- b) Do you agree with me that the local authority responsible for a city region serving a population of 300,000 people, ought to provide an efficient and convenient register service for its citizens and taxpayers?
- c) Item 24 on the current People and Communities Risk Register appears not to guarantee the provision of any registry service in Cambridge after September 2020 (ie in 11 months time), and appears to imply that "customer communications" is the mitigation action for this risk. Do you agree with me that in adopting such an approach, the county council is insulting the citizens and taxpayers of Greater Cambridge?

Response from Councillor Steve Criswell, Chairman of Communities and Partnership Committee

I am very sorry and concerned to hear about the distress and difficulty your resident experienced in trying to register her husband's death. As you have been unable to provide any specific details however, it has not been possible to investigate this individual case.

More generally, I'm pleased to inform Council that the recent transfer of the Registration Service into the People and Communities Directorate, and to the responsibility of the Communities and Partnership Committee, affords the opportunity to review the service, end to end, and this work is already underway. We want to be sure the service is responsive to the needs of all of our citizens, is easy to access, is sensitive to the needs of its customers, and is dynamic in its approach to be able to respond to changing trends and priorities. Despite the service performing better in key domains than the regional

and national averages, we want our service to be the best it can be, and for situations such as that experienced by your resident to be avoided. The review is being jointly led by me as Chairman of the Committee and the relevant Director, and will report to Committee in the next few weeks.

In relation to the question relating to the future location of the Cambridge office, let me reassure you that our main Registry Office will continue to be located in Cambridge. Through the Cambs 2020 programme, the necessary due diligence work on a proposed location is being carried out, and I hope to be in a position to announce the details shortly. The fact that this has been identified as a separate item in the risk register denotes its importance to the Council.