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Caroline Selkirk
Executive Director of Health Improvement /
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Dear Caroline

Thank you for your letter of 1 November 2021.

I appreciate that some of the shortcomings in the consultation highlighted by Members at HASC last week have been acknowledged and responded to. As you know, Members were critical of aspects of the consultation process at the meeting of the Committee last week. Perhaps if the draft consultation document had been submitted to the Committee before the start of the public consultation some of these problems could have been avoided. I appreciate the draft document was emailed to Members in July for comments, but they had very little time to respond.

I accept Cllr Price suggested the Sunlight Centre as a venue for an exhibition but should point out that one suggestion from one member should not have led to the Pentagon (a much better venue for a pop-up exhibition) not being considered. This is particularly frustrating given the Forum in Sittingbourne and the Mall in Maidstone were chosen as venues for pop up exhibitions and the Pentagon Centre should have also been seen as an obvious location. I am pleased to see that the Pentagon Centre will now be one of the venues used going forward.

I find it difficult to understand why the consultation document was not distributed to any libraries in Medway given it was sent to 9 libraries in other parts of Kent, i.e., Shepway, Maidstone, Swale, Gravesham and Dartford. If there had been any difficulties with Medway libraires displaying the document, these could have been resolved if myself or officers had been made aware of this. I note that no paper copies were returned and therefore I think the reasons for this should be looked into and the process reviewed for future consultations.

In terms of writing to Cllr McDonald directly in future to seek his assistance in cascading information to, and his advice on, accessing his established VCSE networks, please note that while I am sure Cllr McDonald will be able to help with this in his capacity as a councillor and Chief Executive of Medway CAB, this should not be seen as a substitute for seeking the views of the Committee.

Following the Committee's formal response to the proposal (sent on 3 November) I look forward to receiving, as soon as possible, the outcome of the review of the additional sites and the proposed mitigations to address travel and transport concerns. Regarding the latter, I would expect please for Members to be given enough time to comment on these proposals before a decision is made by the CCG Governing Body on 25 November.

Yours faithfully

David Wildey

Councillor Wildey

Cc:

Michael Turner Principal Democratic Services Officer, Democratic Services, Medway Council

Wilf Williams Accountable Officer, Kent and Medway CCG, SRO for the Kent and Medway Integrated Care System

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