

PLANNING COMMITTEE
Schedule of Supplementary Information

Thursday 14th November 2023

Members are advised of the enclosed information that was either received or requested after the production of the planning applications report

**Bolton
Council**

16593/23

Ward	Location
WESO	763 WIGAN ROAD, WESTHOUGHTON, BOLTON, BL5 2DD

As referenced within the Officers report the Council's Children's Services team are in support of the proposal for the following reasons:

- The homes development will be financed by an investor, who is a national and premiership football player, but will not be involved in the oversight or the day to day running of the provision. The investor has a history of being involved with charitable work, supporting, and encouraging disadvantaged young people to excel through sport, the arts, and other creative avenues.
- Childrens Services have met with the investor, who has a genuine and evidenced desire to help and support young people. There is also an opportunity for future provision being developed in other areas of the borough, in consultation with the local authority.
- The company proposing to open the home is new but has built an experienced team to support the financial, logistical, and operational aspects of the development. In addition, they have recruited an experienced and dedicated Registered Manager, who will have daily oversight of the home.
- The Company and the Registered Manager have assured that neighbour engagement will be a top priority going forward and have plans to positively include the residents in feeling reassured in the operation of the home.
- Consultation with the Local Authority, from inception, has been thorough. The provider has positively expressed their intentions and aspirations for the children of Bolton. The company is looking to prioritise Bolton children for the home and have assured Childrens Services of their intention to continue in collaboration with the local authority in developing the home in the best possible way. The provider has researched Boltons market sufficiency, understood the local needs assessment and is positively aware of the long-term goals of Childrens Services.
- The home will be registered and regulated by Ofsted, as is required and the registration process will be initiated following confirmation of the address of the proposed home. This is in line with the usual process.
- The homes' location is in a good area, free from a vast majority of risks to children, with access to transport, education, and health links. Any risks to the safety of children will be managed within the regulatory Location Risk Assessment required by Ofsted Regulations and the proposed staffing ratio within the home. The company have reached out to the local authority and the police to assist them in understanding any risks to children and young people, residents and the wider public.
- Children's services therefore had no objection to the proposal being successful.

Westhoughton Town Council raised the following concerns regarding the proposed change of use:

- The council are concerned at the number of applications for these types of residences in Westhoughton and the number of companies outside of Bolton who are applying to set up such homes within the Bolton area.
- The Council would appreciate further details as to the need for this application.