

Public Document Pack



Democratic Services
White Cliffs Business Park
Dover
Kent CT16 3PJ

Telephone: (01304) 821199
Fax: (01304) 872453
DX: 6312
Minicom: (01304) 820115
Website: www.dover.gov.uk
e-mail: democraticservices@dover.gov.uk

8 July 2020

Dear Councillor

GENERAL EXCEPTION NOTICE – (GE12) APPROVAL TO LET UNITS AT WHITFIELD COURT

Please find attached a General Exception Notice relating to a decision to be taken by Councillor Oliver Richardson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Commercial Services, to let units at Whitfield Court on a 25-year lease.

This is a Key Decision which was not included in the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions. However, the decision may still be taken provided 5 clear days have elapsed between publishing the General Exception Notice and informing the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the decision being taken.

Members of the public who require further information are asked to contact Kate Batty-Smith on 01304 872303 or by e-mail at democraticservices@dover.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Kate Batty-Smith". Below the signature is a short horizontal line.

Democratic Services Officer

ENCL

1 **GENERAL EXCEPTION NOTICE - (GE12) APPROVAL TO LET UNITS AT WHITFIELD COURT** (Pages 2-3)



DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT SECTION ONLY	
Decision No:	GE12
Publication Date:	08/07/20

General Exception

Pursuant to the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Notice of Key Decision

A: Decision to be taken and by whom

Approval to let units at Whitfield Court on a 25-year lease

The decision is to be taken by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Commercial Services

This is a Key Decision which has not been included within the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions, but which must be taken by such a date that it is impracticable to defer the decision until 28 days after the next Notice is published.

B: Reasons why this Key Decision was not included in the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions and why it would not be practicable to defer the decision

The Council is the landlord of Whitfield Court. Following an approach from a company that was interested in leasing vacant units, discussions stalled during the emerging COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown. Negotiations have recommenced and moved at pace, so much so that the potential lessee is looking to occupy the units from 7 August 2020. This could not have been foreseen when the last Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions was published on 5 June 2020.

Deferring the decision until the next Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions is published on 7 August would risk losing the 25-year lease and resultant income.

C: List of documents submitted to the decision-maker

Cabinet-style report.

D: Part of the Constitution authorising the decision

Rule 15 (General Exception Procedure) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Part 4 – Rules of Procedure).

- Notice must be given in the first instance to the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee
- The General Exception procedure allows a Key Decision which has been omitted from the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions to be taken, provided 5 clear days has elapsed between informing the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee and making a copy of this notice

available to the public (on the website and displayed in the Council Chamber lobby), and the decision being taken.

- Subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, copies of, or extracts from, documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the decision may be requested from the address given below. In addition, the public may submit other documents relevant to the decision to the same address.

Democratic Services Section
Council Offices
White Cliffs Business Park
Whitfield, Dover
Kent CT16 3PJ
(Telephone: 01304 872303; E-mail: democraticservices@dover.gov.uk)