

Letter by Email



██████████
██████████ Primary Care
NHS Kent and Medway

10th May 2023

████████████████████

Dear ██████

New Medical Centre at Folca, Folkestone Town Centre

I write in relation to the proposed new medical centre which, as you will be aware from your site visit to Folkestone, is a key project in the wider regeneration plans for the town centre.

I am extremely concerned that the project is at an impasse which, if not resolved, will result in significant challenges for delivery of essential new medical provision but also the redevelopment of the remaining part of Folca and the overall delivery of a ██████ regeneration scheme for the town centre funded through the Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF).

The vision and outline case for the medical centre was established through a strong partnership approach from the GP practices, ICB and the Council. The initial impetus for the Council decision to acquire the building following its closure as a department store was in recognition that this would be an excellent location for a new medical centre (previous searches had resulted in no viable sites being identified).

Whilst the pandemic understandably hampered progress, at all times the Council has been assured that the project is an ICB priority and that funding had been ring fenced to support delivery of the new centre. On that basis the Council has developed plans for the redevelopment of the remainder of the Folca building (including separation of the building to secure the site for the new medical centre) and transformational projects for access and public realm around the site as part of the LUF project, which has to be completed by March 2025.

I understand that the critical next step for the medical centre is for the ICB to confirm that the space requirements and floorplans for the new centre are acceptable, that all information required to make this decision has been provided and that a decision was expected by 24th March 2023 at the latest.

To date no decision has been forthcoming and this further delay is a cause for significant concern and impacting negatively on delivery of the ██████ LUF regeneration investment which the Council is progressing.



Therefore, I ask for your intervention to provide an urgent decision on the space requirements and floorplans in order that the project be progressed. I also would ask for confirmation that the project remains a priority and for an outline of further key decisions which will be required from the ICB?

I would be happy to arrange a meeting or telephone call as soon as possible if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]
[Redacted title]

CC [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board
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