

## **WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44**

### **1. Question by Councillor Field to the Lead Member for Resources**

In December 2003 I asked the Lead Member for Corporate Resources (Councillor Bagshawe) if the works then being undertaken at Westfield House would make the building DDA compliant. The inference I drew from her answer was that plans were being looked at to make this possible. Nothing happened. It is now 2020 and more money is being spent on the building therefore:

1. When this work is complete will the building be compliant with the Equalities Act and be fully accessible?
2. Taking into account new ways of working with much less activity on the County Hall site is the retention of this building necessary?

### **Answer by the Lead Member for Resources**

1. The most recent works have been to the replacement of all windows, to improve energy efficiency, and for external redecoration, noting the site is within the Lewes Conservation Area.

This building was subject to a full DDA audit in 2004 and 2009 which identified some level of improvement needed to access arrangements, and which were undertaken at that time to bring it up to compliant and accepted standard. Westfield House is included within the ongoing maintenance programme for the campus, and this does include recommendations for further improvement work (following a review of the Fire assessment), and a refresh of issues such as a new handrail, additional markings and signage, and treatment to some localized trip hazards. These works are part of the 2020/21 maintenance programme.

2. The recent investment in the asset is still seen as a long term benefit whatever its future use.

The Council is reviewing its core office estate and will be using the increased levels of remote and agile working arising from our response to the Coronavirus pandemic to inform this. The use of Westfield House is part of this review and in addition it is part of the review of the wider St Anne's campus and options for the future use of the St Anne's school site.