

# Progress update on our new Children's Homes

Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny  
Commission

19<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Lead Officer: Mike Evans

Lead Director: Damian Elcock



# Background

- **Consultations carried out as part of Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2020-23, sets out how Leicester City Council will meet duty to provide and secure sufficient accommodation for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.**
- **Considered a range of development activity, including the need to expand in-house residential and foster care provision.**
- **External placement market costly and limited opportunities for young people to remain close to their own family networks and communities**
- **February 2022 – agreement for £2.2m of capital finances to develop two new children’s homes, Holly House and Hillview**
- **Successful bid for match funding to DfE – awarded £500K grant towards capital costs of Holly House and £800K towards capital costs of Hillview.**

# Holly House

- **Public, stakeholder and planning application consultations completed late 2022**
- **Conversion of two existing council owned previously unoccupied semi-detached houses**
- **Building works commenced March 2023 – main works now complete – interior fit underway**
- **Conversion to 4 ensuite bedrooms and one independence flat**
- **Expected handover date December 2023/January 2024**
- **Ofsted registration process underway**
- **Management team appointed, now recruiting practitioners and support workers**
- **Expecting operational launch February 2024**

**Original Front Elevation**



November 2023



November 2023

Young Person's Independence Flat



Rear view with the new managers of the home



# Hillview

- **Building on site owned by local authority, unoccupied for some time**
- **Unsuitable for conversion so planning consent for demolition sought and approved**
- **Demolished and site cleared ready for new build**
- **Planning consent for conversion of site to Children's Home lodged, expecting decision imminently**
- **Expected start date of construction February 2024, with completion of building work October 2024 and operational February 2025**
- **Will provide six additional residential placements for young people with more complex emotional and behavioural support needs. Will include a dedicated area for DoLS (Deprivation of Liberty) provision.**



# Hillview

- **Home will act as a “hub”, providing training and meeting facilities for social care staff, foster carers, and professionals.**
- **Could also be used as a base for outreach and drop-in facilities for young people who enter care and for young people who have left care and live in the community, supporting our implementation of “Staying Close” principles.**
- **Home will be built according to traditional construction methods and incorporate energy efficient design features e.g. modern heating, solar panels, high specification insulation.**
- **OFSTED registration and recruitment of the staff will be initiated when building works close to completion**

**APPENDIX 4:**  
**Hillview External Elevations**

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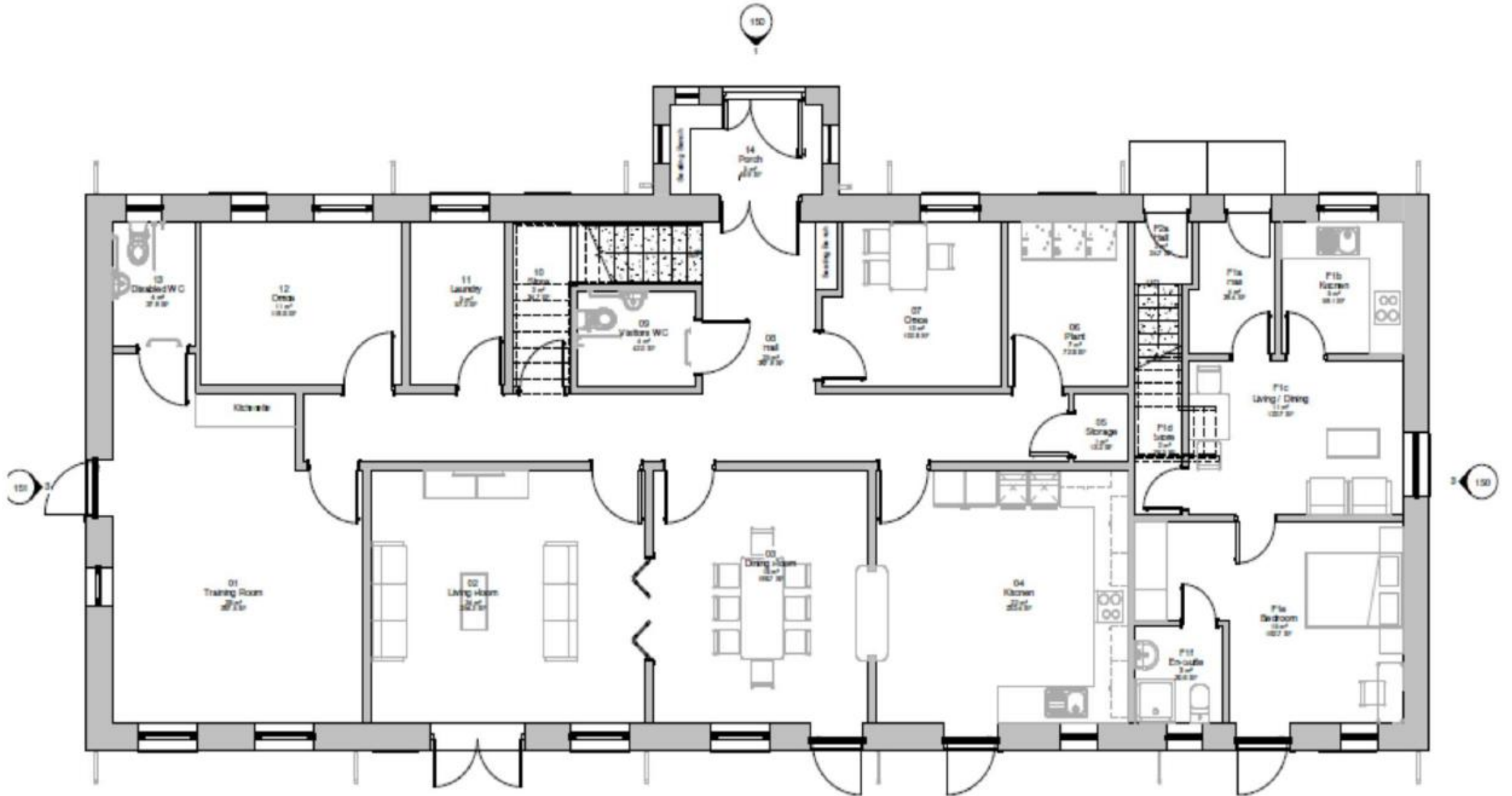
3D View - Front



3D View - Rear

# Internal Layout: Ground Floor

Please note that this design may be subject to change.



## Internal Layout: First Floor

Please note that this design may be subject to change.

