Swanley Gateway
Questions and Answers

Below is a summary of frequently asked questions and answers about the new Gateway.

- **What is a changing room?**

  Standard disabled toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability or their carers. People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well as other serious impairments often need extra facilities to allow them to use the toilets comfortably. Changing Places toilets are different to standard disabled toilets with extra equipment and more space to meet these needs.

- **Why is it going to take so long?**

  The building work is anticipated to start in mid 2014 and take around six months. In addition to this, time must also be allowed for ensuring designs can be drawn up, planning applications given, legal agreements signed and so on.

- **Are local residents going to be employed in the refurbishment?**

  Following a competitive tender a contractor will be appointed to deliver the works. For legal reasons we cannot influence how and where they get their labour from however it is possible that some of the jobs will go to local residents and firms.

- **Are apprenticeships going to be created out of this?**

  Yes there will be apprenticeship opportunities.

- **Could the £1 million be better spent elsewhere?**

  We are committed to improving services for Swanley residents and most of the funds for the centre are dedicated which means they cannot be used for anything else*. All other income is coming from partners who believe that their funds will be best spent by joining this project.

- **Will there be less parking?**

  There is no intention to change the current parking facilities.

*Section 106 Developer Contributions
Can we have clarification of the current partners and plans for incoming partners?

Partners will be confirmed as they sign up to the project. Work is ongoing to finalise all legal documentation and, once this is complete, we will be in a position to confirm the final partners.

Is input being given by voluntary and statutory groups?

We have consulted with a wide range of voluntary organisations and customers to ensure their views are taken into account.

Will there be opportunities for volunteers in the Gateway?

Yes there will be a range of volunteering opportunities.

Is this just the first step to changing these services? As soon as it goes into private hands it gets cut.

There is no intention to make changes or cuts. By bringing services together we are helping to make them more sustainable for the future.