

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2013 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

**Present:** Councillor Gideon (Chairman); Councillors Harrison, Campbell, Edwards, K Gregory, Hibbert, Hornus, Huxley, Moore, Nicholson, D Saunders, M Saunders, M Tomlinson and Watkins

**In Attendance:** Councillors D Green, E Green and Johnston

### 360. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following Members:

Councillor Driver;

Councillor I. Gregory, substituted by Councillor M. Saunders;

Councillor Gibson, substituted by Councillor Edwards.

### 361. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests made at the meeting.

### 362. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councillor Campbell proposed, Councillor Hornus seconded and Members agreed the minutes for the meeting held on 29 July 2013 and 20 August 2013.

### 363. TENANCY STRATEGY

Craig George, Housing Services Manager introduced the item. He said that the report was coming back to the Panel at the request of the Members, having been considered at the previous meeting on 20 August 2013.

Councillor Harrison proposed, Councillor Campbell seconded and Members agreed to recommend to Cabinet the following:

1. That the Council's appeal procedure provides for Elected Members who will sit on the appeal board and who will be fully independent.

Members asked whether tenants could when exchanging properties, individuals could retain the rights from their previous property. In response Mr George stated that individuals would have to accept the tenancy rights that go with the new property they would like to move into. He said that the new policy would be effective as from January 2014.

Members agreed that subject to the amendments agreed by the Panel; the draft Tenancy Strategy be recommended to Cabinet.

### 364. PROPOSED REVIEW OF CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Chairman of the Panel introduced the item. Councillor Gideon said that the exploratory report was meant to find out if Members would like to review the current arrangements regarding how the Leader's Report was debated at Full Council Meetings. There were some concerns raised by some Members that there was no backbench

Member involvement in the debate of the report. If the Panel agreed, a more detailed report could be brought back to the Panel for Members to consider.

Some Members suggested that a broader approach could be taken for this proposed review; one that includes looking at scaling down on the number of items to be put on the Council agenda for each meeting; as the current approach leads to an unwieldy agenda which does not allow sufficient time to be devoted to each item. Others said that although in principle the proposed review project is worth undertaking, in actual practice it may be difficult to open up debate to the Leader's report to all Members as time will still be limited. All Members generally agreed that there was a need for the Leader to give adequate notice to the other Political Group Leaders about the topics to be covered under the Leader's Report.

Members suggested that a Prime Minister Question Time (PMQ) approach be considered in debating the Leader's report so that other Cabinet Members and backbench Members could speak. Speaking under Council procedure 24.1; one Member suggested that when a member of the public asks a question at Full Council and Council agrees on a course of action; officers should expeditiously write to the individual concerned advising them on the action point to be followed through by Council.

Councillor Harrison proposed, Councillor Campbell seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. That a more detailed report be brought back the Panel detailing the options for 'new governance arrangements' at Council meetings that would facilitate a report being presented to the Constitutional Review Working Party and then Standards Committee prior to presentation to Council for a final decision.

**365. OSP UPDATE REPORT TO CABINET: - EKHUFT NEW CLINICAL STRATEGY PROPOSAL**

Mr Stuart Bain, CEO of the East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust introduced the item. Mr Bain said that the East Kent Hospitals University Foundations Trust (EKHUFT) Board had conducted engagement meetings with a number of stakeholders as they developed the proposals for a new clinical strategy for East Kent. It was intended that the Board would be able to consider the outpatient element of the strategy at its November 2013 Board Meeting enabling a three months' public consultation on the proposals.

Mr Bain said that the Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group (Thanet CCG) requested that they be treated as consultees in the process whilst Canterbury CCG opted to be alongside EKHUFT, as the proposers of this clinical strategy. It is hoped that the new outpatient strategy would reduce the distance and number of trips that patients would have to travel for consultation, as a one-stop approach would be adopted in the strategy. This would ensure effective and efficient treatment of patients. It would also be part the strategy to offer appointments during an extended working day and on Saturdays.

In respect of proposals for in-patients services, these would be developed to enable medium to long term ability to deliver safe and sustainable services especially in respect of high risk surgical procedures. Mr Bain indicated that discussions with key stakeholders were still ongoing and he cited the example of a report produced in spring by the Royal College of Surgeons which comments on the proposal. The Clinical Strategy will need to address all the challenges cited in this report.

Members asked for reassurances that the patient transportation service would be appropriate to which Mr Bain said that an evaluation on driving times had been conducted. He advised that the six districts would be better served by the new proposed service than by the current one in place. All of the key information that includes 'headline

figures' will be highlighted in the consultation document. In response to a query from a member of the public, Mr Bain indicated that the recently commissioned helipad would provide for rapid transportation of major trauma patients from Queen Elizabeth Queen Mary (QEQM) Hospital to appropriate hospitals.

Dr Tony Martin, Clinical Chairman of the Thanet CCG gave an update on the current activities of the Thanet CCG. He said the CCG has been in place for the last six months. A Health and Wellbeing Board had also been established whose area of responsibility was coterminous with the Thanet District Council boundaries. Dr Martin reported that the Thanet CCG budget would be reduced by between 10-17% in 2014/17.

The way health services would be provided in future would have to adapt to this increasing gap in budget funding. For example, more individuals with higher demands for care will be cared for in their own homes. Dr Martin advised that although the Thanet CCG did not have commissioning responsibility over primary health services; he observed that primary care is going to undergo rigorous supervision to ensure it meets to required higher standards of service delivery. More resources were being moved to community from hospital based care. He said that a lot more integrated working would need to be adopted that would also include mental health services.

Some Members were concerned that the Mental Health Trust had been underfunded so far and in response Dr Martin said that the next meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board would be considering an agenda item on mental health services. Members suggested that there be joined up thinking in delivering health services in view of other legislative changes to, for example, individuals being asked to pay extra council tax for an extra bedroom they are deemed not to require. This was because in some instances some residents may actually require an extra bedroom to store their medical equipment like home dialysis equipment. Mr Craig George, Housing Services Manager advised Members that in such instances, there is a possibility for the Council to consider offering Discretionary Housing Payments to assist the affected individuals.

When asked about the timeframe by when the new approach to care in the community would be in place, Dr Martin said that he hoped that firm plans would be in place by end of this financial year. Mr Bain agreed that the home based dialysis care should be encouraged as it was less invasive. When asked by Members as to which services in the future might not be provided as a result of budget cuts; Dr Martin indicated that there were none at the moment. He also said that the issue would be to continue to provide services whilst being mindful of the limited resources available and that where there were going to be significant changes to service delivery that would be done in accordance to national guidelines and in consultation with residents, taking into consideration what is medically possible. Mr Bain advised that before any such changes were made, it was important to make an evaluation of the value for money of existing services.

Members asked whether Thanet in-patients beds would be reduced in the proposed changes as more beds will be allocated to mid north Kent. In response Mr Bain said that Thanet residents would not be inconvenienced. When requested to make another presentation on the proposed clinical strategy for all the TDC Members, Mr Bain agreed.

Councillor Campbell proposed, Councillor Harrison seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. That the issue be brought back for discussion to the Panel once the date for the public consultation on the matter has been announced by EKHUFT to decide whether they are minded to recommend to Cabinet a collective TDC response to the public consultation on a new Clinical Strategy for East Kent, as requested by Cabinet on 10 May 2012.

**366. REVIEW OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013/14**

The Chairman reminded all Chairmen of Task and Finish sub-groups that Sub Group reports would be required for submission to Democratic Services by Friday, 13 December 2013 in order to be included in the agenda for the Panel meeting on 14 January 2014.

Councillor K. Gregory proposed, Councillor Campbell seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. That Members note the report;
2. To amend the term of reference number 3 for the Transeuropa Debt Review Task & Finish Group to read as follows:
  - a) To identify any lessons learned from the Transeuropa debt and how this impacts on the council's debt management processes, and, if necessary, to report any such impacts to the Governance and Audit Committee;
3. The recommendations from the Pleasurama Site Development TFG which are as detailed below:
  - a) THAT the Corporate and Regulatory Services Manager requests the Leader of the Council as quickly as possible for an executive decision, authorising him to seek external legal advice;
  - b) Recommend to Cabinet that no executive decision is taken in relation to further varying the Development Agreement, but that any recommendation in that regard be made to Council for final decision.

**367. FORWARD PLAN AND EXEMPT CABINET REPORT LIST:-12 SEPTEMBER 2013 TO 24 APRIL 2014**

Members were advised that any items that were reflected as going to be considered by the Panel at the October meeting had since been deferred to a future meeting because officers needed more time to produce the required report.

The report was noted.

Meeting concluded: 8.25 pm