

Minutes of a virtual meeting of the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee held virtually by video conference at 9:30am on Wednesday 13 May 2020

County Councillors Present:

Councillor Reeves (Chairman)	Councillor Baker (substitute)
Councillor Brown	Councillor Chandler
Councillor Egan (Vice-Chairman)	Councillor Gadsby
Councillor Harris	Councillor Souter
Councillor Wood	

Co-opted non-voting member: Harlow District Councillor T Edwards (part of the meeting)

Sam Glover, Chair of Healthwatch Essex, was welcomed to her first meeting as Healthwatch Essex observer and permitted by the Chairman to also participate in the discussion.

Graham Hughes - Senior Democratic Services Officer, was also in attendance throughout to support the meeting.

1. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Councillor Lumley.

Councillor Egan declared a Code interest as her cousin was a Managing Director of Basildon and Thurrock University Hospital Trust. Councillor Wood declared that he was a stakeholder appointed governor at North Essex partnership Trust. Neither believed that the interest declared would prejudice their consideration of the public interest and that they were able to speak and vote on the matters on the agenda:

Sam Glover, Chairman of Healthwatch Essex, declared that she was employed by Public Health England.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee (HOPSC) held on 4 March 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

4. Princess Alexandra Hospital (update) and Joint Working with Hertfordshire

The Committee considered report HOPSC/12/20 comprising an update from the Senior Democratic Services Officer which, further to prior consultation with the Chairman, proposed the establishment of a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Hertfordshire to formally look at the proposals to relocate and rebuild Princess Alexandra Hospital at a new greenfield site.

After discussion, it was **Resolved** that:

- (i) A Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Hertfordshire be established to review proposals to relocate and rebuild Princess Alexandra Hospital at a new greenfield site;
- (ii) The Committee's representation on the proposed Joint Health Scrutiny Committee be County Councillors Jill Reeves, Beverley Egan and Ricki Gadsby and that Harlow District Councillor Tony Edwards be invited to attend as an observer and, at the discretion of the Chairman of the Joint Committee, to participate in discussion so as to provide local input into the deliberations;
- (iii) The proposed Terms of Reference (as presented within the agenda paper for this item) be approved and recommended to the Joint Committee for adoption at its first meeting;
- (iv) Political proportionality rules should not be applied to the membership of the Joint Committee (as confirmed in the Terms of Reference);
- (v) The Joint Committee be the formal statutory consultee for the purposes of considering the PAH proposals for relocation and rebuild of the hospital and proposed public engagement strategy.

5. Chairman's report

The Committee considered and noted report HOPSC/13/20.

6. Member Updates

The Committee considered report HOPSC/14/20.

- (i) Members noted the proposed change in Chairmanship of the Essex Partnership University Trust (EPUT) later in the year and discussed scheduling an item on the work programme to look at EPUT preparations and service response post-pandemic lockdown;
- (ii) The Joint HOSC with Suffolk would be soon convening to consider the feedback received during the public consultation exercise on a proposed orthopaedic centre at Colchester;

7. Work Programme

The committee considered report (HOPSC/15/20).

- (i) Most currently scheduled items would likely have a pandemic context to them when they were eventually considered;
- (iii) Members considered an appropriate and proportionate future item on the health service response to the current pandemic. It was suggested that initially a short written report could be requested from health providers. This would be investigated further at the next Chairman's Forum meeting.

8. Date of next meeting

The committee noted that the next committee activity day was scheduled for 09:30 on Wednesday 17 June 2020.

9. Urgent business

There was no urgent business and the meeting closed at 9.50am

Chairman