

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th December 2016 at 3.30 pm

Present:

Councillor P H MurphyChairman
Councillor N ThwaitesVice-Chairman

Councillor I Aldridge
Councillor R Clifford
Councillor B Leaker
Councillor R Woods

Councillor G S Dowding
Councillor B Maitland-Walker
Councillor J Parbrook

Members in Attendance:

Councillor M Chilcott
Councillor M Dewdney
Councillor A Hadley
Councillor K J Mills
Councillor A Trollope-Bellew

Councillor H Davies
Councillor R Lillis
Councillor K Turner
Councillor D Westcott

Officers in Attendance:

Assistant Director – Operational Delivery (C Hall)
Asset Manager (T Child)
Assistant Valuer (J Warner)
Housing and Community Project Lead (A Summers)
Managing Director Gatherwell (B Speare)
Director of Clinical and Collaborative Commissioning at the Somerset CCG (Ann Anderson)
Chief Operating Officer – Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (Andrew Heron)
Consultant Nurse for Stroke (Ian Evans)
Director of Nursing and Patient Safety (Sue Balcombe)
Media and Communications Officer (D Rundle)
Democratic Services Officer (M Prouse)
Democratic Services Officer (A Randell)

SC 51 Apologies for Absence

An apology was received by Councillor R Clifford.

SC 52 Minutes

(Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 24 November 2016
– circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on 24 November 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

SC 53 **Declarations of Interest**

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a County, Parish or Town Council:

Name	Minute No.	Description of Interest	Personal or Prejudicial or Disclosable Pecuniary	Action Taken
Cllr B Maitland - Walker	All Items	Carhampton	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr P H Murphy	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr J Parbrook	All items	Minehead	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr N Thwaites	All items	Dulverton	Personal	Spoke and voted

Further declarations were stated by:-

Councillor Aldridge – Item 10. Personal Interest as the Governor of Somerset NHS Trust.

Councillor Woods declared a personal interest relating to agenda Item 10, in respect of creating a Facebook page relating to the Williton Hospital Stroke Unit Consultation.

SC 54 **Public Participation**

The following members of the public made statements on the following agenda items:-

1. Honorary Alderman of the District Mr Eddie May made a statement on Agenda Item 10.
2. Mr Christopher Henson of Luxborough Parish Council made a statement on Agenda Item 10.
3. Mrs Case of Luxborough Parish Council made a statement on Agenda Item 10.
4. Mrs Margaret Tatham made a statement on Agenda Item 10.
5. Mrs Barbara Heywood, Secretary of the League of Friends of Williton Hospital made a statement and presented a petition on Agenda Item 10.

SC 55 **Cabinet Forward Plan**

(Copy of the Cabinet Forward Plan published 7 December 2016, circulated at the meeting)

- It was requested for an item of reviewing the achievability of the transfer of public toilets to be added to the forward plan of a future meeting date.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Forward Plan published on 7 December 2016, be noted.

SC 56 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman invited Andrew Heron to present a brief statement in respect of item 10.

SC 57 **Joint Lottery Report**

The report WSC 146/16 was introduced by Councillor D Westcott and presented by Angela Summers and Ben Speare.

The purpose of the report was to seek agreement to launch an online automated Joint Lottery, which would help fund discretionary support to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations active across the whole of West Somerset District and Taunton Deane Borough.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- It was suggested that local authorities could help drive and build a plan around promoting the joint lottery. This could be marketed in the community using a social media account that could announce the winners.
- It was considered if this could be promoted on envelopes and e-mail signatures.
- The rationale was for a joint lottery with Taunton Deane Borough Council, to provide a greater pool of participants. Members of the public can play nationally if over the age of 16.
- Members considered the proposal as positive for the community and voluntary sector which had suffered reductions in grants and funding. Small amounts of funding to these organisations could have a big impact
- It is for local the councils to decide the community and voluntary sector groups that benefit through the lottery. Best practice from elsewhere could be fed through and applied.
- Councillors feedback on the "good causes" section of the report was welcomed
- Councillors broadly welcomed and supported the initiative.

RESOLVED that:- The Scrutiny Committee support the proposal to run a Joint Lottery, set out in Appendix A and recommend:

1) The instigation an online joint lottery operated by the ELM, Gatherwell with a lottery ticket price of £1.

2) The final arrangements of launching the lottery be delegated to the Assistant Director, Housing & Community Development and Lead Member for Community & Customers in consultation with the Section 151 Officer. This would include: appointing Gatherwell as the ELM, following the completion of due diligence; finalising the process for involving and marketing to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and the eligibility criteria for them to take part as good causes, plus allocating a small amount of officer time to apply for the Gambling Commission licence, check and register VCS organisation to join the list of good causes and administering decisions by Councillors for the Central Fund allocations to local good causes.

SC 58 Transfer of Public Conveniences

The report WSC 147/16 was presented by Councillor Chilcott.

This purpose of the report was to consider the options for public convenience buildings on and after 1st April 2017. To include where possible transfer to Town, Parish Councils or Community Groups and to also consider alternative options, if transfers were not progressed, of commercial disposal, development, demolition or alternative use.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Members expressed concerns over demolition being an option along with the pressure of the timeframe of 31st March.
- The public conveniences were initially offered to town and Parish Councils, then alternative options would be explored by asset management.
- Business rates would still apply to public conveniences.
- Some towns and parish councils did not have the resource to take on the public conveniences.
- Councillors voiced further unease over the flexibility of the timeline of parish councils with guidance only gone out on 24th November, it was considered this was unrealistic. In many instances heads of terms could not be proceeded with until funding is agreed.
- Suggestion was made for the deadline of the 23rd December to be changed to a date to be determined in January to allow time for Parish Councils to meet and consider the options.
- The Committee declined to support recommendation 2.3. This recommended sites which were not transferred, alternative options would be progressed of commercial freehold or leasehold disposal, development, demolition or alternative use to be agreed by the Asset Manager with the approval of the Lead Member for Resources.

RESOLVED that:- The Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet to approve:

- 1) The transfer of public conveniences listed in section 4.5 to town, Parish Councils or Community Groups either freehold at £1, leasehold at £1 per annum or by license.
- 2) All other terms and conditions of the transfers to be agreed by the Asset Manager with the approval of the Lead Member for Resources and Central Support.
- 3) The use of the sustainability reserve as set out in Appendix A, as amended by timescale until January to be determined, and the requirement for the statement of Community end user consultation.
- 4) Formally approve the addition of £43,200 to the Capital Programme to create the Capital Sustainability Fund expenditure budget which will be funded from ring-fenced capital receipts.
- 6) Delegated authority to Assistant Director - Chris Hall, Assistant Director - Terry May in consultation with Lead Member to review bids to the sustainability reserve and allocate resources.

SC 59 **Williton Hospital Stroke Unit Consultation**

The report WSC 148/16 was introduced by Councillor Murphy. A presentation was given by Ann Anderson and Nick Heron on the Vision for the future of Health and Care Services across Somerset. There was also an announcement that patients at present in Minehead Hospital would be transferred to Williton Hospital on a temporary basis.

The purpose of the report was for the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG) to provide further information on the proposed temporary closure of 6 specialist beds at Williton Hospital Stroke Unit and to answer questions on the issue.

Following Public Question Time a petition against the closure of specialist beds at Williton Hospital Stroke Unit was handed to the Clinical Commissioning Group by Mrs Barbara Heywood.

During discussion, the following points were raised: -

- Councillors voiced concerns over the recent announcement of the temporary closure of six specialist beds at Williton Stroke Unit. There was concern that the Clinical Commissioning Group had dictated to the Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.
- Members were reassured that the planned movement of Minehead Patients to Williton Hospital was due to difficulties in recruitment of nurses. This was a temporary measure with the situation to be closely monitored. Somerset Partnerships and acute services had been worked

closely with. In the event of any permanent changes consultation would be carried out.

- Councillors requested for inequality be addressed with patient's ability to access services across the district.
- Assurance was given that users of the service would not be disadvantaged, with six stroke beds remaining.
- Performance KPI's were being introduced in addition to investment in preventative medicine and measures. An increasing number of patients were enabled to return home. Guidelines were fully adhered to, it was patient's choice to return home, with ongoing rehab and therapy offered after discharge.
- Further information was requested on the number of stroke patients that were admitted and the occupancy of the specialist stroke beds, it was requested that accurate figures for patients who are diverted to South Petherton be obtained and that this is constantly monitored
- Concerns were expressed over the inability to recruit for the vacant nursing positions at Minehead hospital.
- Councillors were reassured that work was ongoing and jobs were being advertised nationally on recruitment sites, difficulties had historically been encountered in recruiting nurses in the West Somerset area.
- Reassurance was given that any permanent changes to the service would go through a consultation process.
- The temporary changes would continue to be monitored, further communication would be ongoing with any developments.

RESOLVED that: - The Scrutiny Committee express serious concerns about the temporary closure of Stroke Beds at Williton Hospital and requested an update on the temporary closure within three months.

SC 60 Scrutiny Committee Work Plan

(Copy of the Forward Plan for 2016, circulated with the agenda.)

- Councillors requested for the item of the Williton Hospital Stroke Unit be considered in 2017.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Forward Plan published on 7 December be noted.

Councillor Leaker left at 6.05

Councillor Mills left at 6.25

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.