

COUNCILLOR PAUL MAY

STATEMENT TO SPECIAL CABINET MEETING - 26 MAY 2022

Chair thank you.

I am a member of the scrutiny committee which considered the confidential officer briefing. We appreciated your cabinet members making sure there was an opportunity to scrutinise the options but were then told they could not stay as the committee moved into private session.

Indeed, I was surprised when the two cabinet members were told to leave the meeting so we were not privileged to hear their opinions?

I have to admit the advice presented changed my opinion. After that advice I favoured option 1.

Clearly the officers believe as part commissioners that the contract would be capable of identifying poor performance and action could be taken to put it right. This will give continuity and protect the council from a step change in costs during the next administration plus one.

The option to cut the contract short beyond your previous decision to extend is a risk that cannot be identified effectively.

So, the reason I have asked to speak is to be more specific than the committee decision and to recommend that the procurement process be started as soon as feasible in case of failure by the contractor.

I also favour all or part of the future contract being considered to be provided in house.

For example, our children's services are rated "good" by OFSTED and working with the ICB we should be able to take on the children's health and mental health services?

Likewise, within the wider ICB locality approach there may be options to explore re wider cooperation within a single provider for the wider area?

The public concern re being excluded from the process is a genuine worry which brings home this needs to be a decision thinking about the impact on vulnerable patients and the loyal staff who seek clarity moving forward.

This is a major contract for Banes and the current CCG so as much clarity as possible will be appreciated. It is about money, but vulnerable people need to be protected as well.