

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 10th November, 2016

Present:- **Councillors** Patrick Anketell-Jones, Rob Appleyard, Tim Ball, Colin Barrett, Cherry Beath, Jasper Becker, Sarah Bevan, Colin Blackburn, John Bull, Neil Butters, Anthony Clarke, Matt Cochrane, Paul Crossley, Chris Dando, Fiona Darey, Matthew Davies, Sally Davis, Douglas Deacon, Emma Dixon, Michael Evans, Andrew Furse, Charles Gerrish, Ian Gilchrist, Bob Goodman, Francine Haerberling, Alan Hale, Liz Hardman, Donal Hassett, Steve Hedges, Eleanor Jackson, Steve Jeffries, Les Kew, Marie Longstaff, Barry Macrae, Paul May, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Alison Millar, Robin Moss, Paul Myers, Michael Norton, Lisa O'Brien, Bryan Organ, Lin Patterson, June Player, Christopher Pearce, Vic Pritchard, Joe Rayment, Liz Richardson, Caroline Roberts, Nigel Roberts, Dine Romero, Will Sandry, Brian Simmons, Peter Turner, David Veale, Martin Veal, Karen Walker, Tim Warren, Karen Warrington and Chris Watt

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Lisa Brett, Deirdre Horstmann, Mark Shelford and Geoff Ward

45 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure, as set out on the agenda.

46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The apologies are listed above. In addition, Councillor Peter Turner had sent apologies but was able to attend the meeting for consideration of item 9 onwards.

47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Paul May declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 8 "Your Care Your Way: Full Business Case" as a non-executive Director on the Board of Sirona Care and Health. He withdrew from the meeting for consideration of this item.

Councillor Joe Rayment declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 8 "Your Care Your Way: Full Business Case" as a member of staff at Developing Health & Independence, who are currently contracted to provide some of the services under YCYW. He withdrew from the meeting for consideration of this item.

Councillor Sally Davis declared an 'other' interest in item 8 "Your Care Your Way: Full Business Case" in her capacity representing the Council on the Members' Board of Sirona Care and Health.

Councillor Paul Crossley declared an 'other' interest in item 8 "Your Care Your Way: Full Business Case" as a member of the RUH Foundation Trust.

Councillor Lisa O'Brien declared an 'other' interest in item 8 "Your Care Your Way: Full Business Case" as a member of the RUH Foundation Trust. [*This declaration was made just before item 8.*]

Councillor Martin Veal declared an 'other' interest in item 11 "Update on Destination Management Commission" as Vice-Chairman of Bath Tourism Plus.

Councillor Lin Patterson declared that, although she had previously signed a petition opposing the award of the contract to Virgin Care, she was approaching this matter with an open mind.

The Democratic Services Manager made reference to the list of dispensations that had been granted to certain Councillors to enable them to take part in the debate. The list is attached to the online minutes and available on the Council's Minute book.

48 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chairman made the customary announcements regarding mobile phones, webcasting, Councillors accessing meeting papers via their ipads and a comfort break.

He congratulated the Roman Baths on having been named as Large Attraction of the Year and best International Visitor Experience at the Bristol, Bath and Somerset Tourism Awards.

49 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

With the Chairman's consent, and in light of the length of the agenda, Councillor Tim Warren moved the following motion, seconded by Councillor Charles Gerrish it was

RESOLVED under Part 4A, Rule 16, that Rule 48 be suspended to allow for the extension of the meeting to allow resolution of items up to and including item 16, or until 11 o'clock, whichever is the later. The suspension will take effect for the duration of the meeting. All uncompleted business will stand adjourned to be considered at the next meeting.

[Notes;

1. Councillor Joe Rayment wished it recorded that he had voted against the above resolution.]

50 MINUTES - 15TH SEPTEMBER 2016

On a motion from Councillor Tim Warren, seconded by Councillor Charles Gerrish, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 15th September 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

51 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chairman referred to the questions from Jay Risbridger, Sian James and Christine Boyd which had been submitted, and the responses which had been circulated to the meeting, and are attached to the online minutes.

Statements were made by the following people;

Dr Ian Orpen, Clinical Chair of Bath & North East Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, made a statement to the meeting highlighting the patient at the heart of this important decision Councillors would be taking tonight. He urged Councillors to be decisive and consider the risks if a decision was not taken. Councillor Tim Warren asked if Dr Orpen could tell them the scores for the bids to which he replied that there was a significant difference, as the score for Virgin Care was 73% and that for the Link Partnership was 43%. Councillor Will Sandry asked whether the CCG had held their costs over the last financial year and Dr Orpen responded that they had. Councillor Sarah Bevan asked which of the 3 main drivers for change Dr Orpen would consider the most important, to which he responded that treating the person not the condition was key, and delivering on the others would contribute to this one. The Chairman thanked Ian for his statement which was referred to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health.

Pam Richards made a statement on behalf of Protect our NHS BANES. Full details can be read in the statement which has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes. In response to a question from Councillor Tim Ball enquiring whether Pam considered that adult social services should be split from this bid, Pam responded that it would be one way of dealing with this, as there was very little evidence that Virgin could deliver this bid. Councillor Sarah Bevan asked whether Pam was aware of the information that had been given in the briefings on Virgin's track record and references from other providers such as Barnardos, to which Pam responded she was aware. The Chairman thanked Pam for her statement which was referred to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health.

Lesley Mansell made a statement highlighting her concerns that awarding the social care contract would have a detrimental effect on staff jobs and wages. She gave the example of NHS Direct losing front line staff. Full details can be read in the statement which has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes. Councillor Tim Warren asked whether Lesley was aware that this was not about savings but the way care was delivered, Lesley responded that she was. Councillor Will Sandry asked Lesley to give further examples of her concerns regarding the Equalities Impact Assessment, to which Lesley highlighted a section on disability for which she said there was no evidence. Councillor Robin Moss asked for Lesley's view on the Virgin Equality Impact Assessment, to which she responded that she had not been able to find such a document. Councillor Sarah Bevan asked if Lesley was aware that Sirona's concerns related to their status as sub-contractor rather than prime provider, Lesley responded that it was difficult to figure out the details having only been able to review the documents recently. The Chairman thanked Lesley for her statement which was referred to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health.

Jo Hargreaves made a statement in support of keeping Bath Community Academy open. Full details can be read in the statement which has been placed on the

Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes. Councillor Tim Ball asked whether Jo was aware of any specific advice that either Cabot Federation or B&NES Council had given to parents who wished to keep their children at Bath Community Academy, to which Jo responded that she wasn't, and that the school needed funding and positive promotion to counter the stigma associated with it. Councillor Joe Rayment asked whether Jo considered there had been an unacceptable level of communication from Cabot Federation to parents, to which Jo agreed that it had been really bad, with the news of closure being delivered only 3 days before the summer holidays. Jo presented a petition of over 1000 signatures calling for Bath Community Academy to be saved from closure. The Chairman thanked Jo for her statement and petition which was referred to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

Sian James made a statement posing a series of questions about the merits of an east of Bath Park & Ride. Full details can be read in the statement which has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes. In response to a question from Councillor Neil Butters about whether Sian could see any discernible benefits from the proposed Park & Ride site, Sian responded that she could not. Councillor Robin Moss enquired whether Sian was aware that the Park & Ride decision would be one taken by Cabinet, not Council; Sian confirmed that she understood that. The Chairman thanked Sian for her statement which was referred to the Cabinet Member for Transport.

Christine Boyd made a statement against the east of Bath Park & Ride, highlighting the unused capacity at the Odd Down site. Full details can be read in the statement which has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes. Councillor Tim Warren asked about extra traffic in the city centre for east of Bath residents travelling to the Odd Down site, to which Christine responded that people from the east of Bath don't park at the Odd Down site. Councillor Joe Rayment asked if Christine would agree with the description of Bathampton Meadows as a flat and featureless field, which is what made it ecologically important to which she replied that she would not describe the meadows in those terms. The Chairman thanked Christine for her statement which was referred to the Cabinet Member for Transport.

Andrew Mercer made a statement explaining that there was still no evidence to support an east of Bath Park & Ride and urging Councillors against 'wilful blindness'. Councillor Neil Butters asked how Andrew considered public opinion had changed since the Park & Ride was considered at great length at Council a year ago, to which he responded that, in his opinion, public opinion had hardened against the Park & Ride and, if the consultation were to be run again, he felt sure that it would be reflected in the figures. The Chairman thanked Andrew for his statement which was referred to the Cabinet Member for Transport.

Sally Harris, Deputy Chair of Bath Welcomes Refugees, made a statement expressing support for the proactive and positive approach from B&NES Council in supporting refugees but calling on Councillors to recognise the different types of unaccompanied children and the implications of that. She urged the Council to secure extra funding for Housing from the Home Office (as Bristol City Council had recently done) and committed to continue to support the Council in all its efforts supporting refugees. Councillor Sarah Bevan asked Sally whether there were any

more fundraising events coming up; Sally responded that there was nothing in particular although directed Members to the fundraising page. The Chairman thanked Sally for her statement which was referred to the Leader.

Pat Mason made a statement calling for re-instatement of the subsidy for the 6 and 7 bus routes. In addition to the petition that would be presented, a recent meeting of 150 local residents had demonstrated the strength of feeling about the isolation, loneliness and damage to local shops and businesses that resulted from these routes being withdrawn. Councillor Neil Butters asked if Pat was aware of a potential solution from First with buses via the Guildhall; Pat responded that she was aware but that it was unsatisfactory if an onward journey was needed. Councillor John Bull asked whether the subsidy had originally been time-limited or ongoing to which Pat responded that the following speaker should be able to address that. The Chairman thanked Pat for her statement which was referred to the Cabinet Member for Transport.

Mike Parr also made a statement in support of keeping the 6/7 buses. He disputed the accuracy of the survey as not reflecting actual use of the the buses. He questioned the lack of consultation and transparency of the decision making process for an important matter affecting the lives of local people. Councillor Anthony Clarke asked whether Mike was aware that First Bus had been asked to check the results of the survey and had found the usage figures to be correct. Mike responded that he was not aware of that. Councillor Dine Romero asked if Mike knew the average passenger number on each bus; to which he replied that he did not. Councillor John Bull asked for clarity on Mike's comments about the nature of the decision to cut the subsidy to which Mike explained that the decision had not been made in a formal meeting so it had been difficult to understand exactly what had been decided, but his understanding was that the subsidy had been subject to renewal and could have been continued. The Chairman thanked Mike for his statement which was referred to the Cabinet Member for Transport.

52 'YOUR CARE, YOUR WAY': FULL BUSINESS CASE

The Council considered a report presenting the Full Business Case for integrated community health and care services for people living in Bath & North East Somerset.

On a motion from Councillor Vic Pritchard, seconded by Councillor Tim Warren, it was

RESOLVED

1. To approve the award of the contract to become the Prime Provider of community health and social care services to Virgin Care from 1st April 2017; and
2. To delegate authority to the Strategic Director, People and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health to agree any required post contract award variations to the Prime Provider contract, provided they do not represent a significant variation.

[Notes;

1. *During debate, an unsuccessful amendment was moved by Councillor Eleanor Jackson and seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, requesting this item be deferred until the Health & Wellbeing Select Committee could consider the matter. This was lost on a named vote with 23 Councillors voting in favour and 34 Councillors voting against, as set out below;*
Councillors voting in favour; - Councillors Rob Appleyard, Tim Ball, Cherry Beath, Sarah Bevan, John Bull, Neil Butters, Paul Crossley, Chris Dando, Doug Deacon, Andy Furse, Ian Gilchrist, Liz Hardman, Steve Hedges, Eleanor Jackson, Alison Millar, Robin Moss, Lin Patterson, June Player, Caroline Roberts, Nigel Roberts, Dine Romero, Will Sandry, Shaun Stephenson McGall
Councillors voting against; - Councillors Patrick Anketell-Jones, Colin Barrett, Jasper Becker, Colin Blackburn, Anthony Clarke, Matt Cochrane, Fiona Darey, Matthew Davies, Sally Davis, Emma Dixon, Michael Evans, Charles Gerrish, Bob Goodman, Francine Haeberling, Alan Hale, Donal Hassett, Steve Jefferies, Les Kew, Marie Longstaff, Barry Macrae, Paul Myers, Michael Norton, Lisa O'Brien, Bryan Organ, Chris Pearce, Vic Pritchard, Liz Richardson, Brian Simmons, Martin Veal, David Veale, Karen Walker, Tim Warren, Karen Warrington, Chris Watt.
2. *During debate, a further unsuccessful amendment was moved by Councillor Lin Patterson and seconded by Councillor Will Sandry proposing that the decision on this item be moved to a future Council meeting to allow time for due diligence. This was lost, with 20 Councillors voting in favour, 35 Councillors voting against and 2 abstentions.*
3. *The substantive motion was carried with 35 Councillors voting in favour and 22 Councillors voting against, as set out below;*
Councillors voting in favour; - Councillors Patrick Anketell-Jones, Colin Barrett, Jasper Becker, Sarah Bevan, Colin Blackburn, Anthony Clarke, Matt Cochrane, Fiona Darey, Matthew Davies, Sally Davis, Emma Dixon, Michael Evans, Charles Gerrish, Bob Goodman, Francine Haeberling, Alan Hale, Donal Hassett, Steve Jefferies, Les Kew, Marie Longstaff, Barry Macrae, Paul Myers, Michael Norton, Lisa O'Brien, Bryan Organ, Chris Pearce, Vic Pritchard, Liz Richardson, Brian Simmons, Martin Veal, David Veale, Karen Walker, Tim Warren, Karen Warrington, Chris Watt.
Councillors voting against; - Councillors Rob Appleyard, Tim Ball, Cherry Beath, John Bull, Neil Butters, Paul Crossley, Chris Dando, Doug Deacon, Andy Furse, Ian Gilchrist, Liz Hardman, Steve Hedges, Eleanor Jackson, Alison Millar, Robin Moss, Lin Patterson, June Player, Caroline Roberts, Nigel Roberts, Dine Romero, Will Sandry, Shaun Stephenson McGall.
4. *Following conclusion of this item, a comfort break was taken and the Council re-convened at 21:20pm.]*

53 THE LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2017/18

The Council considered a report setting out the preferred Local Council Tax Reduction scheme and seeking formal adoption, so that it can be taken into account as part of the annual Tax Setting process.

On a motion from Councillor Charles Gerrish, seconded by Councillor Paul May, it was

RESOLVED to approve the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report [subject to an insertion to Schedule 6, Part 4 Sub-section D to insert paragraph 26 of Schedule 5], for application to Council Tax accounts with effect from 1st April 2017.

[Notes;

1. *During debate, an unsuccessful amendment was moved by Councillor Joe Rayment and seconded by Councillor Robin Moss to delay a decision on this policy until certain concerns had been addressed in policy terms rather than by increasing discretionary funds. This*

amendment was lost, with 19 Councillors voting in favour, 35 Councillors voting against and 2 abstentions.

2. *The substantive motion was carried with 47 Councillors voting in favour, 8 Councillors voting against and 1 abstention.]*

54 PROCUREMENT OPTIONS - EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Council considered a report setting out the background and statutory requirements for the Council to approve the procurement route for the External Auditors to the Council.

On a motion from Councillor Charles Gerrish, seconded by Councillor Andy Furse, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to approve the use of Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA Ltd) to manage the procurement process for the appointment of External Auditors to the Council.

55 UPDATE ON THE DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

The Council considered a report seeking approval for the Council to take sole ownership of Bath Tourism Plus to ensure the ongoing viability of Bath Tourism Plus and the successful delivery of Destination Management Services. In introducing the report, Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones corrected a typo in paragraph 3.1.3 of the report – the figure of £47K should read £472K.

On a motion from Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones, seconded by Councillor Paul Myers, it was

RESOLVED

1. To delegate to the Strategic Director (Place) authority to extend the existing contractual arrangements between the Council and BTP (the Company) until the ownership issues (resolution 3 refers) are resolved;
2. To delegate to the Chief Executive and Strategic Director (Place), in consultation with the Leader, the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, the s151 Officer, and the Monitoring Officer, authority to finalise and agree the Articles of the Company and other such matters necessary for the Council to;
 - i. take sole ownership of the Company
 - ii. deliver the objectives identified in this report
 - iii. finalise the new contractual arrangements for the Destination Management contract.
3. To delegate to the Leader the exercise of all Council functions as sole shareholder representative of the Company, with the exception of disposing of ownership of the Company.

4. To delegate to the Strategic Director (Place) authority to finalise service provision arrangements between the Council and BTP for all required support services, including officer support.

[Notes;

1. *The above resolution was carried with 54 Councillors voting in favour and 2 abstentions.]*

56 BATH AND SOMER VALLEY ENTERPRISE ZONE

The Council considered a report seeking approval to finalise the site allocations and proposals for an expanded Enterprise Zone to include additional sites in the Somer Valley and Keynsham.

On a motion from Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones, seconded by Councillor Sarah Bevan, it was

RESOLVED unanimously

1. To approve the extension to the Bath and Somer Valley Enterprise Zone in accordance with the proposals set out in the report
2. To approve the proposed Governance and operating procedures for the Enterprise Zone, which are set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and supporting Partnership Agreement.
3. To grant delegated authority to the Strategic Director (Place) in consultation with the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration to:
 - a. Finalise the site allocations for Enterprise Zone status subject to a final decision by DCLG and the West of England LEP following the Government's Autumn Statement;
 - b. Confirm with DCLG that the existing Enterprise Area boundary is protected and clarify the policy on business rate relief;
 - c. Based on concluding the discussions in a. and b., complete the Memorandum of Understanding with the LEP and Government covering the expansion of the Bath & Somer Valley EZ;
 - d. Agree and submit an Implementation Plan for the Enterprise Zone expansion to the West of England LEP prior to the 30th November ahead of submission by the West of England LEP to DCLG on 9th December.

57 AVON PENSION FUND COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Council considered the annual report of the work of the Avon Pension Fund for the previous twelve months.

On a motion from Councillor David Veale, seconded by Councillor Shaun Stephenson-McGall, it was

RESOLVED to note the report.

[Notes;

- 1. The above resolution was carried with 55 Councillors voting in favour and 1 abstention.]*

58 CHARITABLE TRUST BOARD - AMENDMENTS TO TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Council considered a report seeking agreement to amendments to the Charitable Trust Board's Terms of Reference.

On a motion from Councillor Martin Veal, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, it was

RESOLVED

- To recommend to Council that the Charitable Trust Board's terms of reference are amended as detailed in Appendix A to permit the following:
 - Decisions about requests for works to be undertaken, or events to be approved that fall outside of the Charitable Trust Board cycle be delegated to the Chair of the Trust Board in consultation with the Lead Officer to decide (as detailed in Schedule 1 & 2 of Appendix A).
 - That urgent works required under health and safety legislation be delegated to the Lead Officer to action promptly (as detailed in Schedule 1 & 2 of Appendix A).
- That the Terms of reference (TOR) of the Charitable Trust Board are amended so as to move the land, Free Fields (Rainbow Woods) into Schedule 1 of the Board's Terms of Reference so that its responsibilities as trustee are delegated to the Board, now that it has been established that this is a trust for which the Council is sole corporate trustee.

[Notes;

- 1. The above resolution was carried with 55 Councillors voting in favour and 1 Councillor voting against.]*

59 APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT PERSONS

The Council considered a report inviting Members to appoint the Independent Persons as required by the Localism Act 2011.

On a motion from a Councillor Tim Warren, seconded by Councillor Dine Romero, it was

RESOLVED to approve the appointment of the Independent Person and the Deputy Independent Person.

[Notes;

- 1. The above resolution was carried with 55 Councillors voting in favour and 1 abstention.]*

60 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2016

The Council considered a report giving details of performance against the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Plan 2016/17 for the first six months of 2016/17.

On a motion from Councillor Charles Gerrish, seconded by Councillor Paul Myers, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

1. To note the Treasury Management report to 30th September 2016, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice; and
2. To note the Treasury Management Indicators to 30th September 2016.

61 AGENDA MOTION FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP - REFUGEES

The Council considered a motion from the Liberal Democrat group which was moved by Councillor Dine Romero, seconded by Councillor Joe Rayment and

RESOLVED unanimously that

This Council notes that:

1. Bath & North East Somerset Council, on an all-party basis, expressed a strong willingness to the Home Office be involved in the Government's national resettlement scheme. It established an officer working group which established the capacity within the area for this, particular relating to support services, housing supply and medical interventions.
2. The Council accepted 25 individuals (5 families) during 2015/16 under the Home Office Syrian Vulnerable People Resettlement programme.
3. The Council has received 10 unaccompanied asylum seeking children.
4. The Council is grateful to the people of Bath & North East Somerset for the many offers of support from citizens, voluntary organisations, faith groups and other organisations to assist in resettlement and confirms its commitment to build on that spirit of welcome.
5. Refugees contribute a huge amount to local communities throughout the UK.
6. The Council has agreed in principle to sponsor an application by the local group 'Bath Welcomes Refugees' for Community Sponsorship.
7. The Chair of the Local Government Association's Asylum, Refugee and Migration task group has called for Councils to receive more funding from central government to cope with resettlement challenges.

This Council resolves to:

1. Commend the work of Council officers and staff from the Clinical Commissioning Group in responding quickly and efficiently to urgent requests for resettling the most vulnerable of the refugees during 2015/16.
2. Continue to actively address requests from the Home Office for further resettlement of vulnerable people, refugees and asylum seeking children.
3. Work with partners, organisations and local individuals to address the significant problem of lack of housing that is affordable (i.e. within Local Housing Allowance rates).
4. Identify the skills and capacity which Council and partners can contribute to a variety of resettlement options.
5. Call on the Cabinet member for finance and efficiency to consider separating out the budget line for refugees from the Connecting Families project, in the forthcoming budget process, to increase transparency.
6. Request that the Leader write to government and local MPs to once again call for additional funding and support to be made available to help local authorities resettle refugees and to build capacity.
7. Encourage Councillors to sign the “Councillors Statement of Support for Refugee Children” hosted by Liberty, which has already won the support of 300 Councillors from across the country and five Councils.

62 AGENDA MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP - GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

This item was moved to the end of the agenda, and then adjourned to the next available meeting as the agreed end time for the meeting had been reached.

63 AGENDA MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP - PHARMACIES

The Council considered a motion from the Liberal Democrat group which was moved by Councillor Eleanor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Francine Haeberling and

RESOLVED unanimously that

Council notes:

- That there are 38 community pharmacies in B&NES and these are evenly situated across the local authority area.
- The valuable role local pharmacies play in our communities in providing local people with a vital service to seek medical advice and reducing waiting times at local GPs.

Council further notes:

- That NHS England has a huge challenge in tackling its deficit.
- That the Government previously planned to cut £170 million of funding from community pharmacies.

Council believes:

- That residents should have easy access to local pharmacies.
- That further investigation is required to assess the adequacy of existing services and the impact of any proposed cuts to pharmacy services when demand is on the rise.

Therefore Council resolves:

- To request the Health and Wellbeing Select Committee investigates this matter further.

64 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Lin Patterson made a statement (taken earlier in the meeting with the agreement of the Chairman) concerning the withdrawal of the subsidy to the 6/7 bus service and presenting a petition of over 2400 signatures calling on the Council to reinstate the funding and reverse the cut to the route of the 6 and 7 bus serving Larkhall and Fairfield Park due to the serious impact on these communities. Councillor Tim Warren asked if Lin knew the average numbers of bus users per bus, to which she responded that she did not. Councillor Robin Moss asked for information to be supplied to all Councillors about the nature of the decision making process, and was given a commitment that this would take place as soon as possible following the meeting. The Chairman thanked Lin for her statement and petition which were referred to the Cabinet Member for Transport.

The Council noted the question from Councillor Will Sandry and response, which had been circulated to the meeting.

The meeting ended at 11.00 pm

Chairman

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services