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## **Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being)**

**Report of the meeting held on 3rd November 2009**

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### **Matters for Information**

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#### **28. STUDY – PARKING AT HINCHINGBROOKE HOSPITAL**

Mrs R Clapham, Chairman of Cambridgeshire Link's Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Working Group and Ms E Stubbs, Cambridgeshire LINK Co-ordinator have been invited to discuss the Panel's study on parking at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. Having described the range of work undertaken by Cambridgeshire LINK, Mrs Clapham and Ms Stubbs have informed the Panel that Cambridgeshire Link has already received comments by users of the Hospital on its car parks, mainly relating to the level of charges being levied and the perceived lack of flexibility afforded to those visiting the Hospital requiring emergency treatment.

Members' attention has been drawn to responses received from Hinchingsbrooke Hospital on the Hospital's Green Transport Plan. Amongst the information presented was confirmation that staff who work on the site are subject to penalties if they fail to comply with the specified terms for using the car parks. Further information on the car park management contract is currently awaited.

The Panel has discussed the future management of the car parks in the context of changes to the Hospital's governance arrangements. It has been concluded that the Stakeholder Panel established by the East of England Strategic Health Authority to oversee the consultation should be informed of the need for the specification for franchise bids to include details of the Hospital's car park management arrangements.

The Panel has been acquainted with the parking provisions in place across the different Hospital Wards. Parents and carers of children admitted to Holly Ward, the Hospital's Children's Ward, automatically receive a free parking permit for the duration of their visit. There also exists the opportunity for car park users to purchase weekly permits.

It has been decided that a representative of the Hospital should be invited to attend a future meeting to present information on the Hospital's current car parking management contract and to discuss matters raised in the course of the study to date. Cambridgeshire LINK will also be invited to the meeting.

**29. DISABILITY ACCESS –  
JOINT ADVOCACY AND ADVICE SERVICES**

As a result of a previous Overview and Scrutiny study on disability access, the Panel has been acquainted with background to the support provided by the Council to community and charitable organisations operating in the District. Members have been advised that the Council has entered into a joint service level agreement with Disability Information Services Huntingdonshire (DISH) in April 2009. Attention has been drawn to the terms of the agreement, which include performance levels expected and mandatory organisational criteria.

DISH has made a number of achievements in the last six months and has undertaken a range of work with other agencies and specialist services in assisting those with disabilities. Specific reference was made to the importance of the internet for those with disabilities as it now makes advice and support available at a time and place, which is convenient for them.

The Panel has acknowledged the difficulties faced by a number of smaller voluntary organisations in conducting day to day back office functions and in so doing, has been advised that this matter is currently being addressed by the Cambridgeshire Funders Group and through Cambridgeshire County Council's Community Engagement Strategy.

**30. PETITION – HILL RISE PARK, ST IVES**

The Panel has been acquainted with details of a petition, which has been received from residents living in the Hill Rise area of St Ives. The petition has been signed by 16 individuals and requests the Council to erect an automatic barrier across the entrance to Hill Rise Park to prevent nuisance caused by drivers entering the park late at night. The petition organiser will formally present the petition to the Panel at its meeting in January 2010. In the meantime, Members have requested information on the actions considered by Officers and the police to address this issue.

The Panel's attention has been drawn to a similar problem previously encountered at The Riverside Park in St Neots. In order to inform their deliberations, Members have requested further information on the arrangements in place at St Neots.

**31. CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**(a) Update**

Councillor R J West has provided Members with an update on matters discussed at a recent meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee, which included reference to a projected overspend in Adult Support Services and the current

NHS consultation on the Future of Primary Care Out of Hours Services in Cambridgeshire. The consultation will be considered by the Panel in December.

Discussion also has taken place on the future governance of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. Bidders for the franchise will be required to provide the same level of services as at 2007 and to indicate what level of contribution will be made towards paying off the Hospital's existing debt. Concern has been expressed that the Strategic Health Authority might select the franchisee that undertakes to pay off the largest proportion of the Hospital's debt rather than on the basis of the quality of services that will be provided. As the District Council representative on the Stakeholder Panel, Councillor S J Criswell has reported that it is not currently intended to provide the Stakeholder Panel with details of the franchise bids or release them into the public domain. Members have concurred with a suggestion that the Chairman should approach the Council's Chief Executive and Chairman of the Stakeholder Panel, to request an opportunity to consider the franchisee bids in a private session.

**(b) Appointment of Substitution**

The Panel has appointed Councillor J W Davies as the substitute Member on the Cambridgeshire Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee.

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**Other Matters of Interest**

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**32. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING) - PROGRESS**

The Panel has reviewed its programme of studies. An update on the outcome of discussions with the Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services on the study into play facilities in the District has been received. Consensus has been reached that the Working Group should investigate the possibility of offering Town and Parish Councils the opportunity to enter into an agreement with the District Council for the inspection and maintenance of play facilities. Under the agreement, costs would be split three ways between the District Council (40%), the Town/Parish Council (40%) and users of facilities (20%). The cost implications of this proposal are currently being investigated by Officers.

A suggestion also has been made that the Panel should monitor Section 106 schemes already allocated to new developments and those where funding has been received for the future maintenance of facilities. Subject to the Development Management Panel approving the proposal, Members have agreed that the monitoring of those schemes should be included within their work programme.

**33. WORK PLAN STUDIES**

The Panel has reviewed its work plan and received details of studies being undertaken by the other Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

**34. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 – FORWARD PLAN**

The Panel has been acquainted with details of the current Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

**35. SCRUTINY**

The Panel has considered the latest edition of the Decision Digest and discussed matters contained therein.

S J Criswell  
Chairman