

**CONSULTATION: EAST OF ENGLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUST  
(Report by the Head of Democratic & Central Services)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Council has been consulted by the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust on its plans to become an NHS Foundation Trust. The Panel's remit includes health matters. The Ambulance Service's plans are submitted to the Panel for consideration and response.

**2. AN NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

- 2.1 The East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust is applying to become an NHS Foundation Trust NHS. This is explained in the attached document.
- 2.2 It is argued by the Ambulance Service that the establishment of an NHS Foundation Trust will give local people a much greater say in the service and how it develops. The existing Trust currently serves a population of 5.8 million people in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. It provides a range of services and has one of the highest patient satisfaction ratings in the NHS at around 97%.
- 2.3 The questions that have been asked as part of the consultation are:
1. Do you support the vision and future plans? (pages 5-6)
  2. Do you agree with the proposed public constituencies and the number of governors each constituency will have? (page 8)
  3. Do you agree that 16 should be the youngest age to become a member? (page 8)
  4. Do you agree with the general proposals for staff membership? (page 9)
  5. Do you agree that staff and volunteers should be made members with the option to opt out? (page 9)
  6. Do you agree with the proposed organisations to sit on the Members' Council as appointed governors? (page 10)
  7. Have you got any alternative suggestions on which organisations should be represented on the Members' Council? (page 10)
  8. Is there a particular seldom heard group you think should be represented? (page 10)
  9. Do you agree with the proposed make-up of the Members' Council and the proportion of governors in each category? (page 12)
  10. What service improvements would you like to see?

11. Is there anything else you would like to say about future plans around the application to be an NHS Foundation Trust?
- 2.4 In the past, when the Panel has been consulted on proposals by an NHS organisation to become an NHS Foundation Trust, Members have expressed concerns that the change could result in the transfer of services to other providers or to the community. There is a need to ensure that there is sufficient funding available to provide an adequate level of service.
- 2.5 On the question of the Foundation Trusts' strategic plans, Members have previously stressed the need for a comprehensive performance management framework to be adopted, which includes actions, targets and performance monitoring. In addition, Members have been of the view that any plans to work in partnership with other agencies should identify agreed and clearly defined roles to ensure effective service delivery.
- 2.6 Public involvement in membership of Foundation Trusts has been welcomed as a way to facilitate an exchange of views. The Panel has expressed the opinion that Foundation Trusts should take every opportunity to engage with its members; however, to help maintain their long-term commitment, the Foundation Trust should demonstrate that their contribution is valued and meaningful. Members have also suggested that young people might be encouraged to become Members of the Foundation Trust by engaging them through schools and existing youth groups.
- 2.7 The Panel has further previously commented on the composition and balance of representation on Boards of Governors. It has been suggested that the business community and commercial sector should be represented on Boards in order to enhance their ability to manage the Trust's finances.
- 2.8 Finally, the Panel has recommended that every effort should be made to minimise the cost of re-branding should the application be successful.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 The Council has been consulted by the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust on its plans to become an NHS Foundation Trust. A series of questions has been asked as part of the consultation. Members are invited to consider whether to respond to the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust and, if so, the form that the response should take. The kind of issues that Overview and Scrutiny Panels have previously raised when consulted by other parts of the NHS on similar proposals have been reported to assist with this.

#### **Background documents**

Correspondence received from the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust on its plans to become an NHS Foundation Trust

the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust on its plans to become an NHS Foundation Trust website

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