

COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT) – 12th October 2016

FULL BUSINESS CASE FOR THE MERGER OF THE TRUSTS RUNNING HINCHINGBROOKE, PETERBOROUGH AND STAMFORD HOSPITALS

The Panel received a presentation from Tracy Dowling, Chief Officer (Accountable Officer) of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on the CCG's recent Assessment Rating of 'inadequate' from NHS England and their steps taken in response.

After the CCG presentation the Panel received a presentation from Lance McCarthy, Chief Executive Officer at Hinchingsbrooke Health Care NHS Trust (HHCT) on the Full Business Case for the merger of the Trusts running Hinchingsbrooke, Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals. This included details of HHCT's plan for Clinical Service Provision, presented by Dr Melanie Clements, Medical Director at HHCT.

Following the presentations there was an opportunity for Members to question the representatives from HHCT and the CCG which was followed by a public participation session where seven members of the public spoke.

The Panel has considered the evidence they received and has reached the following conclusions:

- Members are disappointed that there was no reply or even acknowledgement of receipt of the letter the Panel had sent following the first Special Meeting until the day before the second Special Meeting.
- The Panel recognises that the Trusts have taken on board the Panel's previous concerns regarding public engagement but remains concerned that the pace of the public engagement still does not allow the public to be fully engaged and consulted
- The Panel is concerned that there is no consideration of a possible failure of the merger and suggests that there should be a 'Plan B'. It was noted that a significant proportion of mergers elsewhere have failed and the Panel has doubts about the assumptions made on the ability of a merged trust to recruit more staff to work on the Hinchingsbrooke site.
- The Panel remains concerned about a 'democratic deficit'. A merged Council of Governors would see the 'North' (Peterborough and Stamford) have a combined representation of 11 public members and 4 staff members compared with 6 public members and 3 staff members for Huntingdonshire. Members feared that the 'North' would be able to outvote Huntingdonshire and therefore decisions could favour Peterborough and Stamford hospitals.
- The Panel is keen that the Trust continues to involve the Council in the development of the Health Campus.
- The Panel welcomes the recent "Good" rating awarded to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital by the CQC and acknowledges the work undertaken by the staff to achieve this.

REVISED RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to consider the points above and include them in a response to the Trusts. Furthermore the Panel would like the Cabinet to forward the response onto the NHS regulator and the District's two Members of Parliament.