

**A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WAS HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2011**

Councillors Bradley, Dickson (P), Forder (Chairman) (P), Foster-Reed (P), Geddes (P), Hylands (P), Jacobs (P), Jessop (P), Kimber (P), Scard (P), Mrs Searle and Miss West.

Also in attendance:

Dr Bob Pennells – Medical Advisor for the Gosport Medical Emergency and Accident Services Working Group

Councillor Allen – Deputy Health Spokesperson for Gosport Borough Council

Councillor Edgar – Health Spokesperson for Gosport Borough Council

Brenda Brooker – Press and Publicity Officer

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Councillor Mrs Cully had been nominated to replace Councillor Mrs Searle for this meeting.

20. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillors Bradley and Mrs Searle.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

22. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 14th SEPTEMBER 2011

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 14th September 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

23. REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED

- (i) GOSPORT MEDICAL EMERGENCY AND ACCIDENT SERVICES – MINOR INJURIES UNIT

Consideration was given to a verbal update by Councillor Forder on behalf of the Gosport Medical Emergency and Accident Services Working Group.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the Gosport Medical Emergency and Accident Services Scrutiny Working Group had met for three evidence gathering meetings. The first was at the War Memorial Hospital's Minor Injuries Unit (MIU). The second was with Neil Cook, Head of Operations for South Central Ambulance Service. The third and final evidence gathering meeting was with Councillors Edgar and Allen (in their capacities as Health Spokespeople for Gosport Borough Council (GBC)) and the Press and Publicity Officer.

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Following these meetings the Working Group (WG) had produced a number of findings:

- i. The MIU was very good and the WG valued the MIU;
- ii. The WG did not want the services provided at the MIU reduced, but if possible, increased;
- iii. The ambulance service was impressive and served Gosport well;
- iv. The MIU was good for the community; and
- v. That there was a lack of understanding by the public as to what the MIU could treat.

The WG also suggested the following recommendations:

- o Improve publicity of the MIU through:
 - i. More adverts in Coastline. It was suggested that a cut out advert could be included in a number of Coastline editions;
 - ii. GBC's website;
 - iii. The production and distribution of small business cards outlining what the MIU could and couldn't treat (similar to the card for St Mary's NHS Treatment Centre – attached as appendix 1);
 - iv. A profile of Anne Welling (Consultant Nurse in Emergency Care at Gosport's MIU) in Coastline; and
 - v. Press Releases.

The Working Group hoped to bring a report to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting and then take the approved report to Full Council in February 2012.

(ii) GOSPORT MEDICAL EMERGENCY AND ACCIDENT SERVICES –
VASCULAR SURGERY

The Chairman informed the Committee that through the Working Group's scrutiny of the MIU, they had become aware of the proposed consultation on vascular surgery. It was proposed that the current Medical Scrutiny WG would not investigate the proposed consultation on vascular surgery, but a new Medical Scrutiny WG would be set up to examine the proposed consultation.

The Chairman outlined the issue. It had been proposed to move vascular surgery from QA Hospital to Southampton General Hospital. However as vascular surgery was a 'service' procedure, it could also result in other services being transferred with vascular surgery to Southampton. This would result in QA Hospital being downgraded from a super hospital. There were also financial implications to losing services. The hospital was paid for each procedure undertaken. If services were lost from QA Hospital, then the hospital would receive less funding.

The Committee was advised that the timescale for the consultation was not known, however it was felt that the scrutiny should be conducted in a timely manner.

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It was agreed that if a Working Group was to be set up then it should focus on the actual 'facts' of the consultation and these were currently unknown. It would be the job of the Working Group to seek these out and then make an informed decision.

The Committee agreed to set up a new Scrutiny Working Group to examine the Vascular Surgery Consultation. The 4 members of the new Working Group would be: Councillors Forder, Scard, Dickson and Kimber, with Dr Pennells as the medical advisor.

In addition Councillor June Cully agreed to ask Councillor Diane Searle whether she would be willing to join the working group. She would report back to the Chairman

The initial meeting would be held with Councillors Edgar and Allen to gain a better understanding of the background and also to assist in organising a number of questions for the future meetings. It was agreed that the next two evidence gathering meetings would be with Southampton, Hampshire, IoW and Portsmouth (SHIP) Primary Care Trust and Portsmouth Hospital Trust.

The Press and Publicity Officer was asked to produce a press release.

It was agreed that this scrutiny investigation would be taken to Full Council once completed.

RESOLVED: that a new Medical Scrutiny Working Group be set up to examine the proposed vascular surgery consultation with the membership as outlined above.

(iii) REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Consideration was given to a report by the Borough Solicitor regarding the review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

At the last Scrutiny meeting held on 14th September 2011 the Committee agreed draft proposals for consultation. The consultation on the draft proposals began on 21st September 2011 and ended on 31st October 2011. One response had been received during the consultation period, from Alverstoke Junior School. However as the Returning Officer deemed there to be no suitable alternative venue available, it was recommended that there be no change to the Polling Place for Place GA2.

Councillor Jessop questioned whether the Polling Districts and Places were adequate for the new developments in Rowner. The Borough Solicitor advised the Committee that as residents move into the new Rowner developments they will be added to the electoral register and slotted into an existing Polling district. The Borough Solicitor also advised that a review of Polling Districts and Places would take place in four years time and an interim review could be arranged if deemed necessary.

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The Committee was advised that should the report be approved then it would go to Full Council on 23rd November 2011 in the Chief Executive's name.

RESOLVED: That the report be approved and taken to the next Full Council meeting.

(iv) DIAL A RIDE

Consideration was given to a report by the Dial a Ride Scrutiny Working Group.

Councillor Hylands advised the Committee of an update since the publication of the report. In the most recent progress report from Community Action Fareham (CAF) there had been a small increase in the number of users over the last three months. CAF attributed this to moving the extra bus to a Thursday and also suggested new local places for customers to visit on a Monday.

It was noted that there were seasonal changes in the number of users of the Dial a Ride service, with less people using it in the winter months.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that they had in the past discussed the option of terminating the Dial a Ride service contract, but believed that this would not be necessary as the contract ended in 2013. The Committee also discussed the option of altering the service level in the new contract. The Financial Services Manager informed the Committee that Hampshire County Council (HCC) and CAF were open to suggestions for alternative service levels for the new contract.

The Chairman advised that the Working Group had done everything it could do and thanked Members for their hard work and determination.

The Committee considered the recommendations in the report. The Chairman believed that recommendation 5 was significant and wished to build upon it. The following wording was approved by the Committee for recommendation 5:

'there should be full and timely Member involvement in the next tender process to take advantage of the expertise gained during the scrutiny.'

The Committee also agreed to add a sixth recommendation, meeting HCC tender officers. The following wording was approved by the Committee for the sixth recommendation:

'The Dial a Ride Scrutiny Working Group would organise a meeting in February 2012, invite Hampshire County Council Officers to attend, and consider the timetable and scope for the next tender process for the Gosport Dial a Ride service.'

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The Borough Solicitor advised the Committee that the scrutiny could be completed after the February 2012 meeting, should the Working Group be content to do so.

RESOLVED: That the report and the amendments detailed above to the report be adopted.

(v) FUNDING OF VOLUNTARY BODIES

Consideration was given to a report by the Funding of Voluntary Bodies Scrutiny Working Group.

Councillor Hylands advised the Committee of the process taken by the Working Group during the scrutiny.

The Committee discussed the recommendations in the report. Councillor Hylands advised that CAB and Gosport Voluntary Action (GVA) were managing their finances efficiently and constantly reviewed their spending seeking to reduce costs. The Working Group believed that the voluntary organisations provided good value for money. Councillor Hylands noted that parking charges had become a problem for all voluntary bodies in the Borough. Councillor Jessop noted that every voluntary organisation in every Town in the Country had to deal with parking charges and an increase in expenses.

The Chairman stated that it would be useful for the voluntary bodies to demonstrate how GBC's money was spent and how much of that money was spent on providing services.

The Committee discussed the payment of Criminal Records Bureau checks. Councillor Jessop confirmed that CAB had their checks processed through Fareham CAF as that was the cheapest option.

The Committee discussed and agreed that the following documents be added to the report:

- i. Minutes 23rd August 2011 – appendix 1 (GBC budget page for funding given to Voluntary Bodies)
- ii. Minutes 5th September 2011 – CAB and GVA budgets
- iii. Minutes 26th September 2011 – Breakdown of GBC admin charges
- iv. Minutes 5th October 2011, paragraph 10 – include a copy of the procedure notes for CAB's internal performance monitors

The Committee discussed and agreed that the following amendments be added to the report:

- i. Minutes 5th October 2011, paragraph 13 – 'up take' should read 'take up'
- ii. Minutes 5th October 2011 – correct the spelling of 'stationery' throughout the minutes

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RESOLVED: That the report and above amendments to the report be adopted and that the amended report be taken to the Policy and Organisation Board.

(vi) CONSTITUTION – REVIEW OF PART 4

Consideration was given to a verbal update by Councillor Kimber on behalf of the Constitution Review Scrutiny Working Group.

Councillor Kimber informed the Committee that the Constitution Review Working Group had completed the first stage of their scrutiny and that following the consultation period the Working Group had agreed some minor changes to the Constitution. The Working Group had organised their next meeting for Tuesday 15th November 2011 and an update would be provided at the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

24. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PROGRAMME

a) REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY

No requests had been received.

b) WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted.

c) OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRUTINY

No requests were received.

25. AOB

There were no other items of business.

The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

CHAIRMAN