

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday 29 October 2009 at 6.30 pm at Civic Offices, Telford

PRESENT:

Councillors I.T.W. Fletcher (Speaker), D.G. Allen, G. Ashcroft, D.W.D Ashley (Deputy Speaker), R. Aveley, R.K. Austin, S. Bentley, K.T. Blundell, S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, R.G. Chaplin, E.A. Clare, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, V.A. Fletcher, J.A. Francis, G.M. Green, E.J. Greenaway, Y.C. Hicks, T.J. Hope, M.B. Hosken, G.P. Hossell, S.M. Kelly, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, A.A. Meredith, R.A. Overton, F.R. Picken, H. Rhodes, J.M. Seymour, C.F. Smith, M.J. Smith, E.M. Swift, V. Tonks, D.R.W. White, H.J. Williams and D.G. Wright.

48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors J.A. Dixon, R.E. Groom, P.A.E. Homer, L. Lomax, A.A. Mackenzie, C.R.P. Mollett, K.S. Sahota, U.E. Sambrook, A.J. Stanton, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, R.M. Tyler and A.G.P. Williams

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

50. JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CO-OPTEE VOTING RIGHTS

Councillor D.R.W. White, Chairman of the Scrutiny Leadership Board, presented the report of the Head of Finance & Audit. The report requested approval for a scheme, which was attached as an appendix to the report, for granting voting rights to the co-opted members of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. The report also requested the immediate amendment of the Council's Constitution to reflect the scheme.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the scheme for the granting of voting rights to the co-opted members of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee be approved;**
- (b) That Part 4 (Rules of Procedure), Section 5 (Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules) be amended with immediate effect to provide that the Joint Health Scrutiny co-optees were allowed voting rights in accordance with the scheme.**

51. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor A.J. Eade moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, and with the support of all the Group Leaders, the following Motion:

"This Council expresses its outrage at the continuing threat to services at the Princess Royal Hospital. The Council notes that current proposals would lead to immediate removal of vascular services from PRH and does nothing to lift the threat over other services including acute surgery, paediatrics and accident and emergency services. These are only guaranteed to remain at the PRH until 2013. In order to re-enforce their continuing commitment to the Princess Royal Hospital this Council will continue to do everything within its power to protect health services that are so vital to the health and well-being of our community".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor R.K. Austin.

Councillor Eade outlined the campaign to protect health services for the Borough and surrounding areas. Members were told that any reduction in health provision would have long term implications for investment in the area. He disputed the assertion that cardio-vascular services needed to be on one site for safety reasons. The removal of this service meant that other services would eventually be taken away. The battle to retain services would be a difficult one but the Council had a duty to take the lead on this issue. In closing, he thanked Group Leaders and Members for their united support against any moves to downgrade hospital services in Telford.

Councillor Austin, welcoming Members' cross party support, believed that full services should be retained to meet the needs of the Borough's growing population. He paid tribute to the work of Dr. Andy Inglis, who had provided survey evidence to support the retention of services. In closing, Councillor Austin told Members that all services should be retained at the Princess Royal Hospital. Councillor G.M. Green supported the comments from Councillors Eade and Austin. She called on Members to continue their support for the campaign to protect services. Councillor V. Tonks paid tribute to the people who had originally worked so hard to establish the Princess Royal Hospital. He felt that the proposals to downgrade services were an insult to those people and the local community. The united support of all Members would be needed to ensure success in the retention of all hospital services for Telford.

At this point the Rt.Hon., David Wright, Member of Parliament for the Telford Constituency, was invited to address the meeting by the Speaker. He thanked Members for the invitation to speak and congratulated them on the work done to protect health services in Telford. The review was an insult to the people of Telford, the fight to protect services would continue over the coming years. If there were to be a single hospital site for the area then it must be at Telford. He told Members that he would work with anyone, irrespective of party affiliation, in the fight to protect services. Councillor E.A. Clare told Members that they would all know or have visited someone who would be thankful for the provision of the Princess Royal Hospital. The time and costs of travel to Shrewsbury would cause hardship for those visiting the sick. She did not want Shrewsbury to lose services but told Members that they must stand up for the people they represent. Councillor J.M. Seymour also paid tribute to the work of Dr. Andy Inglis. The removal of cardio-vascular services from Telford would inevitably lead to the further downgrading of services. Any consultation on a future single hospital site would be fatally undermined by the current proposal to move cardio-vascular services away from Telford. Councillor G. Ashcroft was astonished by plans to downgrade hospital services. He pointed to the town's growth which would be

damaged by the loss of hospital facilities. The campaign should continue to retain a viable hospital in the Borough.

In closing the debate, Councillor Eade told Members that both the area's hospitals were excellent and that they should be retained. He had serious doubts about the proposals to re-locate to a new single hospital site as public finances were currently stretched. What happened in the short term future would dictate the fate of the Borough's hospital services for the future. He urged Members to continue their efforts to retain the town's hospital services. Following a vote, the motion was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED – that the motion be approved.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm

Speaker.....

Date