

## BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

### Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Monday, 29 October 2018 at 6.00pm at The Place, Oakengates, Telford

#### Present:

Councillors J C Ashford, S Bentley, K T Blundell, M Boylan, A J Burford, S P Burrell, E J Carter, L D Carter, E A Clare, G K Cook, S Davies, N A Dugmore, A J Eade, A R H England, N A M England, R C Evans, I T W Fletcher, V A Fletcher, J A Francis, E J Greenaway, M B Hosken, J Jones, R T Kiernan, J Loveridge, N C Lowery, C N Mason, A D McClements, R Mehta (Mayor), J C Minor, L A Murray, T J Nelson, R A Overton, J Pinter, G C W Reynolds, S A W Reynolds, S J Reynolds, K S Sahota, P J Scott, J M Seymour, R J Sloan, C F Smith, M J Smith (Speaker), B D Tillotson, W L Tomlinson, C R Turley, P R Watling and D G Wright

#### **43. Prayers**

The Reverend Keith Osmund-Smith said prayers.

#### **44. Apologies for Absence**

Councillors S L Barnes, C A Furnival, K R Guy, A Lawrence, H Rhodes, and K T Tomlinson

Councillor A A Meredith was also absent from the meeting.

#### **45. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors A J Burford, S P Burrell and R J Sloan declared an interest in minute number 46, Notice of Motion, due to their membership of the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and indicated that they would not take part in the debate and would abstain from the vote. Councillor Sloan noted that Scrutiny had not yet been consulted on the issue.

#### **46. Notice of Motion**

Councillor S Davies moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7, the following altered Motion:

“This Council is gravely concerned by the planned overnight closure of PRH’s A&E due to start in November. This Council has seen this coming for the past two years, and from October 2016, the Leader has contacted the Secretary of State numerous times to warn about the situation at SaTH.

Now at the 11th hour, this Council again calls on the Secretary of State to urgently put in place a government backed rescue plan to intervene to support the key priorities agreed with SaTH and all necessary actions to prevent the overnight closure of Telford’s PRH’s A&E, including

- To allocate extra middle grade A&E doctors and nurses to SaTH as a matter of urgency as current staffing levels make keeping two A&Es open impossible for the Trust to maintain
- Work with the Home Office to expedite stalled visa applications from doctors and fast track successful applicants to work in A&E at SaTH
- To provide central funding to help SaTH acquire a new radiology scanner at PRH to ensure its A&E can remain open overnight.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor R A Overton.

In proposing the Motion, the Leader paid tribute to NHS staff and criticised current government policies which he considered thwarted proposed measures to support the retention of services and advised on measures that the Cabinet was exploring in an effort to support training opportunities. Members were supportive of the sentiments of the Motion, sharing personal experiences and the fears constituents had expressed about the proposed overnight closure. Alarm was also expressed about the wider impact that the proposals would have across the West Midlands as patients were diverted to hospitals across the region during the busy winter/festive period. The SaTH management was criticised by some Members. A cross-party approach was supported by Group Leaders.

At the conclusion of the debate, a recorded vote was taken on the motion put forward by Councillor Davies which was CARRIED, the voting being as follows:

For: 44

Councillors J C Ashford, S Bentley, K T Blundell, M Boylan, E J Carter, L D Carter, E A Clare, G K Cook, S Davies, N A Dugmore, A J Eade, A R H England, N A M England, R C Evans, I T W Fletcher, V A Fletcher, J A Francis, E J Greenaway, M B Hosken, J Jones, R T Kiernan, J Loveridge, N C Lowery, C N Mason, A D McClements, R Mehta, J C Minor, L A Murray, T J Nelson, R A Overton, J Pinter, G C W Reynolds, S A W Reynolds, S J Reynolds, K S Sahota, P J Scott, J M Seymour, C F Smith, M J Smith, B D Tillotson, W L Tomlinson, C R Turley, P R Watling and D G Wright

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

*(In accordance with their previous declarations of interest Councillors A J Burford, S P Burrell, and R J Sloan did not take part in the debate or vote.)*

## **RESOLVED - that the motion be approved**

### **47. Political Balance**

Councillor S Davies, Leader, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning which informed Members of changes in the Council’s political balance. He drew attention to the revised political balance calculation and nominations to the Combined Fire Authority which had been tabled together with nominations for all Committees and Boards.

**RESOLVED – that**

- (a) the change to the Council’s political balance be noted;**
- (b) the corresponding changes in the number and allocation of seats on the Council’s Committees/Boards be endorsed; and**
- (c) the Committees/Boards, Chairs, Vice Chairs and membership thereof, as tabled at the meeting be appointed for the remainder of the 2018/19 Municipal Year.**

The meeting ended at 7.14pm

**Mayor: .....**

**Date: .....**