

# A G E N D A

## Health Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Wednesday, 23rd June, 2004**

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Time: **2.00 p.m.**

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Place: **Brockington, 35 Hafod Road,  
Hereford**

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Notes: Please note the **time, date** and **venue** of  
the meeting.

*For any further information please contact:*

*Tim Brown, Members' Services,  
Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford. Tel  
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**County of Herefordshire  
District Council**



# AGENDA

## for the Meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee

To: Councillor W.J.S. Thomas (Chairman)  
Councillor T.M. James (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Mrs. W.U. Attfield, G.W. Davis, Mrs. J.A. Hyde, Brig. P. Jones CBE,  
G. Lucas, R. Mills, Ms. G.A. Powell and J.B. Williams

	Pages
<b>1. CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN</b>	
To note that Councillor W.J.S. Thomas was appointed Chairman of the Committee and Councillor T.M. James was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee at the Annual Meeting of Council on 21st May, 2004.	
<b>2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
To receive apologies for absence.	
<b>3. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)</b>	
To receive details of any Member nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
<b>4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on this agenda.	
<b>5. MINUTES</b>	1 - 4
To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th April, 2004.	
<b>6. ACCESS AND WAITING</b>	5 - 6
To receive a presentation on the national initiative aimed at reducing waiting times.	
<b>7. CANCER SERVICES</b>	7 - 8
To consider issues regarding the provision of cancer services.	
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To consider the work of the Sub-Group to investigate communication and morale issues.	



## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

The Council has established Scrutiny Committees for Education, Environment, Health, Social Care and Housing and Social and Economic Development. A Strategic Monitoring Committee scrutinises Policy and Finance matters and co-ordinates the work of these Committees.

The purpose of the Committees is to ensure the accountability and transparency of the Council's decision making process.

The principal roles of Scrutiny Committees are to

- Help in developing Council policy
- Probe, investigate, test the options and ask the difficult questions before and after decisions are taken
- Look in more detail at areas of concern which may have been raised by the Cabinet itself, by other Councillors or by members of the public
- "call in" decisions - this is a statutory power which gives Scrutiny Committees the right to place a decision on hold pending further scrutiny.
- Review performance of the Council
- Conduct Best Value reviews
- Undertake external scrutiny work engaging partners and the public

Formal meetings of the Committees are held in public and information on your rights to attend meetings and access to information are set out overleaf

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- Attend all Council, Cabinet, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings unless the business to be transacted would disclose 'confidential' or 'exempt' information.
- Inspect agenda and public reports at least five clear days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect minutes of the Council and all Committees and Sub-Committees and written statements of decisions taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
- Access to a public Register stating the names, addresses and wards of all Councillors with details of the membership of Cabinet and of all Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have a reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports (relating to items to be considered in public) made available to the public attending meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have access to a list specifying those powers on which the Council have delegated decision making to their officers identifying the officers concerned by title.
- Copy any of the documents mentioned above to which you have a right of access, subject to a reasonable charge (20p per sheet subject to a maximum of £5.00 per agenda plus a nominal fee of £1.50 for postage).
- Access to this summary of your rights as members of the public to attend meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees and to inspect and copy documents.

## **Please Note:**

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- The nearest bus stop to Brockington is located in Old Eign Hill near to its junction with Hafod Road. The return journey can be made from the same bus stop.

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## **COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD.**

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COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee held at Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Thursday, 29th April, 2004 at 5.00 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillor W.J.S. Thomas (Chairman)

**Councillors:** Mrs. W.U. Attfield, G.W. Davis, Mrs. J.A. Hyde, Brig. P. Jones CBE, G. Lucas, R. Mills, Ms. G.A. Powell and J.B. Williams

**In attendance:** Councillor W.L.S. Bowen

**30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**31. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)**

There were no named substitutes.

**32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**33. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th April, 2004 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**34. EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SERVICE CONSULTATION**

The Committee considered the response to the Ear, Nose and Throat Service consultation exercise.

The covering report outlined the process which the Sub-Group appointed by the Committee had followed in preparing the draft response, a copy of which was appended to the report.

It was noted that the Sub-Group would have liked to gather additional evidence but the time constraints had prevented it from doing so. It was therefore proposed that if further relevant information was brought to the Committee's attention the Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing should be authorised, following consultation with the Chairman to submit further observations on the Committee's behalf before the closing date for the consultation exercise.

The Chairman, Chief Executive and Medical Director of the Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust had chosen to attend the meeting. At the Chairman's invitation they agreed to take part in the meeting and answer questions.

In the course of discussion the following principal points were made:

- In reply to a question about the number of emergency patients who would have

to travel to Worcester the Medical Director advised that, at the request of managers of the Herefordshire Hospitals NHS Trust, an audit had been undertaken by one of the Herefordshire Consultants and one of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust Consultants. This had produced the figures set out in the consultation document. Patient safety and quality of care was paramount. The effectiveness of any new arrangements would be monitored.

- It was agreed that the draft response should be amended to reflect the need for the number of patients travelling to Worcester to be monitored and the position reviewed as appropriate.
- It was noted that since the publication of the draft response the Hereford and Worcester Ambulance Service NHS Trust had written supporting the Network Option as set out in the consultation document. A copy of the letter was circulated. It was agreed that the response should be updated accordingly.
- A number of Members commented on the initial reservations that they had had about the prospect of some elements of the services being transferred to Worcester and how these had been overcome by the evidence in favour of the Network Option.
- It was emphasised that the provision of Ear, Nose and Throat Services remained Hereford based with only a very small element of service being transferred to Worcester.
- In response to concern about the potential difficulties those wishing to visit patients might face the Medical Director confirmed that if patients needed continuing hospital care and could safely be returned to Hereford it would be sensible for that to happen.
- That in authorising the Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing to submit further observations on the Committee's behalf it should be clearly understood that any such observations should be consistent with the views expressed by the Committee and reflected in the proposed response.
- There was a consensus on the part of Members, officers and the representatives of the Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust that the process followed in preparing the response to the consultation had worked well.
- The Chief Executive of the Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust commented that in almost every specialism some patients were treated outside Hereford. He was looking at ways of providing more services in Hereford and would like to discuss a proposed Strategy for the Hospital with the Committee at an early stage. He noted that the Committee could play an important part in maintaining public confidence in the ear, nose and throat service. He also cautioned that the implementation of any changes would need to be dealt with carefully.

## RESOLVED

**That (a) the response to the consultation on the provision of Ear, Nose and Throat services as set out in the appendix to the report be endorsed as amended;**

**and**

- (b) the Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing be authorised, following consultation with the Chairman, to submit further observations on the Committee's behalf in the light of any new information received before the closing date for the consultation exercise.

The meeting ended at 5.33 p.m.

**CHAIRMAN**



## ACCESS AND WAITING

Report By: Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

1. To receive a presentation on the national initiative aimed at reducing waiting times.

### Financial implications

2. None identified at this stage. Work is to be carried out from within existing resources.

### Background

3. In determining its initial Work Programme in November 2003 the Committee identified access and waiting as one of the three main areas around which that programme should be structured. It was recognised that this was a national issue but it would be helpful to understand how this impacted at local level and where there were particular bottlenecks. In January 2004 within the context of Access and waiting the Committee, approved a scoping statement for a review of emergency care access.
4. Throughout these considerations the Committee was aware that the Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust was involved in a national initiative aimed at reducing waiting times in the system and identified that it would be useful to be briefed on the outcomes to date.
5. Mrs Sharon Beamish, Director of Operations for the Trust will give a presentation on the national initiative at the meeting and answer questions. The Trust's current performance will assist in focussing the Committee's planned review.

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the presentation be noted subject to any questions the Committee wishes to ask.**

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None



## CANCER SERVICES

Report By: Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

1. To consider issues regarding the provision of cancer services.

### Financial Implications

2. None identified at this stage. Work is to be carried out from within existing resources.

### Background

3. Cancer services are organised around Networks which bring together a large enough population to ensure high quality treatment for more specialist services. The Cheltenham and Tewkesbury NHS Primary Care Trust has advised the Council that the Cancer Network Board responsible for overseeing the provision of cancer services across Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and South Worcestershire is, "currently working to implement a series of action plans linked to improving Outcomes guidance for each of the main types of cancer. It is likely that that this will identify the need for continued development and change in services to meet the stringent standards set."
4. The Chairman and the Head of Policy and Communication are to attend a joint meeting to discuss how best to address any cross-boundary issues. There is a clear possibility that it will be necessary to establish a formal joint Committee with the other two Scrutiny Committees affected: those of Gloucestershire County Council and Worcestershire County Council. In the event that action needs to be taken to establish a Joint Committee, and there is not a convenient scheduled meeting to which to report, it is proposed that the Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing be authorised to take any necessary action to facilitate the establishment of a Joint Committee after appropriate consultation.

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing be authorised to take any necessary action to facilitate the establishment of a Joint Committee after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the County Secretary and Solicitor.**

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None





## COMMUNICATION AND MORALE

Report By: Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

1. To consider the work of the Sub-Group to investigate communication and morale issues.

### Financial Implications

2. None identified at this stage. Work is to be carried out from within existing resources.

### Background

3. In considering its work programme in October 2003 this Committee agreed to establish a number of Sub-Groups. It was envisaged that one of these would focus on communication and morale issues and Councillors Brigadier P.Jones CBE and J.B. Williams were appointed to it.
4. No specific remit was given to the Sub-Group at that stage. A number of communication related issues were, however, raised during the recent work on the consultation exercise on the provision of Ear, Nose and Throat Services. This has re-emphasised the need to consider this area of work.
5. It is therefore suggested that it would now be appropriate to identify areas which the Sub-Group might usefully explore on the Committee's behalf. Given the complexity of the organisations involved it is inevitable that there will be a wide-range of potential issues for consideration. It is therefore proposed that following a series of discussions with the organisations involved priorities be identified and a work programme formulated.
6. It is also proposed that the Membership of the Sub-Group should be increased by the addition of Councillor Mrs W.U. Atfield and the co-option of Mr C.G. Grover a former Councillor and representative on the Community Health Council.

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT (a) the Director of Social Care and Strategic housing following consultation with the Chairman and Members of the Communication and Morale Sub-Group be authorised to formulate a work programme for the Sub-Group;**

**and**

- (b) Councillor Mrs W.U. Attfield be appointed a Member of the Sub-Group and Mr C.G. Grover be co-opted onto the Group.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None