

Report to Council

Date of meeting: 22 April 2014

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny report to Council – April 2014

Contact for further information: Councillor R Morgan



Recommendation:

That the Overview and Scrutiny progress report from February 2014 to the present be noted.

Report

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 1 April 2014

1. At our meeting on Tuesday, 1st April we received a presentation from Dr Chesser, the Group Director for Emergency Care and Acute Medicine at Barts Health and Helen Byrne, the Hospital Director for Whipps Cross Hospital. They were there to talk about the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of Barts Health NHS Trust and specifically about the recent adverse CQC report on Whipps Cross Hospital. They were the one of the first hospital trusts to be inspected under this new regime. We noted the remedial steps they were taking and had already put in place to rectify any of the shortfalls and problem areas identified by the report. After their presentation members took the opportunity to robustly question them on the corrective work they were undertaking and how they saw the future of the trust.
2. We went on to consider the report reviewing the petition scheme. We agreed the recommendations and added that a petitioner whose petition had achieved the necessary threshold in number of signatures should also be allowed to address the Cabinet just as a petitioner could address the Council.
3. We then went onto consider the report reviewing member questions without notice at full Council meetings, agreeing the recommendations suggested, that the time be extended from 20 to 30 minutes and during the first 15 minutes priority should be given questions regarding the written Portfolio Holder reports and priority during the second 15 minutes to questions on other matters.
4. We then went on to consider the draft version of our annual report and the Cabinet's Forward Plan. We decided that the Forward Plan should be brought to the every meeting of our committee, initially for monitoring purposes.
5. Finally, we considered our response to the East Herts Draft District Plan. Views were being sought on the whole document. We concentrated on their need for at least 15,000 additional dwellings and the need for traveller pitch provision. All this would affect our district and we expressed our disappointment that the options for a joint development plan for the travelling community had not been considered.