

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 6th September, 2011**

**Place:** Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Democratic Services Officer:** Simon Hill, Senior Democratic Services Officer, The Office of the Chief Executive  
email:democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk Tel: 01992 564249

**Members:**

Councillors R Bassett (Chairman), D Wixley (Vice-Chairman), Ms R Brookes, K Chana, D Jacobs, D C Johnson, Mrs S Jones, S Murray, Mrs M Sartin, D Stallan and G Waller

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS TO ATTEND**

### **WEBCASTING NOTICE**

Please note: this meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site - at the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy and copies made available to those who request it..

Therefore by entering the Chamber and using the lower public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for web casting and/or training purposes. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should sit in the upper council chamber public gallery area

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the Senior Democratic Services Officer on 01992 564249.

#### **1. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION**

1. This meeting is to be webcast. Members are reminded of the need to activate their microphones before speaking.

2. The Chairman will read the following announcement:

“This meeting will be webcast live to the Internet and will be archived for later viewing. Copies of recordings may be made available on request.

By entering the chamber’s lower seating area you consenting to becoming part of the webcast.

If you wish to avoid being filmed you should move to the public gallery or speak to the webcasting officer”

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

(Assistant to the Chief Executive). To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

(Assistant to the Chief Executive). To declare interests in any items on the agenda.

In considering whether to declare a personal or a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct, Overview & Scrutiny members are asked pay particular attention to paragraph 11 of the Code in addition to the more familiar requirements.

This requires the declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest in any matter before an OS Committee which relates to a decision of or action by another Committee or Sub Committee of the Council, a Joint Committee or Joint Sub Committee in which the Council is involved and of which the Councillor is also a member.

Paragraph 11 does not refer to Cabinet decisions or attendance at an OS meeting purely for the purpose of answering questions or providing information on such a matter.

**5. MINUTES (Pages 7 - 32)**

**Decisions required:**

To confirm the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 12 July 2011.

**6. REFORM OF THE POLICE SERVICE IN ESSEX**

To receive a presentation from Chief Superintendent Simon Williams, on the “Blueprint for Essex Policing”. He will set out the proposals of the Chief Constable of Essex for the future structure of Policing within Essex and how these will affect this District. County Councillor Anthony Jackson will also be attending the meeting to put the view of Essex County Council.

This is a very important issue and all Members are invited to attend. The presentation will be of particular interest to members of the Safer, Cleaner and Greener Standing Scrutiny Panel and the Safer Communities Partnership.

**7. REVISING THE CHARGES AT THE DARTFORD - THURROCK RIVER CROSSING  
(Pages 33 - 38)**

To consider the attached report.

**8. SINGLE INDIVIDUAL VOTER REGISTRATION - GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION  
(Pages 39 - 108)**

The Government has recently published proposals for the introduction of single voter registration. These proposals are open for comment both within and outside Parliament and the Chairman of this Committee has asked for this to be submitted to this meeting to establish whether members have any comments.

A extract of the proposals is attached for consideration. The Assistant to the Chief Executive (who is also the Registration Officer) will give a brief outline orally of current Government plans.

**9. COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES - REPORTS ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS  
(Pages 109 - 110)**

(Councillor D Stallan – Chairman, Constitution and Members Services Scrutiny Panel)  
To consider the attached report.

**10. WORK PROGRAMME MONITORING (Pages 111 - 130)**

**(a) To consider the updated work programme**

The current Overview and Scrutiny work programme is attached for information.

**(b) Reserve Programme**

A reserve list of scrutiny topics is required to ensure that the work flow of OSC is continuous.

OSC will 'pull out' items from the list and allocate them accordingly once space becomes available in the work plan following the completion of existing reviews.

Members can put forward any further suggestions for inclusion in the reserve list either during the meeting or at a later date.

Existing review items will be dealt with first, and then time will be allocated to the items contained in the reserve work plan.

**11. PROPOSED MERGER OF BARTS AND THE LONDON, WHIPPS CROSS AND  
NEWHAM NHS TRUSTS**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**To appoint a representative to the meeting on 15 September 2011.**

The Council has been invited to engage in discussions on the proposed merger of

Barts and The London, Whipps Cross and Newham NHS Trusts, at a meeting to be held on 15 September. They propose to:

- Provide an overview of the vision for the merger, including the benefits and opportunities for patients and staff;
- Provide an opportunity to discuss the proposal and raise questions directly to senior clinicians and managers from the three hospitals;
- Seek our views on how we can continue to engage with key stakeholders in the next stages of planning for the new organisation; and
- Outline the next steps and approval process.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, 15 September 2011, starting at 10am until 12pm. The venue will be West Ham United Football Club.

Before we attend this proposed review, we need to appoint a representative and the Committee is asked to do so. That representative should report back to the next O&S Committee on the outcome and any future consequences for the District.

**12. REPORT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR - CONTRACT FOR FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Pages 131 - 134)**

(Assistant to the Chief Executive) to consider the attached report.

**13. CABINET REVIEW**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**To consider any items to be raised by the Chairman at the Cabinet meeting on 12 September 2011.**

(Assistant to the Chief Executive). Under the Overview and Scrutiny rules the Committee is required to scrutinise proposed decisions of the Executive. The Chairman is also required to report on such discussions to the Cabinet.

The Committee is asked to consider the 12 September 2011 Cabinet agenda (previously circulated) to see whether there are any items that they wished to be raised at the Cabinet meeting.

**14. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**Exclusion:** To consider whether, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press should be excluded from the meeting for the items of business set out below on grounds that they will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the following paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) or are confidential under Section 100(A)(2):

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information Paragraph Number
Nil	Nil	Nil

The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, which came into effect on 1 March 2006, requires the Council to consider whether maintaining the

exemption listed above outweighs the potential public interest in disclosing the information. Any member who considers that this test should be applied to any currently exempted matter on this agenda should contact the proper officer at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

**Confidential Items Commencement:** Paragraph 9 of the Council Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution require:

- (1) All business of the Council requiring to be transacted in the presence of the press and public to be completed by 10.00 p.m. at the latest.
- (2) At the time appointed under (1) above, the Chairman shall permit the completion of debate on any item still under consideration, and at his or her discretion, any other remaining business whereupon the Council shall proceed to exclude the public and press.
- (3) Any public business remaining to be dealt with shall be deferred until after the completion of the private part of the meeting, including items submitted for report rather than decision.

**Background Papers:** Paragraph 8 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution define background papers as being documents relating to the subject matter of the report which in the Proper Officer's opinion:

- (a) disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based; and
- (b) have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report and does not include published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in Rule 10) and in respect of executive reports, the advice of any political advisor.

Inspection of background papers may be arranged by contacting the officer responsible for the item.