

TO: THE EXECUTIVE  
13 DECEMBER 2016

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**RESPONSE TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT ON “A REVIEW OF WHETHER THERE IS SUFFICIENT GENERAL PRACTITIONER CAPACITY IN BRACKNELL FOREST TO MEET FUTURE DEMANDS”**  
Director of Adult Social Care and Health and Housing

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform the Members of the Executive of the response from the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Health & Housing to the Overview and Scrutiny report on General Practitioner capacity in Bracknell Forest (attached as Annex A to this report).

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the following recommendations of the Working Group “A Review of Whether There is Sufficient General Practitioner Capacity in Bracknell Forest to Meet Future Demands” be accepted**

- 2.1 The Council should engage – both by Members and Officers – more proactively with the Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC), for example by attending all meetings or arranging a substitute as necessary.**
- 2.2 Both the Comprehensive Local Plan, and the aims of the Health and Wellbeing Board should explicitly recognise the need to ensure that the necessary healthcare facilities will be in place to meet the demands of the expanding population.**
- 2.3 That the following recommendation is not accepted:  
*The Health and Wellbeing Board (being the forum where the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) come together) should review what needs to be done to establish and maintain clear communications of health needs. This should include clear commitments in the Comprehensive Local Plan, and reference to healthcare facilities in the Community Infrastructure Levy, Infrastructure Delivery Plan/Regulation 123 List or Section 106 agreements.***

**3 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendation 2.1:

Given the considerable pressure on both Members and Officers time, this recommendation may be difficult to guarantee. However, the principle of regular attendance at the appropriate meetings to ensure that the planning of future GP and Primary Care facilities is included within the Council's strategic planning is good

#### Recommendation 2.2:

The second part of this recommendation is for the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider. The Comprehensive Local Plan should explicitly recognise the need to ensure that the necessary health care facilities will be in place.

#### Recommendation 2.3:

It is important that the Council is in a position to support Health partners in ensuring there is sufficient GP and Primary Care capacity to meet the needs of our residents. However, the funding and development of GP surgeries are a Health responsibility (the CCG and NHS England) so it would not be helpful to commit the use of the CIL resources, for which there are many other demands, and which could have significant financial implications for the Council. A very positive way in which the Council could support the future development of GP practices would be to ensure these are included as part of the Local Development Plan process and to explore the possibility of establishing robust local policies to enable land to be allocated and facilities built for that purpose.

## 4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Not applicable

## 5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Working Group has spent considerable time on this review which has provided valuable insights into the increasing demands on GPs and Primary Care. Given the importance of ensuring our residents healthcare needs are met both now and in the future, it is appropriate that the Executive support the two recommendations that are a Council responsibility and rejects the recommendation to use CIL monies to fund developments that are a Healthcare responsibility.

5.1 The early actions in support of these are set out below:-

The Council should engage – both Members and Officers – more proactively with the Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) , for example by attending all meetings or arranging a substitute as necessary.

The Health & Wellbeing Chair and Director of Adult Social Care, Health & Housing have met with the Chair of the JCC to agree appropriate representation on future JCC meetings

The Health and Wellbeing Board (being the forum where the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) comes together) should review what needs to be done to establish and maintain clear communications of health needs.

The Health & Wellbeing Board has invited an East Berkshire CCG Federation Director to attend its next meeting to discuss the Sustainability Transformation Plan and an invitation has been extended to Bracknell & Ascot CCG to bring the Primary Care Strategy to a future meeting.

## 6 **ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

6.1 The relevant legal issues are addressed within the main body of the report.

### Borough Treasurer

6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 Not applicable.

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 Not applicable

## 7 **CONSULTATION**

### Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 None

### Method of Consultation

7.2 None

### Representations Received

7.3 None

### Background Papers

Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel report entitled "A review of whether there is sufficient General Practitioner capacity in Bracknell Forest to meet future demands".

### Contact for further information

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