

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES

THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,  
KIDDERMINSTER

3RD SEPTEMBER 2008 (6:00 PM)

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**Present:**

Councillors: Mrs H E Dyke (Chairman), J Phillips (Vice-Chairman), J Baker, A J Buckley, G H Eeles, Mrs J Fairbrother-Millis, Mrs S M Hayward, C D Nicholls and G C Yarranton.

**Observers:**

Councillors: Mrs R L Akathiotis, N J Desmond, Mrs A T Hingley and M B Kelly.

**CMS.28 Apologies for Absence:**

There were no apologies for absence.

**CMS.29 Appointment of Substitutes**

No substitutes were appointed.

**CMS.30 Declaration of Interests:**

Councillor Mrs S Hayward declared a personal interest in agenda item no. 5 as an employee of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.

**CMS.31 Minutes:**

**AGREED: The minutes of the meeting held on 6th August 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**CMS.32 Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust – Foundation Trust Status:**

Councillor H Eeles entered the meeting at this point (6:04pm)

Members received a presentation from the Chief Executive of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and the following points were noted:

1. NHS Foundation Trusts were a new type of NHS trust in England. They were created to devolve decision-making from central government control to local organizations' and communities so they were more responsive to the needs and wishes of local people.
2. The Worcestershire Acute Hospital's Trust was formed in 2000 by merging Kidderminster, Redditch and Worcester Hospitals.

## Agenda Item No. 4

3. The Hospital's Trust had no involvement with GP's or dentists and was not able to determine which drugs were available to patients.
4. In order for the Hospital's Trust to reach this stage in its application for Foundation Trust Status it would have been successful in achieving its targets for infection prevention and cure, decreasing waiting times for elective treatment, and waiting times for accident and emergency.
5. Should the Hospital's Trust achieve Foundation Trust Status it would still be part of the NHS.
6. The Hospital's Trust would like to provide local radio therapy services and expand local eye services.

Councillor Mrs Oborski entered the meeting at this point (6:15pm)

7. The Hospital's Trust was attempting to sign up 5,000 members of the prospective new Foundation Trust. Any of these members would then be able to put themselves forward for the Board of Public Governors, who along with appointed governors and the Board of Directors would be able to make decisions on the running of the Trust.
8. The consultation on the Foundation Trust Status would end on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and the Hospital's Trust hoped to be awarded Foundation Trust Status by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009.

Members felt that there was little incentive for the public to sign up and become members of the prospective Foundation Trust. It was noted that should someone wish to be put forward for the Board of Public Governors they would need to first be a member of the Foundation Trust.

The Chief Executive of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust explained that Board of Public Governors would probably meet quarterly and that part of the role for the Board would be the approval of the strategic direction of the Trust.

Councillor Desmond left the meeting at this point (7:07pm)

### **CMS.33 Feedback from the District Representative on the County Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee:**

Members considered a briefing paper from Councillor Mrs F M Oborski in her capacity as the District Representative and Vice Chairman of Worcestershire County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HSOC).

Councillors Kelly and Mrs Akathiotis left the meeting at this point (7:14pm)

Members noted the ongoing consultations at the beginning of this municipal year being monitored by HSOC, were the closure of Lea Castle Hospital site and the closure of Sheffield House Mental Rehabilitation Unit in Malvern.

Councillor Mrs Oborski advised the Committee of the concerns that a number of GP's operating in the Wyre Forest District who were routinely referring patients to

consultants at the Dudley Group of Hospitals rather than hospitals in Worcestershire. Members noted that it was likely that this issue would be investigated by HSOC.

Members thanked Councillor Mrs Oborski for her detailed briefing paper.

**Agreed:**

- 1. Further updates from the District Representative on Worcestershire County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be added to the Committees work programme biannually.**
- 2. The content of the briefing paper be noted.**

**CMS.34 Work Programme**

The Committee considered its work programme for the current municipal year with regard to the Community Strategy, Corporate Plan, Annual Priorities and the Forward Plan.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the recommendations from the Driving Standards Agency Review Panel had been accepted by Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2008.

Members were also advised that the review on the Citizens Advice Bureau would be extended in order to consider further information, it was noted that it was likely the review panel would report to the Committee in November 2008.

It was noted that a report on flooding would be presented to the October meeting with a further report detailing the recommendations from the Worcestershire County Council's joint scrutiny review on flooding being presented to the Committee in November.

The Chairman of the Alcohol and Substance Misuse Review Panel, Councillor J Baker, advised Members that it was likely the review process would be quite lengthy as the subject area was vast. Members noted that it was proposed that the review panel would report back to the Committee in February or March 2009.

The Chairman advised Members that the meeting of Worcestershire County Council and the Post Office would take place on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008, and all District and Parish Councillors had been invited. Members noted that it would be useful to receive an update report on the situation with Post Office at the Committees October meeting.

**AGREED: The work programme for the current municipal year be approved subject to the following amendments:**

- 1. Biannual updates from the Council's representative on Worcestershire County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be added to the work programme.**
- 2. The Citizens Advice Bureau Review Panel report back to the November meeting of the Committee.**

- 3. The item on flooding be moved to the October meeting of this Committee.**
- 4. The recommendations from Worcester County Council's joint review on flooding be presented to the November meeting of the Committee.**
- 5. The Alcohol and Substance Misuse Review Panel report back to the February or March meeting of the Committee.**
- 6. The Economic Development & Tourism Manager provide an update on Post Offices for the Committee at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008.**

The meeting ended at 7:35 pm.