

Conservative Group Amendment to Motion

While Council welcomes the postponement of a final decision about funding for community pharmacies, it acknowledges that there has been significant growth in the number of pharmacies from 9,748 in 2003 to 11,674 in March 2015, an increase of nearly 20%. Council welcomes the investment in modern pharmacy facilities in Wyre Forest, for example as part of new medical practices in Hume Street, Kidderminster and at the Kidderminster Medical Centre which opened in August. Council also acknowledges the important role that pharmacies play in community-based health services, that reduce pressure on other parts of the NHS and social care system.

Council recognises that, despite the real terms increase in funding over this Parliament, the NHS needs to continue to modernise and make efficiency savings and that the Government is right to review what role pharmacies can play in achieving this, including increased use of modern technology. Council believes that no public service can continue to use service delivery models from the 1970s or earlier.

Council welcomes the announcement by the Community Health and Social Care Minister David Mowat MP that the Government will spend time to make sure that the Department for Health is making the correct decision about reforms that are right for pharmacies, right for the NHS and right for the public more generally.