

DRAFT minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting on the 21st January 2019

Following a question from a Member, Councillor Clucas confirmed that the senior doctors who had written to the Trust had concerns about their own employment future should they be asked questions without a formal invitation from HCOSC. She explained that if they have been formally invited it offers them a level of protection in so far as their employment is concerned. She felt that of greatest concern from the proposals put forward by Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (GHNFT) Board was the potential downgrade of Cheltenham to a day case hospital which posed a real risk to the public's safety given that it houses a major Oncology Centre. She explained that if no senior surgical medic was available at night to deal with emergencies patients would either have to wait for a consultant to arrive or be taken by ambulance to Gloucester Hospital.

Councillor Horwood, seconding the motion reiterated that as the next meeting of the HCOSC Committee following the Special Council meeting was scheduled for 20th February, there is a real urgency in the Council forwarding its concerns. He noted that it would mean that all gastrointestinal and colorectal surgery would be moved to Gloucester and so only day cases and planned short stay cases would be accepted in Cheltenham. He explained that whilst it was being presented as a pilot, it was on a large enough scale that it was dubious as to whether it is reversible and so looks to be a downgrade of Cheltenham hospital.

Councillor Babbage wished to place on record that he was happy to support the motion, however, he had concerns regarding emergency care.

Members noted that the potential changes could affect the whole future of how health care is provided in Cheltenham and has a knock-on effect on the whole County given that Gloucester is already overstretched.

Councillor Clucas emphasised the importance of the motion receiving cross-party support.

Upon a vote the motion was CARRIED unanimously.