Extraordinary Council

16 November 2020

Motions (2 total)

Motion A	Proposed by: Councillor Clucas Seconded by: Councillor Horwood
	Gloucestershire County Council's Health & Overview Scruitiny Committee (HOSC) meeting on 15.09.20 approved the Hospital Trust's proposal to extend the three-month closure of Cheltenham's Type 1 A&E Department for a further six months.
	Council appreciates the work the NHS Trust has done, particularly during the current pandemic, and understands the original three-month closure was to help keep Cheltenham General 'COVID Free', during the height of the COVID transmission, so elective surgery such as orthopaedic and cancer surgery could be resumed.
	Council is concerned that A&E at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital does not have the capacity to cope with all A&E patients from the whole County. It is also less accessible from large parts of the county and does not have the Emergency Ambulance capacity. Council is also concerned the additional six-month extension could become a long term or permanent change.
	Council appreciates the Hospital Trust is committed to re-opening the A&E Department at Cheltenham General "when it is safe to do so", but should like to hear more about what plans the Trust has to reopen the Department when it is possible. Council also seeks assurance the new plans for redevelopment of Cheltenham General will include the existing Type 1 A&E Department, or a new Type 1 A&E Department. Cabinet welcomes their promise to HOSC that a further downgrade of Cheltenham A&E to a Minor Injuries Unit would not be included in their permanent change proposals.
	Cheltenham Council urges the Trust not to downgrade our Type 1 A&E at all (ie to an Urgent Treatment Centre) and to present local councils with a long-term plan for the full restoration of a 24 hour Type 1 A&E at Cheltenham.
	For the avoidance of doubt, Council remains opposed to permanent closure or downgrading of Accident and Emergency (A&E) facilities at Cheltenham General Hospital. This follows decisions formerly taken by Cheltenham Council.
	Council is pleased to see Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and Gloucestershire Hospitals' Trust are presenting their latest proposals at an all-member event, to which all Cheltenham Members have been invited.

Further, Council recognises that the Trust's permanent change consultation are under way. Proposals may yet include another permanent move of general surgery to Gloucester Royal Hospital. Council is requested to prepare a consultation submission reflecting the observations and direction in this motion. Council can formally agree such submission prior to submission.

Motion B Proposed by: Councillor Clucas Seconded by: Councillor Jeffries

Given the swiftness of the announcement of a second lockdown and its immediate impact on families, particularly children, locally;

Recognising that many local organisations, voluntary and church groups have been instrumental in providing essential supplies and food to those most affected by the pandemic;

Recognising that such groups require support financial support to continue their work;

Recognising that Cheltenham Borough Council has a Social Value Policy;

The Chief Executive is requested to contact all of its suppliers and contractors to request support, either financial or in kind, for the food network, so that residents badly affected by the pandemic, immediate lockdown and its consequences, can be helped.

Further, Council requests County Councillors representing Cheltenham divisions to advise the Chief Executive if they are able, once again, to support the network financially as some have already done during this last year.