

**Cheltenham Borough Council
Council – 7 December 2020**

One Gloucestershire Consultation: Fit for the Future -Developing urgent and hospital care in Gloucestershire

Accountable member	Councillor Flo Clucas, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles
Accountable officer	Darren Knight, Executive Director – People & Change
Ward(s) affected	All
Key/Significant Decision	Yes
Executive summary	<p>Comprehensive NHS provision in Cheltenham is critical for not just the people of Cheltenham but also those service users who receive treatment from Cheltenham General Hospital throughout Gloucestershire and surrounding areas.</p> <p>Changes proposed to provision at Cheltenham General Hospital through the One Gloucestershire Consultation – Fit for the Future 2020, therefore need careful consideration, evaluation and response. It is therefore critical that the Council agrees its formal response to the consultation and makes its position clear as not only a key stakeholder but also as critical friend.</p> <p>Following a Council motion on the 16th November, the purpose of this report is to formally confirm the Council’s recommendations as part of the consultation response on the future of Cheltenham General Hospital and NHS provision in Gloucestershire.</p>
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The issues highlighted in section 6 of this report to form the basis of the Council’s response to the Fit for the Future consultation to be submitted before the 17 December. 2. The Council report should also be forwarded to Gloucestershire County Council’s Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) for their consideration.

Financial implications	<p>There are no financial implications as a result of this report</p> <p>Contact officer: Martin Yates martin.yates@publicagroup.uk</p>
Legal implications	<p>There are no legal implications as a result of this report</p> <p>Contact officer: One Legal legal.services@tewkesbury.gov.uk, 01684 272012</p>

HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	<p>There are no HR implications as a result of this report</p> <p>Contact officer: Julie McCarthy</p> <p>julie.mccarthy@publicagroup.uk, 01242 264355</p>
Key risks	<p>Risk assessment attached</p>
Corporate and community plan Implications	<p>The Cheltenham place vision sets out the collective ambition for Cheltenham to be a place that champions physical and mental wellbeing. As a council it is therefore important that we place a high priority on ensuring that our residents have access to comprehensive health and wellbeing services that support people with their physical and mental wellbeing.</p>
Environmental and climate change implications	<p>The way in which services are organised in the future will have an impact on carbon emissions, which will be affected (positively or negatively) by the ways in which people are able to access services, the distance people need to travel to obtain treatment and also the frequency of transfer between hospitals.</p>
Property/Asset Implications	<p>There are no property implications as a result of this report</p> <p>Contact officer: Dominic.Stead@cheltenham.gov.uk</p>

1. Background:

- 1.1 2020 has shown more than ever before how important comprehensive NHS provision is. Therefore, any proposed changes to local provision needs to be carefully considered, evaluated and responded to in order to ensure that service users now and in the future continue to receive the best possible provision.
- 1.2 The Council has a key role in this consultation process, not only as a stakeholder whose elected members represent the people of Cheltenham but also as a critical friend who want the best for service users and NHS employees.
- 1.3 Following a motion debated at full Council on the 16 November, it was agreed that the Council would prepare and agree a consultation submission reflecting the observations and direction for in motion and where Council can formally agree such submission prior to submission.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to formally confirm the Council's position and recommendations as part of the consultation on the future of Cheltenham General Hospital and NHS provision in Gloucestershire.

2. What is Fit for the Future:

- 2.1 Fit for the Future is part of the One Gloucestershire vision focussing on the medium and long-term future of specialist hospital services at Cheltenham General Hospital (CGH) and Gloucestershire Royal Hospital (GRH).
- 2.2 More information about the proposed changes and consultation can be found from <https://www.onegloucestershire.net/yoursay/fit-for-the-future/> and from appendix 1 Fit-for-the-Future-Engagement-Booklet.

3. Council Motion:

- 3.1 On the 16 November there was a motion raised at full Council, which was unanimously supported by members, which raised a number of concerns regarding the proposed changes, which included:
 - 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 at Cheltenham General Hospital could become a long term or permanent change.
 - Council urges the Trust not to downgrade our Type 1 A&E at all (i.e. 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.
 - Council remains opposed to permanent closure or downgrading of Accident and Emergency (A&E) facilities at Cheltenham General 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.

4. Alternative options considered:

- 4.1 Not taking this report to Council was dismissed due to the important nature of the issue and possible impact on local health provision. It is important that the Council makes its recommendations clear as a united body.

5. Council engagement with Gloucestershire NHS Trust:

- 5.1** On Wednesday the 18 November 2020, representatives from the Gloucestershire NHS Trust presented a summary of the proposed changes and took part in a question and answer session with members. A copy of the presentation is attached in appendix 2.
- 5.2** On Monday the 9 September 2019, representatives from the Gloucestershire NHS Trust attended the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a presentation followed by a question and answer session with committee members - <https://democracy.cheltenham.gov.uk/documents/g2989/Public%20reports%20pack%2021st-Oct-2019%2018.00%20Overview%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=10>
- 5.3** We would like to put on record our sincere thanks to Gloucestershire NHS Trust for their efforts in engaging with Council representatives as part of their stakeholder engagement process.

6. Consultation response:

- 6.1** It is recommended that the Council's response to the consultation is based on the following points:
- Centralisation of the acute medical service onto a single site at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital (GRH) will place very significant pressure on bed availability, even with the planned expansion of the acute admissions unit at GRH
 - For any acute medical centralisation to be successful, the Trust must make every effort to transfer elective activity to Cheltenham General Hospital (CGH)
 - Any proposals under Fit for the Future regarding acute medicine must ensure adequate twenty four hour provision of emergency medical care to support the inpatient population at Cheltenham as well as the ED on the east side of the county
 - Support the option of centralising gastroenterology inpatient services at CGH. Co-locating inpatient gastroenterology with a centre for major elective colorectal surgery in Cheltenham will provide an integrated service for patients with bowel disease
 - CGH should be developed to become a Centre of Excellence for Cancer at Cheltenham. CGH is a highly regarded Cancer Centre with facilities to deliver modern radiotherapy and systemic treatments
 - The creation of an elective Centre of Excellence for Cancer with co-located surgery and oncology would also afforded a degree of protection for cancer services in the face of any future pandemic threat
 - Centralisation of emergency general surgery and the acute medical onto a single site at GRH may increase bed pressures in that unit. If centralisation proceeds for emergency general surgery at GRH, it is vital that all elective surgical activity is centralised at CGH, so that elective patients can be treated without disruption from emergency bed pressures or indeed future pandemics
 - Elective major colorectal surgery should be centralised onto a single site at CGH. This centralisation will help to create a large elective Cancer Hospital, with reference to major pelvic surgery
 - As the vast majority of arterial vascular surgery is elective, it would seem entirely reasonable that this should be located at the elective Centre of Excellence at the CGH

- The main interventional radiology hub should be located at CGH, where the majority of non-vascular interventional radiology cases are currently performed
- Not to downgrade CGH as a Type 1 A&E at all (i.e. 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
- The Council is opposed to permanent closure or downgrading of Accident and Emergency (A&E) facilities at CGH

Report author:	<p>Contact officer: Darren Knight</p> <p>Tel: 01242 264387</p> <p>Email: Darren.knight@cheltenham.gov.uk</p>
Appendices:	<p>Appendix 1: One-Gloucestershire-Fit-for-the-Future-Engagement-Booklet-Aug 2019</p> <p>Appendix 2: Fit for the Future Consultation Presentation</p>
Background information:	<p>https://www.onegloucestershire.net/yoursay/fit-for-the-future/</p> <p>Overview & Scrutiny Committee Minutes from September 2019 - https://democracy.cheltenham.gov.uk/documents/g2989/Public%20reports%20pack%2021st-Oct-2019%2018.00%20Overview%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=10</p>

The risk				Original risk score (impact x likelihood)			Managing risk				
Risk ref.	Risk description	Risk Owner	Date raised	Impact 1-5	Likelihood 1-6	Score	Control	Action	Deadline	Responsible officer	Transferred to risk register
1	Council not agreeing a united response to the Fit for the Future Consultation	Darren Knight	16/11/2020	4	1	4	Motion agreed in the 16/11/2020 to take a report back to Council before the consultation period ends	Council report prepared for full Council consideration	25/11/2020	Darren Knight	N/A

Explanatory notes

Impact – an assessment of the impact if the risk occurs on a scale of 1-5 (1 being least impact and 5 being major or critical)

Likelihood – how likely is it that the risk will occur on a scale of 1-6 (1 being almost impossible, 2 is very low, 3 is low, 4 significant, 5 high and 6 a very high probability)

Control - Either: Reduce / Accept / Transfer to 3rd party / Close