

Cllr JEANETTE BAKER

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**WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Chair Cllr Yvonne Constance & Committee Members
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
c/o Katie Read, Policy Officer
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

Our Ref: JB/MS

21 February 2017

Dear Cllr Constance & Committee Members

Scrutiny of the Oxfordshire Health and Care Transformation Phase 1 Proposals

This Council recognises and supports Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's (OCCG) aspiration, through its Transformation Programme, to improve services and find ways to enable local people to easily access the services they need while demand for these services is rapidly increasing. We also recognise that West Oxfordshire will experience a significant increase in demand over the next few years as its population increases. Furthermore, West Oxfordshire will also have proportionately more older people for whom travel to the JR is difficult. We therefore fully support the aspiration within the Programme for more services to be available to people closer to their homes, including improved diagnostic and specialist provision.

In light of this, our response for HOSC consideration to the STP phase 1 proposals is as follows:

I. Community Hospital provision

While there is no proposal for reducing the services available at Witney Community Hospital within the Phase 1 consultation, the proposals for centralising acute stroke care at the HASU at the JR as well as level 3 critical care, make the provision of intermediate and rehabilitation services at Witney Community Hospital and The Horton General Hospital vital so that West Oxfordshire residents can access services close to their homes. In light of this, we will be responding to the consultation making it clear that we would **ONLY** support the proposals set out on the understanding that:

- there would be **NO** reduction of care in West Oxfordshire put forward in STP Phase 2 proposals.
- STP Phase 2 proposals include an increase in parking availability at the JR that at least matches the number of increased visits there will be to specialist services centralised at the JR as part of the Phase 1 proposals.

2. Maternity and first aid provision

Given the developments coming to West Oxfordshire, including increased numbers of homes, as well as increases in population in North Oxfordshire, we strongly support the continued provision of a midwife led maternity unit in Chipping Norton. Furthermore we would not support the removal of the First Aid Unit at Chipping Norton if this is proposed in Phase 2. There **MUST** be recognition that while we understand that centralisation of specialist functions can enable effective use of resources, it is not reasonable to expect people in rural areas to travel into Oxford for routine and less serious conditions.

Maintaining both maternity provision and first aid provision will go some way to enabling residents, particularly West Oxfordshire's fast growing elderly population, to access services reasonably close to their homes.

3. District Council involvement in STP development

We feel strongly that the process regarding such fundamental changes to the healthcare of our residents should be open and transparent. While we appreciate the current Phase 1 consultation opportunity, we feel strongly that as a Council and key partner we have not played a full enough part in the development of these proposals. We have attended information sharing events with other stakeholders, but have not been able to input sufficiently on the needs and issues particular to our district and our residents.

District authorities are closely linked to their local communities including town and parish councils. We run a great deal of services to support our local residents, we set out proposals for growth in the district and we offer financial support to third sector organisations that offer a wide range of health and wellbeing services to our local residents.

In light of all this, we hope we will have a greater opportunity to participate more fully in the development of phase 2 proposals and ensure they link with local needs and aspirations. To this end we would like consideration to be given to the addition of District authorities to the STP Board.

Yours sincerely



CLLR JEANETTE BAKER
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