

6 September 2018		ITEM: 13
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Establishment of a Task and Finish Group in relation to Orsett Hospital		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key decision	
Report of: Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer		
Accountable Assistant Director: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law & Governance		
Accountable Director: Sean Clark, Corporate Director of Finance and IT		
This report is public		

Executive Summary

Following the announcement that Orsett Hospital will close, Councillor Holloway, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee expressed that Terms of Reference for a Task and Finish Group to be brought to the Committee for consideration.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee establish a Task and Finish Group under the title of review of the future options for Orsett Hospital.

1.2 That the terms of reference (attached as Appendix 1) be adopted.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Following the Joint Committee of the five Clinical Commissioning Groups in Mid and South Essex held on the 6 July 2018 it was agreed that Orsett Hospital would close. It was also agreed that Orsett Hospital would not close until the four Integrated Medical Centres are up and running and that no clinical services for Thurrock patients would move outside of Thurrock. This agreement had been consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding agreed between the Council and Health partners in 2017.

2.2 The closure of the hospital will see all healthcare services transferred to new medical centres which will be located across Thurrock, Basildon and Brentwood.

- 2.3 Thurrock Council currently works alongside Essex and Southend Councils on a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee to review the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership for Mid and South Essex to which Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members attend.
- 2.4 The proposed review of the future of Orsett Hospital will be a Task and Finish Group as defined by the Constitution, and membership will be appointed through nominations by political leaders.
- 2.5 The Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee will act as the parent committee to any task and finish group it establishes.

3. Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The Terms of Reference are not exhaustive and there are options to explore other methods of research and information gathering.
- 3.2 A Task and Finish Group is the most appropriate body for the review of the future of Orsett Hospital. This option preserves the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's autonomy to undertake its own workload whilst minimising formality and bureaucracy by allowing public meetings to be convened as and when required.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 This recommendation would represent an effective way for the Council to discharge any formal Member related activity in relation to the review of Orsett Hospital.
- 4.2 It would also allow the Committee to add an objective viewpoint to the current processes in relation to moving services from Orsett Hospital.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 None

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 The recommendation is seeking to establish a Task and Finish Group that will allow elected members, as well as members of the public representing relevant interest groups, to engage and shape the Council response to the review of Orsett Hospital. This promotes and increases democracy.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by **Jo Freeman**

Management Account Social Care & Commissioning

There are no financial implications in the establishment of the Task and Finish Group as no Member will receive a special responsibility allowance for the duties. Officer time will be required to attend and carry out the work of the Task and Finish Group. Any financial implications arising from recommendations of the Task and Finish Group would need to be assessed when appropriate.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by **David Lawson**
Assistant Director of Law & Governance

The establishment of a Task and Finish Group complies with Chapter 4 Rule 8 of the constitution.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by **Becky Price**
Community Development and Equalities

There are no diversity or equality implications related to the establishment of this Task and Finish Group. Appointments will be made through political Group Leaders and any lay co-opted member will be appointed through a fair and equitable process.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None

9. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference

Report Author:

Jenny Shade
Senior Democratic Services Officer