

**County Hall
New Road
Oxford
Ox1 1ND**

**Cllr Michael Waine, Chairman of the
Council**

Contact: Claire Phillips
Tel: 07785 453260
Claire.phillips@oxfordshire.gov.uk

3rd April 2017

Mr David Smith, Chief Executive &
Dr Joe McManners, Clinical Chair
Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

[sent by email]

Dear Mr Smith and Dr McManners,

**Re: Oxfordshire County Council response to the Phase 1 Big Health and Care
Transformation consultation**

As you are probably aware the county council debated the Clinical Commissioning Group's phase 1 proposals for the transformation of health and social care in Oxfordshire on Tuesday 21st March. The item provoked a lively and robust debate in the council chamber with strong consensus between members. I have been asked to write to you to summarise the key issues raised. These comments should be treated as Full Council's response to the consultation and are submitted in addition to Cabinet's response and the report from the Council's Leadership Team in February 2017.

As you know, Cabinet were not supportive of the proposals. Full Council went further and indicated their strong opposition to the proposals and rejected the consultation. The following is a summary of the key issues raised during the debate;

- **Funding pressures on the NHS and social care**

Members discussed the Oxfordshire transformation proposals in the wider national context of significant financial challenge for the NHS and social care. They wanted to emphasise that they understood that the situation the CCG is facing is a result of national policy. The rising demand for health services and lack of funding to address this is huge national issue which is being played out locally to the detriment of services for local people.

- **Impact on social care**

Members felt that the consultation does not make clear the impact on social care and there is a lack of modelling to accurately assess this. It was felt that the proposals would benefit from a workforce plan setting out how the impact on carers will be managed. It should not be assumed that county council services will be able to absorb the impact of the changes on social care. It was also noted that the care sector is financially very fragile as recent examples of agencies becoming insolvent shows.

- **Lack of options**

Members expressed frustration that no options for alternative delivery options are presented in the consultation. Some members felt this implies a 'fait accompli' as no alternative future arrangements are presented for consideration. It is also unacceptable to expect proposals for substantial bed closures to be agreed without any detail about proposals for the future of services in the community. These will be vital to support changes in the acute system.

- **Phasing**

There were consistent concerns about the splitting of the proposals into two phases which it was agreed has resulted in a lack of coherent vision for the future of health and care services in Oxfordshire. Furthermore rolling so many specific issues into the consultation has meant that it lacks clarity. Members agreed that the impact of the proposals on primary care will be significant but this is not discussed in this first phase of proposals and is a significant flaw.

- **Growth and Infrastructure**

Oxfordshire is experiencing significant housing growth and members felt that there was insufficient planning for this in the proposals. Specifically there was concern about Banbury where significant changes to the levels of service at the Horton Hospital are proposed but also in the south of the county at Didcot which is experiencing substantial growth.

Parking and access to hospitals both in Oxford and Banbury was a particular concern to local members whose constituents already experience considerable difficulty accessing appointments.

- **Link to the Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP)**

The Oxfordshire Transformation proposals do not clearly align to the regional STP process and there are concerns about what the additional impact of these proposals will be on local health services. Members felt these proposals lacked transparency.

For information I will be sharing this letter with the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to aid their further consideration of the transformation proposals at the additional meeting that I believe is scheduled.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Michael Waine
Chairman of the Council

Cc. All county councillors
All Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee members