

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee**

**Council**

**Date of Committee**

**13 December 2005**

**Report Title**

**NHS Consultations**

**Summary**

There are a number of consultations taking place on the future arrangements for the NHS in Warwickshire. This report asks the Council to authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leaders Liaison Group to make arrangements with other local authorities where appropriate to respond to those consultations

**For further information please contact:**

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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?**

No.

**Background papers**

'Commissioning a Patient-led NHS', published in July 2005 by Department of Health

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

- Other Committees  .....
- Local Member(s)  N/A
- Other Elected Members  .....
- Cabinet Member  .....
- Chief Executive  Jim Graham
- Legal  Jane Pollard
- Finance  .....
- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  .....

Health Authority  .....

Police  .....

Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**FINAL DECISION YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee  .....

To Council  .....

To Cabinet  .....

To an O & S Committee  .....

To an Area Committee  .....

Further Consultation  .....

## Agenda No

**Council - 13 December 2005.**

### **NHS Consultations**

#### **Report of the County Solicitor & Assistant Chief Executive**

##### **Recommendation**

That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leaders Liaison Group, be authorised to enter into joint arrangements with other local authorities where appropriate, including the establishment of joint committees if necessary, to enable a joint response to be made to the Consultations listed in the Appendix if appropriate.

That the Council receives a report on the arrangements that have been made and the proposals for changes in the NHS at its meeting on 21 February 2006.

There are a number of consultations taking place on the future arrangements for the NHS in Warwickshire, these are summarised in the Appendix.

NHS bodies providing services in Warwickshire are required by law to consult the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on any proposals they may have under consideration for any substantial development or variation of the health service in Warwickshire. Where an NHS trust or PCT spans the area of more than one social services authority and thus is required to consult more than one Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee the Secretary of State has given directions that the local authorities involved must appoint a joint overview and scrutiny committee for the purposes of the consultation. Only the joint overview and scrutiny committee can exercise the statutory powers to

Make comments on the proposal being consulted upon (including ultimately representations to the Secretary of State)

Require the NHS body to provide information about the proposal

Require an officer of the NHS body to attend and answer questions

In other circumstances the local authority may decide which arrangements are most appropriate for responding to consultations. This may or may not involve the establishment of some form of joint arrangement.

In addition to the Overview and Scrutiny work these are matters upon which all members will wish to comment and the Chair of the council has agreed that the council meeting on 21 February 2006 will be devoted to considering the future of the

NHS arrangements in Warwickshire, provided the budget has been agreed on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

It is suggested that the council receives a report on the arrangements which have been made and also the proposals for changes in the NHS at its meeting on 21 February 2006

DAVID CARTER  
County Solicitor & Assistant  
Chief Executive  
Shire Hall  
Warwick  
08 December 2005

## Appendix Warwickshire NHS Consultations – 2005/06

Background document for the many of the changes proposed below is 'Commissioning a Patient-led NHS', published in July 2005.

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**1. Strategic Health Authorities in the West Midlands** - the expected start date for consultation will be from 14<sup>th</sup> December 2005 for 12 weeks. The proposal is that West Midlands South SHA will combine with Birmingham and the Black Country SHA, Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA to form a single SHA for the whole of the West Midlands

**2. Coventry & Warwickshire Ambulance NHS Trust** – the expected start date for consultation will be from 14<sup>th</sup> December 2005 for 12 weeks. The proposal is that Coventry & Warwickshire Ambulance NHS Trust combine with West Midlands, Hereford & Worcestershire and Staffordshire Ambulance Services to form a new regional West Midlands Ambulance Trust. The objective is to improve the capacity of ambulance services to respond to major incidents, improve staff training and investment as well as making efficiency savings.

**3. Primary Care Trusts in Warwickshire** – the expected start date for consultation will be from 14<sup>th</sup> December 2005 for 12 weeks. The objective of reconfiguring the PCTs is to ensure that they will be better able to improve commissioning and support the development of 'Practice Based Commissioning' as well as making significant management savings to reinvest in frontline services. The preferred option is that the existing PCTs for North Warwickshire, Rugby and South Warwickshire will be replaced with one for the whole of Warwickshire.

**4. Coventry and Warwickshire Mental Health Trust** – the expected start date for consultation will be the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 for 12 weeks. The proposal is to create one mental health trust replacing the three existing trusts for Coventry, North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire. Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Mental Health Panel will be considering the implications of this proposal as part of their review of mental health services in Warwickshire.

**5. Coventry and Warwickshire Acute Services Review** – the expected start date for consultation will be from March 2006 for twelve weeks. Warwickshire's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be receiving a presentation from Mark Newbold (Review - Project Director) about the Acute Services Review on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2005 at the University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire.

**6. University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust (Foundation Status Application)** – the expected start date for consultation will be February 2006. Since gaining 'three stars' it has been expected that the UHCW would be planning to apply for Foundation status.