

## AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

### Council 10 October 2018 - Questions submitted by Members

| Question No.   | Question from:         | Question:   | Question to:   | Service area:  |
|--|------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1.   | Councillor John Wright | <p>It has now been many years since due to cost pressures and the excessive cost of per use of the public toilets in Newington high street that they were closed.</p> <p>This asset is in a prime location within the Newington conservation area and high street and is now suffering from a lack of attention with ivy now growing over the top of the structure.</p> <p>Would it not be better to sell this asset and make good use of that money for the public good in Newington, or let it to some business with the necessary change of use if appropriate?<br/>If not, what plans does the Cabinet Member have to regenerate this area and building for the benefit of Newington High Street Conservation Area?</p> | Councillor David Simmons<br>Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs | Martyn Cassell<br>Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure |
| <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Cllr Wright asks a very useful question on this matter. I can confirm that there is no intention to re-open the disused toilets. Officers have carried out some feasibility work into possible alternative uses for the toilet building and the planning department has advised that, due to highways issues, it is very unlikely that any vehicular access would be permitted to the site. This severely limits the scope of any future use. Notwithstanding this, we are considering placing the building in a property auction with the requirement that any potential purchaser makes their own planning enquiries. Should this not be successful we have also considered demolition of the building to tidy up the area but a final decision has not yet been made. In the interim, officers will re-inspect the building to see what measures can be taken.</p> |                        |   |  |  |
| 2.   | Councillor John Wright | Following the motion passed by this Council to support Medway Maritime Hospital in its bid for acute stroke services,   | Councillor Bowles  | Charlotte Hudson<br>Head of Housing,                             |

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|              |                | <p>he will be aware that the powers that be have now decided to drop Medway from its preferred Hospitals list.</p> <p>The Leader is also aware transport links to and from either Maidstone or Darent hospital are longer and more problematic putting Swale residents at even greater risk when there are areas in Swale that already are disadvantaged and have higher rates of stroke than other parts of Kent, similar in fact to the Medway Towns demographic the highest number of cases of stroke. Most sensible businesses would place services where there is the greatest need.</p> <p>Would the Leader write on behalf of this Council and its motion to the review committee pointing out the shortfalls of their recent decision urging them to reconsider and then share this and the committee's reply with this Council?</p> | Leader       | Economy and Community Services |

**Response:**

Cllr Aldridge is in discussions with Swale CCG, and is also taking a partnership approach with Medway MP's Rehman Chisti and Kelly Tollhurst, supporting them in raising their concerns regarding the omission of Medway Hospital as one of three hospitals across Kent and Medway to provide a Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU). Gordon Henderson has also reported his dissatisfaction with this decision in the local Press, and is looking to support Medway's MP's with the coordinated response on the decision to reject Medway Hospital as one of the three chosen hospitals to provide a hyper acute stroke unit (HASU). It is anticipated that this collaborative response will be raised with Medway CCG and the Secretary for Health in a bid to reverse the decision to omit Medway Hospital as one of the chosen venues to provide a HASU.

Medway Hospital has invested heavily in stroke services and provides care for the largest number of stroke patients in Kent and Medway, which makes this decision even more disappointing. However, this is not the final decision. The preferred option is now subject to an assurance process, developing a decision-making business case to be reviewed independently by the South East Clinical Senate and the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and assured by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

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| <p>Consideration will also be given to issues noted by the Evaluation Committee such as travel times, relatives and carers visiting loved ones, effective rehabilitation close to home and the ability to staff the new units. These and other issues will be considered during the implementation plans for the final option.</p> <p>NHS England has also recently recommended Medway Hospital as the non-arterial site for vascular services, with the arterial site at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. This is an interim measure whilst the East Kent Transformation Programme continues to decide future delivery options of urgent and medical care which is likely to cover a five to seven year period.</p> <p>In the meantime, the omittance of Medway Hospital as a HASU site, will be raised with Medway CCG and the Secretary of Health to encourage a re-think of this decision.</p> |                        |   |  |  |
| 3.  | Councillor Lloyd Bowen | KCC have been consulting on the possible introduction of fees for certain types of waste. Can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs please let me know if he has received this consultation from KCC and if he has provided a response? If so what was the response? | Councillor David Simmons<br>Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs | Martyn Cassell<br>Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure |
| <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Thank you Cllr Bowen. We are aware of the consultation and officers are preparing a full statement in time for the deadline. In the meantime we have sent a message out via members despatch to encourage ward Cllrs to make their opinions known to KCC as well as the corporate response. We are very concerned about the possible impact on fly-tipping, our residual waste collection and any impact on our recycling rates. We question the policy in terms of the value of “waste” items lost as there are possible re-use options that could be considered, and there may be ways of counteracting the problems being suffered by cross boundary usage such as proof of residency. In all of our policies we feel we should make it easier for residents to recycle not more difficult if we are really serious about the environment.</p>                        |                        |   |  |  |

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| 4.           | Councillor Roger Truelove | <p>In March this Council voted by 38 votes to nil ( with 3 abstentions) to support Medway Hospital being chosen as a centre for acute stroke services and also added Kent and Canterbury, thus raising the proposed 3 units to 4.</p> <p>We now know that this fell on deaf ears and that the views of this Council are taken to be of little account.</p> <p>Could you report in detail as to how this Council followed up the agreed motion, what lobbying took place and how the administration of this Council intends to respond to the Kent and Medway review which, as ever, neglects the more deprived parts of Kent. Is this Council working in partnership with Medway Council and with the MPs for Medway and Swale who appear to have woken up to this issue a little too late in the day?</p> | Councillor Sarah Aldridge<br>Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing | Charlotte Hudson<br>Head of Housing, Economy and Community Services |

**Response:**

I have been in discussions with Swale CCG, and will be taking this matter further through a joint approach with Medway Council and MP's alike. Gordon Henderson has reported his dissatisfaction with this decision in the local Press, and is looking to support MP's Kelly Tollhurst and Rehman Chishti's coordinated response of deep concern at the decision to reject Medway Hospital as one of the three chosen hospitals to provide a hyper acute stroke unit (HASU). It is anticipated that the joint MP approach across the two Council areas will be raised with Medway CCG and the Secretary for Health in a bid to reverse the decision to omit Medway Hospital as one the chosen venues to provide a HASU.

'Medway Health Campaign' are also raising concerns independently to get this decision overturned, and will be taking into account the message outlined in Sustainability and Transformation Plans that hospital services, including A&E provision, will be centralised across three main hospitals in Kent.

However, it is also important to note that this is not the final decision. The preferred option will now be subject to an assurance

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| <p>process, with consideration also given to other issues raised during the Evaluation Committee process including travel times, relatives and carers visiting loved ones, effective rehabilitation close to home and the ability to staff the new units.</p>   |                           |   |  |   |
| 5.  | Councillor Tony Winckless | Can the Cabinet Member explain to me the logic of removing C.C.T.V. in Swale, which acts as a safe guard against crime. C.C.T.V. cameras which were positioned in Howard Avenue, and in Staplehurst Road by the Jordan's Way Underpass, which were paid for by the Windmill and Howard Road Residents Association and commissioned in 2011. When installed reduced anti-social behaviour in the area. Since there removal anti-social behaviour in the area has increased again including a fire, the area is becoming a no go area again. Could the Cabinet Member re- consider his policy, and look at reinstating C.C.T.V cameras to monitor the Jordan's Way Underpass. | Councillor Alan Horton<br>Cabinet Member for Housing and Safer Communities | Charlotte Hudson<br>Head of Housing, Economy and Community Services |
| <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Since the CCTV Cameras in Howard Avenue/Jordan Way Underpass were installed, the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice was introduced. The purpose of this code is to ensure that individuals and wider communities have confidence that surveillance cameras are deployed to protect and support them, rather than spy on them. We have conducted a review of all the CCTV locations in 2015/16 and again in 2018 which resulted in the CCTV at Howard Avenue being decommissioned. A decommissioning process is in place that considers the evidence available to demonstrate the justification of each individual camera and it was decided, in consultation with Kent Police, that this camera did not meet the threshold for permanent surveillance.</p> <p>Following the decommissioning of the cameras, Kent Police agreed to monitor the location and notify us if there was an increase of community safety issues in the area. They have not advised us that this is the case. We will continue to monitor the impact of the cameras removal in this area and maintain dialogue with Kent Police.</p> |                           |   |  |   |

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| 6.           | Councillor Tony Winckless | I have requested six new Dog/Litter Bins for various locations in Milton Regis since May. I was told these were going to be installed by the end of July. This has still not been done, we are now in October, can the Cabinet Member please tell me when these will be installed? | Councillor David Simmons<br>Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs | Martyn Cassell<br>Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure |

**Response:**

We have already committed to making a considerable investment in new bins and I can confirm that we have 80 new bins that arrived in the last few weeks.

We apologise for the delay in installing these however, the Council is currently undertaking an audit of all of the litter and dog bins in the Borough in order to ascertain if they are located in the right place and assessing their condition, as poor quality can impact the street environment. This work will be completed in the next week.

We will then be creating a priority list for replacements/new additions. Priority needs to be given to high footfall areas as it is not just the cost of providing the bin but the continued emptying by our street cleansing contractors.

I have asked officers to consider your requests alongside this project and they will be in touch in due course.