

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview & Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 31 March 2011

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Constitutional Changes

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 At a meeting held on 2 February 2011, the Joint East Berkshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee ("JEBHOS") agreed to cease holding regular meetings. It agreed that future meetings should only be convened on an as-and-when-required basis and, in particular, should joint working be required on a statutory consultation. The minutes of the meeting indicate that:
- a) Health partners had commented that they were regularly having to present reports to and attend JEBHOS whilst also attend each of the three respective health scrutiny panels of Bracknell Forest, the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Slough Borough Council. This was resulting in a considerable amount of duplication
 - b) Bracknell Forest advised that due to internal pressure on resources, particularly on officer and member time, they had decided to cease their involvement in JEBHOS
 - c) There would be an imminent clustering of PCT's which would likely bring about a greater focus on Berkshire-wide working as opposed to just the three local authorities involved in JEBHOS
 - d) In future, each of the three local authorities would probably wish to focus on their own areas as a result of their own GP consortia
- 1.2 This matter was brought to Slough Borough Council's Health Scrutiny Panel on 21 March 2011 for consideration. At that time it was agreed this matter be referred to the Council's main Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the necessary amendments to be made to the council's Constitution and for approval by Council.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee endorses the agreement reached by JEBHOS on 2 February 2011 and Slough Borough Council's Health Scrutiny Standing Panel as outlined within this paper and that from Council on 19 May 2011 Slough Borough Council's involvement in JEBHOS will be on an as-and-when-required basis.

- 2.2 Further, that officers be instructed to discuss and agree with officers at Bracknell Forest and the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead best practice and protocol should joint working be required and propose amendments to the council's Constitution for approval at Council on 19 May 2011.

3 Proposed JEBHOS 2 February 2011

- 3.1 The draft minutes of JEBHOS held on 2 February 2011 include:

'The Chairman advised that due to pressure on resources, particularly on officer and member time, Bracknell Forest had formally decided to cease their involvement in the Joint Committee. However, should a statutory consultation arise that required joint working, a meeting of the Joint Committee should be convened. It was also noted that health partners had commented that they were regularly presenting reports at the Joint Committee and then at each individual Health O&S Committee for each local authority.'

It was noted that clustering of PCT's was likely to take place in the following week leading to a greater focus on Berkshire wide. Also, each local authority would probably wish to have a focus on the area covered by their GP consortia, rather than East Berkshire as a whole.

The Committee resolved to cease its meetings unless a clear need arose, agreed by the Health scrutiny representatives of all three councils. It was agreed that should a meeting of the Joint Committee need to be convened in the period to May 2012 that the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead would initiate the process, convene the meetings and provide officer and administrative support as well as chair the meetings.'