

Special Cabinet minutes

Tuesday 2 December 2014 at 2.30 p.m.

in Conference Room 2 at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor S. Coughlan	Leader of the Council
Councillor Nazir	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Hussain	Community, leisure and culture
Councillor Jeavons	Environment and transport
Councillor Robertson	
Councillor Chambers	
Councillor D. Coughlan	

3231 Apology

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Cassidy.

3232 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3233 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items to be considered in private session.

3234 Local Healthwatch: Call-in

The recommendation of the Social Care and Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel from its meeting held on 18 November 2014 was submitted:

“That Scrutiny support the extension of the Healthwatch contract subject to:

- The inclusion within the contract of a robust mechanism to promote the advocacy service and a framework to measure its effectiveness
- A strategy to promote and raise public awareness of the services that Healthwatch are contracted to deliver
- A quarterly report to Health Scrutiny on progress by Healthwatch.”

together with the report to Cabinet on 29 October 2014:

(see annexed)

Councillor Hussain reported that both he and Councillor Robertson together with officers had met with the Chairs of Healthwatch Walsall and a way forward had been agreed on all matters raised in the scrutiny panel's recommendations. He pointed out that as this was a contract extension it would not be appropriate to introduce new contractual obligations. However, it had been agreed with Healthwatch Walsall that they would carry out a review of public awareness of and access to the advocacy service provided by Voiceability and bring forward recommendations as to how this could be improved by all organisations which have a role in promoting this service.

It was **moved** by Councillor Hussain, duly seconded and:

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet thanks the Social Care and Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel for its consideration of this matter and notes its recommendations.
- (2) That Cabinet reaffirms its original decision of 29 October 2014:
 - (a) That Cabinet approve an extension to the existing Healthwatch Walsall contract, for a further 1 year, to then expire on 31 March 2016.
 - (b) That the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Executive Director Neighbourhoods work with Healthwatch to address concerns about public engagement and transparency of decision making.

The meeting terminated at 2.35p.m.

Leader:

Date: