


FORM S & PP 3

 Walsall Council	REPORT OF THE SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	DATE 21.11.18
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TITLE OF THE MATTER CALLED-IN: Future of Community Alarms

DATE CONSIDERED BY CABINET: 24 October 2018

CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Councillor R. Martin

DATE OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING: 14 November 2018

Grounds under which the matter was called in for scrutiny:

1. Why was there not a full price comparison and information on "Market options" in the Consultation to facilitate Public consideration of all options fully with all relevant facts in the open?

2. Why were existing Prevention schemes such as the Councils 'Falls prevention' work and cause of Hospital returns not cross checked and costed against the alleged savings. Other Public Services will have additional costs as a result of this decision.

3. Council has revealed the need for a £5m injection into modernisation and investment in IT systems. Why are Telecare and user friendly alert systems not seen as part of this upgrade and future plan?

4. Home Care is a fundamental part of Councils policies to provide high quality care in our communities. A policy supported by all our Health and Community partners. Why has the Cabinet chosen to undermine this essential cost effective policy for such a meagre 'saving' when Public Health have a responsibility to protect our most vulnerable and Public in General.

Record here the Overview and Scrutiny Committee conclusions and proposals:

As part of their considerations, the Chair informed the Committee of the reasons for the 'call in'. The Committee heard representations from Walsall Pensioners Convention, Age Matters and a Service User. Attendees raised concerns relating to :-

- The loss of the community alarm service,
- Increased costs for vulnerable service users,
- The management of the transition period including the support and signposting for service users to new providers.

Members noted their concerns. The Portfolio Holder and the Leader of the Council responded to the call-in and concerns raised by the members of public to explain that the current community alarm service needed significant investment to continue, and that Walsall Council was the only Local Authority currently providing this service. The Portfolio Holder and the Leader of the Council reassured the Committee and Members of the Public that service users would be well supported during the transition period.

Following a debate the following motion having being put to the vote was declared carried: - 'The Committee approve of the recommendation as set out in section 2.2 of the Cabinet report'.

Record here the specific recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

The following motion having being put to the vote was declared carried: - 'The Committee approve of the recommendation as set out section 2.2 of the Cabinet report'.

Explain here how the proposals/recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee differ from those of Cabinet:

Not applicable.

This form provides an accurate record of the meeting of the above named Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Chair of Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Signature: *Councillor D. James* **Date:** 19th November 2018