



**REPORT of
CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

to
**COUNCIL (EXTRAORDINARY)
8 OCTOBER 2024**

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM MID AND SOUTH ESSEX INTEGRATED CARE BOARD

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report shares with the Council a request from NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) and seeks the Council to consider the request made within their letter of 18 September 2024.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That Members consider the request made by Mid and South Essex ICB to engage in a working group as set out in paragraph 3.1 of this report below;
- (ii) that subject to approval of recommendation (i) above, the Council appoints the Leader of the Council to represent Maldon District Council on the working group along with a named substitute in case it is required.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 On 18 September 2024, the Chief Executive of the NHS Mid and South Essex ICB wrote to Maldon District Council Leader, Councillor R H Siddall to notify the Council that the NHS Mid and South Essex ICB had decided to delay the final decision on the reconfiguration of community hospital beds, midwife led birthing unit and ambulatory care services for six months. The letter (attached in **APPENDIX 1**) also sets out the process that the ICB is seeking to follow for this six-month review period. The headlines are set out below:

We (The NHS) are proposing to form a working group that will focus on further engagement and co-development with an emphasis on:

- *Reviewing the facts and feedback on options for maternity and community beds to help further inform the decision on these services.*
- *Exploring the options for the pathways of care for patients across mid and south Essex for stroke and intermediate care and how strengthening community-based care may inform the decision on these services.*
- *Make outline recommendations on a deliverable model for the provision of healthcare estate in the Maldon district specifically.*

- 3.2 The letter goes on to invite Maldon District Council to take part in the working group which will also include representatives from the NHS, local authorities, community groups, and other key stakeholders, and will be led by an independent chair.

- 3.3 The letter sought a response by 27 September 2024; however the Council had requested an extension to this deadline to enable the matter to be considered at the extraordinary Council meeting on 8 October 2024. This extension was agreed by Mid and South Essex ICB.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Council has received a direct request from Mid and South Essex ICB to engage in a working group to consider the points outlined within this report.
- 4.2 The provision of accessible health services within the district has a significant impact on the welfare of the residents of the Maldon District and it is vital services remain within the district wherever possible.

5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023 - 2027

5.1 Supporting our communities

- 5.1.1 The provision of local health care facilities is essential to the priority “Supporting our Communities”. Engaging with partners may be able to aid the NHS in maintaining services in the district.

5.2 Enhancing and connecting our place

- 5.2.1 It is set out under the priority of Enhancing and Connecting our Place that the Council will “utilise our assets to improve our place”. This covers a wide range of topics.

5.3 Helping the economy to thrive

- 5.3.1 Delivering the UK Shared Prosperity Fund helps benefit active and healthier lives. Access to health services is important to businesses wishing to set up and grow in the district.

5.4 Smarter finances

- 5.4.1 Changes to local health services impacts the Council’s financial performance as there could be future cost pressures and resource demands in responding to health needs, communicating changes, and access to services. However, the Council does not have any statutory responsibility for delivering health services.

5.5 A greener future

- 5.5.1 Access to local health services reduces carbon emissions. Sustainable, as well as accessible healthcare are both vital in achieving a roadmap to net zero for the district.

5.6 Provide good quality services.

- 5.6.1 The Council aims to identify early intervention for our most vulnerable people. Having the ability to access services and to signpost residents is a vital part of the services we provide. We also state that the Council will work with partners to help and support our residents.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Potential benefits if the working group can assist the NHS in retaining services in District.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Potential benefits if the if the working group can assist the NHS in retaining services in District, as evidence shows that those already more deprived, are affected more significantly by service reductions or increased travel times.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to: Paul Dodson, Director of Strategy and Resources.