

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

18 OCTOBER 2016

### ITEM NO 12 - SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION PLANS

Councillor Hoskin to move:

This Council notes that:

- On almost all performance measures the NHS in England is getting worse with waiting times for cancer care, accident and emergency, ambulances and routine operations all rising
- Spending on the NHS as a proportion of our national income in GDP was 8.8% in 2009, fell to 7.3% by 2015 and is projected (on current plans) to fall to 6.6% in by 2021 (source: The King's Fund)
- The NHS in England is currently developing local Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) in order to deliver the NHS Five Year Forward View with the aim of delivering financial sustainability, improved outcomes and better integration with local authority services
- On 22 March 2016 this council passed a motion condemning the creation, without consultation, of the STP area of Berkshire West, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (BOB) planning NHS cuts without public or democratic scrutiny and resolved to write to the Chief Executive of NHS England and the Secretary of State for Health outlining our objections
- No response was received from either the Chief Executive of NHS England or the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt
- That, following orders from Whitehall, STPs have been developed, will be finalised and submitted to NHS England, in secret and with the general public banned from having any sight of the plans
- That the BOB STP area is on course for a £587 million shortfall in funding by 2021 and that the primary aim of the secret STP is to cut spending to stay in budget

Council believes that:

- It is a disgrace that the government is directing the planning of massive cuts to the NHS across England behind closed doors, shutting out public or democratic involvement
- That cuts of £587 million to NHS spending across Bucks, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West are unacceptable and are likely to damage essential health services in Reading
- These drastic NHS cuts are a direct result of underfunding of health services by the UK government and that our country should return to the last Labour government's policy seeking to fund health services at a similar level to the EU average which stood at 10.1% of GDP in 2013 (source: the King's Fund)

This Council agrees to:

- request that the Managing Director write to the chief executive of NHS England and the Secretary of State for Health requesting that draft STPs are published and that full public involvement and consultation takes place before they are finalised
- request that the leader of the council writes to the MPs for Reading East and Reading West expressing this council's objection to both the secretive nature of the STP planning process and the scale of NHS cuts being considered and to ask for their support in opposing cuts to NHS services in Reading.