

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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| Report to: | Overview and Scrutiny Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 8 February 2022 |
| Subject: | Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2022/23 Financial Contribution |
| Report of: | Head of Corporate Services |
| Corporate Lead: | Chief Executive |
| Lead Member: | Lead Member Organisational Development |
| Number of Appendices: | None |

Executive Summary:

As a member of the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Tewkesbury Borough Council has made a contribution to the running costs since 2002. The Executive Committee, at its meeting held on 5 October 2011, agreed that :

- a contribution of £2,500 remain in the Council's base budget to be paid subject to the Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertaking an annual review; and
- as well as receiving regular reports from the Council's representative, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers on an annual basis, the effectiveness of the Council's continued involvement in the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and whether value for money is being achieved for the contribution paid.

Subject to this review, and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being content, payment of the contribution would be authorised.

Recommendation:

- 1. To consider the effectiveness of the Council's continued involvement in the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and, subject to the Committee being satisfied that value for money is being achieved, officers be authorised to make the payment of £2,500 from the Council's base budget**
- 2. To RECOMMEND TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE that, subject to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee representative's continued monitoring and regular reporting to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, that the specific consideration of the payment of the sum on an annual basis no longer be required.**

Reasons for Recommendation:

The Council continues to support its commitment to health improvement, to act as an advocate for the borough's communities, and continue working in partnership with other public bodies within the county.

Resource Implications:

The £2,500 contribution is included within the council's budget.

Legal Implications:

None directly arising from this report.

Risk Management Implications:

Not being part of the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee would reduce Tewkesbury Borough Council's ability to influence health related issues within the borough.

In view of the fact that all other Gloucestershire Districts contribute, there would be a potential reputational issue if Tewkesbury Borough Council did not contribute.

Performance Management Follow-up:

Regular feedback is given to Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the Council's representative.

Environmental Implications:

None.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 In 2003 when the County set up the then Health, Community and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee it was agreed to involve the District Councils and, since that date, all districts have made a contribution to the running costs. The contribution covers the administrative expense of running the Committee. There is wide coverage of health and care related issues and an officer with specialist knowledge is essential for the Committee to operate effectively. As reported last year, following a review of scrutiny at the County, the scrutiny of adult social care and public health no longer falls within the remit of this Committee; these issues are overseen by an Adult Social Care and Communities Committee.

1.2 The Executive Committee, at its meeting of 1 October 2008, approved payment for three years commencing April 2008. A further report was taken to Executive Committee on 5 October 2011 to agree a way forward as the three year approval period had elapsed. At this meeting, Executive Committee agreed :

- a contribution of £2,500 remain in the Council's base budget to be paid subject to the Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertaking an annual review;
- as well as receiving regular reports from the Council's representative, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers on an annual basis, the effectiveness of the Council's continued involvement in the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and whether value for money is being achieved for the contribution paid.

2.0 GLOUCESTERSHIRE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2.1 This is a County Council function but throughout it has included representatives from each District Council. It was decided that the principle behind health overview and scrutiny was to produce a model that involved cross-Council co-operation and the effective joining up of the health agenda in the promotion of community development. This model is recognised nationally as best practice.

2.2 Councillor Jill Smith is the Tewkesbury Borough Council representative on the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and reports regularly to the Tewkesbury Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on its activities. Gloucestershire County Council has verbally confirmed that other Gloucestershire Districts Councils all intend to continue with their contribution.

3.0 WORK OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3.1 During 2021/22 the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a wealth of presentations, monitoring reports, performance reports and financial reports from organisations within the health sector.

These included;

- Presentation from Healthwatch Gloucestershire
- Report on the development of the Gloucestershire Integrated Care System (ICS)
- Update on NHS Covid-19 response
- Report on Fit for the Future – future provision of urgent and specialist hospital care in Gloucestershire
- Briefing paper on Covid-19 temporary service changes
- Gloucester Clinical Commissioning Group performance reports
- South West Ambulance Service Performance update
- Winter planning – sustainability plan 2021/22
- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Estate Update
- Mental Health Services briefing
- Presentation on Primary Care in Gloucestershire

All agendas and reports can be accessed here:

[Browse meetings - Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/browse-meetings-health-overview-scrutiny-committee)

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 The Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has considered a wide range of scrutiny work during 2021/22 which has contributed to improving health and care services across the whole of the county. Elements of this work impacts in Tewkesbury Borough and this Council's engagement with the Committee has allowed local views to be represented to and considered by the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in its deliberations.

4.2 Continued membership of Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will allow the Council to maintain its influence on important health issues. Through membership, this Council is able to act as an advocate for the communities in the borough.

4.3 In view of the fact that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive regular reports from the Council's representative on the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Officers are of the view that the requirement for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to confirm the financial contribution on an annual basis is unnecessary, particularly as it is included in the base budget. As such, it is proposed that it be recommended to the Executive Committee that, subject to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee representative's continued monitoring and regular reporting to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, that the specific consideration of the payment of the sum on an annual basis no longer be required. Should Members feel at any point that representation on the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is no longer providing value for money, this can of course be reviewed.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 None.

7.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

7.1 None directly.

8.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

8.1 The Localism Act promotes joint working and the need for local councils to act as advocates for its communities.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

9.1 £2,500 annual contribution.

10.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

10.1 None.

11.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

11.1 Involvement in the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee helps to identify and improve any health, care and wellbeing issues.

12.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

12.1 None.

Background Papers: None

Contact Officer: Head of Corporate Services
01684 272002 graeme.simpson@teWKesbury.gov.uk

Appendices: None