



HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 September 2012

Subject Heading:

Commissioning of a Local Healthwatch Service

CMT Lead:

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Policy context:

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires the commissioning of a local Healthwatch service which will replace the LINK (Local Involvement Network) with some additional functions.

In accordance with paragraph 17 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Rules, a requisition signed by two Members representing more than one Group (Councillors Keith Darvill and Gillian Ford) has called in the decision of Cabinet dated 15 August. The text of the requisition appears at the end of this report.

CABINET DECISION

1. To note the consultation on models for the commissioning of a local Healthwatch service.
2. To confirm the inclusion of the Independent Complaints' Advisory Service in the function to be carried out by Healthwatch.
3. To delegate the consideration of consultation responses, the LINK's legacy analysis, consultation with the host organisation and current chair/vice chair of LINK and selection of the appropriate commissioning route to the Cabinet Member for Individuals and Deputy Leader.
4. To note that further work would be undertaken to draw up the specification and proposed operating model for Healthwatch in Havering once the procurement route has been established.

(Note: The full report to Cabinet, including appendix, is shown at the end of this report).

Reasons for decision:

As previously explained, consultation is currently taking place on three options. The reasons for and against each of them are detailed in appendix A (of the Cabinet report).

The timescales are short, but this needs to be balanced with the need for local people to influence the future shape of Healthwatch and ensure that the legacy of LINK forms a firm foundation to build upon. It is recommended to delegate the final decision on the arrangements for commissioning a local Healthwatch to the Lead Member for Individuals and Deputy Leader. This will allow the Lead Member to undertake further detailed work in relation to a detailed specification for future Healthwatch services.

REASONS FOR REQUISITION

We the undersigned members of the Council hereby 'Call in' the above mentioned decision of Cabinet for the following reasons:-

- 1) to address the concerns of the Local Involvement Network (Havering LINK) about the recommendations within the Cabinet Report;
- 2) to ensure that the consideration of consultation responses, the LINK's legacy analysis, consultation with the host organisation and current chair/vice chair of LINK and selection of the appropriate commissioning route is not delegated the Lead Member for Individuals and Deputy Leader;
- 3) to give more detailed consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of a shared Healthwatch 'Hub & Spoke' model with joint commissioning led by LB Barking & Dagenham.

Councillor Keith Darvill
Leader of the Labour Group

Councillor Gillian Ford
Deputy Leader Residents Group.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers the requisition of the Cabinet Decision and determines whether to uphold it.