

Wiltshire Council

Council

13 November 2012

Questions from Councillors

From Cllr Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To

Cllr Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council

Question 1

Given that Council officers are now to be statutory members of the Wiltshire Health and Well-Being Board, and that that Board will be meeting in public and taking decisions on health services in Wiltshire which are vitally important for its residents, will steps be taken to revise the protocol for member-officer relations so that questions can be asked about the opinions and voting choices of the officers on the Board?

Response

Detailed regulations are still awaited on memberships and voting on the Health and Wellbeing Boards. The regulations were due to be laid before Parliament during the autumn but in view of the change in ministerial leadership at the Department this has now been delayed until early in the new year. The Department is aware that the implementation date of 1 April 2013 to have the Boards up and running may present some challenges to local authorities because of the cycle of Council meetings with the forthcoming elections and the need to set the budget.

The clear understanding from the Department is that these regulations will not be prescriptive in terms of membership – other than that contained in the Act – and will not specify specific voting arrangements. It will be for individual councils to determine these on appointing the Board.

Any consequential amendments that are required to the Constitution or any of its protocols will be made at that time.