

## CABINET

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**EXTRACT FROM:**

MINUTES of a MEETING held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on 24th June, 2008.

76. **Wiltshire Air Ambulance**

The Cabinet considered the report of Mr While, Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee which sought to update the Cabinet, at the request of the Leader, on information received from the Great Western Ambulance Service (GWAS), and others, about concerns for the future of the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Service, and to explain actions to monitor progress of the Clinical Review.

The Leader confirmed that she had asked to be kept informed on this matter and that she would be working with the police who were key partners. A particular concern was the south and east of the county where land based ambulance response rates were poor and if the location of the air ambulance was moved to Filton this would leave these areas even more exposed.

Mr While emphasised that his committee, alongside the Joint Great Western Ambulance Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Joint GWA OSC), would continue to monitor the situation and the response times.

Mr Deane, who was the local County Councillor for the Chalke and Nadder division, informed the Cabinet of the concerns of the local community. Currently he understood that the air ambulance could reach all parts of the county within 8 minutes. However should the current service be relocated to Filton then it would take longer for the service to reach the south and east of the county which he felt would leave those areas more exposed.

Several members reported that they were very impressed with a local initiative, entitled Community First responders, where local groups of volunteers are equipped with emergency defibrillator equipment to respond to local emergencies. Mr While reported that the Joint Committee would be receiving a presentation on this matter and his Committee would report to Cabinet on how best to promote this service.

**Resolved:**

- a) To note the current position set out in paragraph 4 of the report.
- b) To note that the Leader has asked the Chief Executive of GWAS to keep her personally informed of the results of the review later in the year.
- c) To note that the progress and outcome of the Trust Wide Clinical Review would be reported to the Joint GWA OSC.
- d) To support the Chairman of the Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in monitoring events and reporting to members as and when appropriate.
- e) To inform the Chief Executive of GWAS of the Council's concerns that if the service is relocated to Filton then the areas to the south and east of the County will be left more exposed in terms of response times from the Air Ambulance service.

**Reason for Proposal:**

The issue is of concern to Members and the general public, and therefore the Council wishes to retain an interest. The Clinical Review has only just begun so it is appropriate to report back to future meetings.