

AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consider a request from Staffordshire County Council to lobby for Government funding for air ambulance services.

2 REQUEST DETAIL

- 2.1 Last autumn, Staffordshire County Council passed the following resolution:

“Staffordshire County Council recognise the value to life of the Air Ambulance Service and are aware of the ‘golden four minutes’ this provides. We are concerned that this vital, lifesaving service, currently, has to rely on charitable donations and we would urge the Government to fund the service from central resources.

We also call on both the West Midlands and National Local Government Associations and all County, Metropolitan, Unitary, District, Borough and Parish Councils throughout the United Kingdom together with all Members of Parliament across all parties to support this proposal.”

- 2.2 The Council has now been asked to support this.

3 ESSEX AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE

- 3.1 In Essex, the air ambulance service responded to about 1200 calls over the past year. It is particularly useful in bringing paramedics to and picking up casualties from less accessible sites, including rural and coastal areas.
- 3.2 The service is operated by the Essex Ambulance NHS Trust, but the costs of around £1.2m annually are entirely funded through voluntary donations.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To determine the Council’s response to the request from Staffordshire County Council.

G Woolhouse

Head of Housing, Health and Community Care

Background Papers:-

Letter from Staffordshire County Council - "Air Ambulance Service"

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