

RECONFIGURATION OF CANCER SERVICES IN ESSEX – FORMAL CONSULTATION

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council has been invited by Essex Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to comment on proposals for the reconfiguration of cancer services and where specialist surgical centres for some of the less-common cancers should be located.
- 1.2 The consultation closes on 13 March 2006.

2 CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 2.1 The first, informal, stage of this consultation was reported to Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 13 October 2005. At that time, Members responded that their preferred option would be to establish a cancer network encompassing Colchester, Chelmsford, Basildon and Southend, but the Committee would need reassurance that other aspects of patient care such as aftercare and transport would not be adversely affected by the changes. Concern was also expressed that this would not reflect the corridors of movement across the County.

In respect of the designation of specialist surgical centres for less common cancers, Members agreed that in order to reflect established corridors of movement and transport patterns across the County and the potential growth in the south of the County, their preferred options would be:

- The development of two specialist surgical centres at Basildon and Chelmsford for Upper Gastro-Intestinal Cancers.
 - The establishment of specialist surgical centres at both Basildon and Chelmsford for Head and Neck surgery. (Minute 397/05)
- 2.2 Essex SHA has made some changes to its initial proposals in the light of consultation responses to the first, informal, stage. A copy of the full consultation document on this second, formal, stage has been placed in the Members' Library.
- 2.3 Dr Pam Hall and Ms Jennie Fisher from Essex SHA will be attending the meeting to outline the proposals on which views are now being sought and to answer Members' questions.

3 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To consider the proposals for the reconfiguration of cancer services in Essex and to determine the Council's response.

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Background Papers:-

None

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