**Summary Report to Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee
15th October 2015**

At the Council meeting in May 2015, Council agreed to make it a requirement that the Council nominee(s) to four specific outside bodies shall submit summary reports to the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee. The specific bodies identifies were: -

- Essex Fire Authority
- Southend University Hospital - NHS Foundation Trust
- Essex Police and Crime Panel
- Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority

In your response, please indicate which Group / Body this report relates to.

Notes:-
- *Where there is more than one nominee, a joint report shall be submitted.*
- *Council has agreed that updates shall be submitted to every other ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.*

Name of Group / Body:- Southend University Hospital - NHS Foundation Trust

Update on Key Issues

As an elected councillor, where there is never enough time, it is impossible to be as active a governor as one would like to be.

Our main task is to make sure that the non executive directors, (NEDS) who we governors appoint, make a good job of scrutinising the executive Board on which they sit with the clinical directors, and that the hospital is functioning as well as can be expected in view of the £12 million annual cuts, plus some in reserves.

SUHFT has the lowest debt of any of the 5 Essex Acute Trust Hospitals, about £7 million, which will zero over the next five years, and is clearly the best performing hospital in Essex, of which we can all be proud.

Changes are being made to expand A and E to allow for the year on year increase in visitors to the department. The impact of the closure of the St Lukes walk in Centre still needs to be fully assessed and carefully planned for. Negotiations with the Clinical Commissioning Group CCG will need to be concluded to ensure a seamless transition.

About 50% of the hospital site is old and still remains to be developed, improved and updated.

I go to the joint meetings with the NEDS, and am on the NAGG, the NEDS and Governors Group, and the Governance and Strategy group.

We hear about the clinical strategy, and proposals to improve services to the public in the Hospital, and occasionally introduce new ones.

We get regular updates on the hospital at such meetings from Alan Tobias, the chair of the main board and chair of the Governors and NEDs group, who as a former chief executive of a London Borough, is a great asset to the hospital as he understands the complex management of large numbers of staff, and the difficult relationships with long term staff in a time of working towards a seven day week.

I rarely have time to go to the full Hospital Board meetings, a bit like Cabinet meetings, loads of complex papers which take some time to read and understand.

Hospitals are also in competition with each other over the services they provide, and I confess to being openly supportive of SUHFT when it comes to joint services or losing specialist care. That is when I put on my councillor hat.

The real advantage for me as a councillor fulfilling a duty of care to the residents of Southend is that I have easy access to the Chair of the Board, who I have been to see in his office twice this year, and questioned him about the state of A and E, and the press story about amputations in the Diabetic areas, which proved to be two years old.

Alan also speedily and fully responds by email to any queries I have about different departments. I shall be tackling him shortly about the preparations that will be in hand at A and E when the St.Lukes walk in Centre closes.

All the chief executives, the Borough, SEPT, SUHFT, health services etc. now meet regularly to make sure that they all work as seamlessly as possible for the benefit of the residents of Southend. Integration of health and social care will take a lot of careful negotiation.

It is hard work, but a pleasure and privilege to serve on SUHFT as a partner governor on behalf of Southend Borough Council.

Person / Persons Making Response:

Councillor Alan Crystall

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