

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

14 April 2021

-: Present :-

Councillor Howgate (Chairman)

Councillors Atiya-Alla, Barrand, Brown, Bye (Vice-Chair), Mandy Darling, Foster, Kennedy and Loxton

(Also in attendance: Councillors Brooks, Carter, Cowell, Douglas-Dunbar, Barbara Lewis, Chris Lewis, Long, Mills, Morey, Stockman, David Thomas and Jacqueline Thomas)

32. Minute's Silence

As a mark of respect, the meeting commenced with a minute's silence to honour the life and passing of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Phillip.

33. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Board held on 12 February, 10 June, 22 July, 26 August, 16 September, 14 October, 11 November and 9 December 2020, 13 January, 17 February and 17 March 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34. Memorandum of Understanding - Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

Liz Davenport, Chief Executive of Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust provided a verbal update on the proposal to implement a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the acute Trusts in North East Devon with South Devon and Torbay. This had been done via an informal arrangement for a long time to ensure equal access across the region to acute services. Since Covid-19 there had been a need to extend some of the arrangements to make best use of the total resources e.g. buildings and staff and the MOU was part of national policy to work together to make best use of resources. Members noted that this did not change the responsibility of the Integrated Care Organisation for the people of Torbay, with the majority of people continuing to receive care at Torbay Hospital or other local facilities which had always been the case. Ms Davenport responded to questions in relation to:

- Theatre space at Torbay Hospital – four theatres had been refurbished and all local theatres were currently in use, including the day operating suite which was now running at normal levels. Indicative funding of £13.3m was

expected to be provided through the National Team to extend ophthalmology and other key facilities.

- The impact on patients who were transferred to other hospitals and on those who were unable to travel outside Torbay – impact assessments were carried out in such cases and they look at how to make best use of the facilities, sometimes this involves clinicians travelling to treat patients locally and services such as vascular surgery may be treated by a hospital out of normal working hours. Impact assessments will continue to be carried out on any future changes and they will make sure that they are open and transparent about any proposed changes.
- Were there any services still suffering from the pandemic – there were currently no Covid-19 positive patients which had enabled services to move back to business as normal. Currently they were running at 70% of normal activity for elective pathways and expect this to move to 85% over the next three months. The Government has provided extra funding to help organisations increase capacity to start addressing backlogs and they need to be flexible on how they use their buildings and staff to address this.
- Was a more formal process than the MOU intended to be introduced going forward such as pooled budgets – no, the MOU was intended to be clear about roles and responsibilities as part of National Policy and the White Paper around integrated social care. Many elements of the White Paper in respect of collaboration have been done in Torbay for a while through the Integrated Care Organisation.
- Looking forward does the Hospital have capacity to support patients with Covid-19 from August 2021 to July 2022 – there was likely to be an increase in numbers during that time and the Trust works closely with colleagues in Public Health to regularly review the data, they continue to plan to maintain safety of services in light of Covid-19 and have designed pathways in all areas to minimise the impact on other services as a result of future outbreaks to ensure patients can continue to access health care when they need it.
- What was happening with the Nightingale in Exeter – this had proved to be a valuable resource working in collaboration with colleagues to manage safely the needs of Covid-19 patients and those without Covid-19. There were currently no Covid-19 patients in the Nightingale but it was continuing to be used for Devon and the South West of England for diagnostic work, access to scans and other services which it was proposed would remain in place.
- Acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication of staff for the people of Torbay – it was as a result of all partners who had worked together to get the best outcomes for local people of Torbay.

Resolved:

- (i) that, the Board endorsed the Memorandum of Understanding; and
- (ii) that the Board thanked all the staff from the hospital and partners for their incredible work and dedication to support the people of Torbay over the past 12 months during the Coronavirus Pandemic (unanimous).

35. Update on Torquay Town Deal and Paignton Future High Street

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing, Councillor Long, outlined the submitted report on the Torquay Town Deal and Paignton Future High Street programmes. The programmes had been led and developed with the community through engagement with Neighbourhood Forums and other community groups, based on a number of strategies and plans which would lead to investment and economic development in Torquay and Paignton. Councillor Long and Alan Denby, Director of Economic Strategy responded to questions in relation to:

- The timescale for work to start on site at Crossways – Members had previously been provided with a timeline for implementation of the redevelopment of Crossways, this was being done as a dual process – a legal process via Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and negotiations with the land owner. The Chief Executive informed that a date had been set for the enquiry for the CPO of mid July 2021 and therefore this should be the latest time for a decision on the implementation of the proposals.
- If the funding for the Princess Gardens and Upton Park was included within the £180m – these projects were part of additional funding of £750,000 for accelerated projects.
- What was being done to ensure use of local labour and skills – they were looking at options to ensure the use of local labour which linked to the community wealth building proposals to ensure that money is kept in Torbay. Risk had been identified around having sufficient local labour and skills due to the level of development happening in the Region. They were looking at how we could help local people retrain and get into the construction sector, engineering, design as well as the traditional manual elements, working with the local business community to enable them to bid for work and working with colleagues in the NHS, South Devon College and suppliers to identify what we need to create and keep as much wealth as possible in the local area.
- What sort of events would the banjo on Princess Gardens be able to host – they were still engaging in conversations on the infrastructure that was required to ensure they meet the needs of the events but hoped to have events such as the Radio 1 Roadshow.
- Torbay Road allocation had been reduced to £600,000, what sort of projects would be delivered for this – the reduction in funding for the project related to being permitted to have 5% of a project on beatification and most of the proposals for this project came under that category, it was hoped that capital receipts from other projects would be used to help fund this project to make improvements which were supported by residents and traders.
- If the funding covered consultant's fees – the funding received covered all costs including contingency, the levels of which would be agreed once each project was developed and was held by the Government and then claimed for if needed.
- Risks around capacity of TDA to deliver the programmes – the Team would be increased by one member of staff in May and external suppliers would be used as and when required to help address capacity within the team. There was not yet a detailed programme of work and there was a need to

put in place a project co-ordinator. Some of the Town Deal revenue fund would be used for elements of training and they need to work with South Devon College and other providers to see how it can be delivered and how we can ensure people who would really benefit are able to access training and other support. Further work was being carried out on how we could draw in more funding to pay for skills services.

- Concern around Torquay and the lack of growth and the high levels of deprivation and inequality – work around affordable housing, new developments requiring employments and skills plans will help improve economic growth in all areas. The Town Deal was one part of the puzzle and more work needed to be done alongside understanding how we can do more to help businesses relocate and grow in Torbay. Work with ThingkingPlace and exploring options to find a way to support our communities to become more employment ready and skilled, help them become higher skilled, retain good business and good employment space.
- Lack of significant house building in Torquay – the Cabinet Member was working with local housing associations and advised that a couple were due to be building new homes soon, as well as the Council's own housing company TORVISTA, this would help drive affordable housing and support other private sector initiatives combined with the other proposed projects such as the Melville area working with communities to support the various issues they have. The Council was not able to force housebuilders to develop land where they have planning permission and would welcome the Government supporting this area.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet be recommended:

- (i) to require developers and contractors to make a commitment to use local labour and/or apprenticeships, wherever possible, and to develop opportunities to retrain local people to enable them to have the relevant skills to help them to obtain local jobs, especially in the construction industry and to present regular updates on progress of the Torquay Town Deal and Paignton Future High Street programmes to the Overview and Scrutiny Board; and
- (ii) to explore opportunities for economic growth in Torquay within the business plans for the Torquay Town Deal to ensure, where possible, funding is spent to tackle the deep and underlying issues surrounding deprivation (unanimous).

36. Update on Future High Streets, Paignton

This item was covered under Minute 35.

37. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/2021

The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator, Councillor Howgate, presented the Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year and

thanked everyone for their support during these unprecedented times and having to work in a different way as a result of Covid-19. Members provided feedback which would be incorporated into the final report to Council.

Resolved:

That, subject to the comments made at the meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020/2021 be approved and submitted to the Annual Council meeting (unanimous).

Chairman/woman
