

Airdrie, 14 February 2006 at 7 pm.

**A Special Joint Meeting of the AIRDRIE, COATBRIDGE AND NORTH AREA
COMMITTEES**

PRESENT

Airdrie Area Committee

Councillor Fagan, Convener; Councillors Curley, Devine, Donnelly, Logue, Stocks and Sullivan.

Coatbridge Area Committee

Councillor M. Clark, Convener; Councillors Brooks, Cassidy, A. Clarke, Higgins, Maginnis, Nolan, Shields and Smith.

North Area Committee

Councillor Chadha, Convener; Councillors Gemmell, Goldie, Gray, Griffin, Hogg, Homer, Irvine, Johnston, McCallum, McCulloch, Murray and Wallace.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Central Services; Assistant Chief Executive (Community Regeneration), and Head of Social Work Development.

ALSO ATTENDING

Councillors Holloway, McCabe and McKenna; and Ian Ross, Chief Executive, Acute Division; Colin Sloey, Chief Executive, Primary Division; John Browning, Medical Director, and Hugh Sweeney, Employee Director, as representatives of NHS Lanarkshire.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Burns, Jones, J. McGuigan, Morris and Shaw.

APPOINTMENT TO CHAIR

In terms of Standing Order 15 as read with Standing Order 56, Councillor Fagan was appointed to the Chair.

On the proposal of the Chair, the meeting agreed to waive any restrictions on photographic activity.

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Chair orally advised that Members of the Airdrie, Coatbridge and North Area Committees had come together in a joint meeting to consider the proposals contained in a consultation document entitled "A Picture of Health" which had recently been published by NHS Lanarkshire, setting out its proposals for a framework for health service improvement in Lanarkshire. He emphasised that, although the document provided details of the key proposals of NHS Lanarkshire over the next 5 year period, the focus of discussions at this meeting would be confined to the proposals for a reduction of emergency inpatient care from three to two acute hospitals and to the implications thereof for Monklands District General Hospital, Airdrie.

"A PICTURE OF HEALTH" - A FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTH SERVICE IMPROVEMENT IN LANARKSHIRE - NHS LANARKSHIRE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

(1) PRESENTATION BY NHS LANARKSHIRE

1. The Chair intimated that he was pleased to have present at the meeting, representatives of NHS Lanarkshire to explain the proposals for the future provision of emergency in-patient services in Lanarkshire, and he introduced Ian Ross, Chief Executive, Acute Division; Colin Sloey, Chief Executive, Primary Division; John Browning, Medical Director, and Hugh Sweeney, Employee Director.

Thereon, the representatives of NHS Lanarkshire presented a short DVD display on the content of its consultation document entitled "A Picture of Health" which (1) described the poor health status of Lanarkshire and the need for change, and (2) provided details of a five year strategy to improve health services in Lanarkshire and to invest in (a) primary and community health care; (b) palliative care; (c) improving health services for older people; (d) modernising mental health services; (e) developing accident and emergency services; (f) modernising general hospital services, and (g) cancer care.

(2) DRAFT RESPONSE BY NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL TO THE NHS LANARKSHIRE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 14 February 2006 by the Chief Executive (1) setting out in the Appendix to the report, the draft emerging response to the NHS Lanarkshire consultation document entitled "A Picture of Health", the emphasis of which was focused on the proposals for a reduction of emergency inpatient care from three to two acute hospitals in Lanarkshire and on the implications thereof on Monklands District General Hospital, Airdrie; (2) indicating that the NHS Lanarkshire Board had approved, for consultation purposes, (a) the option of Wishaw General Hospital, Wishaw, and Monklands General Hospital, Airdrie, being designated as emergency inpatient hospitals, with Hairmyres General Hospital, East Kilbride, being designated as a planned care hospital, and (b) the option of Wishaw General Hospital and Hairmyres General Hospital being designated as emergency inpatient hospitals, with Monklands General Hospital being designated as a planned care hospital, and (3) advising that although the strategic approach adopted by NHS Lanarkshire for the improvement of health services in Lanarkshire was welcome, and notwithstanding the Council's commitment to working in partnership with NHS Lanarkshire and NHS Greater Glasgow to further that approach, it was clear that the potential downgrading of Monklands General Hospital would have a major impact on the Monklands area and on the health of its population.

Thereon, the Assistant Chief Executive (Community Regeneration) was heard in relation to the following issues:-

- the deprivation and poor health of the Monklands catchment area;
- the need for acute hospital services in the Monklands area;
- accessibility and patient flow;
- financial considerations;
- the economic impact on the Monklands area, and
- the options appraisal exercise.

She concluded by orally advising the Joint Area Committees that the draft emerging response would be revised to take account of the comments and points raised at the meeting and that a final report

would be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee, at a meeting to be held on 18 April 2006, in order that the Council could then determine its formal response to NHS Lanarkshire on the proposals set out in the consultation document.

Thereon the Chair invited Members of the Joint Area Committees and members of the public to raise points which required clarification and issues of which the meeting should take account of in formulating a recommendation to the Council.

In the course of the ensuing contributions serious concerns were expressed in relation to the possibility of the Accident and Emergency Unit at Monklands General Hospital being downgraded, particularly in light of:-

- the need for acute hospital services in the Monklands catchment area given its high level of deprivation and poor health profile;
- the loss of maternity and paediatric services from Monklands General Hospital in recent years and the possibility of losing further medical services;
- the lack of investment in medical and health care services in recent years in that part of North Lanarkshire covered by the three Area Committees;
- the impact on the local economy;
- the implications for the people of that part of North Lanarkshire covered by the three Area Committees, in terms of distance, travel time and poor public transport links to either Wishaw General Hospital, Wishaw, or Hairmyres General Hospital, East Kilbride.

The representatives of NHS Lanarkshire noted the concerns expressed and intimated that they would analyse and consider all feedback during the consultation process before reporting back to the NHS Lanarkshire Board.

At this point the Chair thanked the representatives of NHS Lanarkshire for coming along to the meeting to answer questions by Members of the Airdrie, Coatbridge and North Area Committees.

Thereon, Councillor Fagan, seconded by Councillor McCulloch, moved that the Airdrie, Coatbridge and North Area Committees recommend to the Council that its response to NHS Lanarkshire on its consultation document entitled "A Picture of Health" in respect of the part of the document which related to the future provision of Accident and Emergency Services in Lanarkshire, should indicate that the Council supported the option for the retention of full Accident and Emergency Services at Monklands General Hospital, Airdrie.

Councillor Homer, seconded by Councillor Stocks, moved, as an amendment, that the Airdrie, Coatbridge and North Area Committees recommend to the Council that its response to NHS Lanarkshire on its consultation document entitled "A Picture of Health" in respect of the part of the document which related to the future provision of Accident and Emergency Services in Lanarkshire should reflect that the Council supported the retention of a fully staffed and resourced Accident and Emergency Unit at each of Monklands, Hairmyres and Wishaw General Hospitals.

On a vote being taken, 5 Members voted for the amendment, 18 Members voted for the motion, which was declared carried.

Decided: that it be recommended to the Council that its response to NHS Lanarkshire on its consultation entitled "A Picture of Health" in respect of the part of the document which related to the future provision of Accident and Emergency Services in Lanarkshire should indicate that the Council supported the option for the retention of full Accident and Emergency Services at Monklands District General Hospital, Airdrie.