

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 27 February 2018



Subject: East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust - Scrutiny of External Organisation

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Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Committee consider and agree the scope of external scrutiny of the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, in respect of National Health Service ambulance services provided for residents of the Epping Forest District.

1. (Director of Governance) As members will recall, the Committee has expressed a desire to undertake external scrutiny of the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, in respect of National Health Service ambulance services provided across Essex, including to the Epping Forest District. Such external scrutiny activity is included within the work programme for the Committee for the current municipal year.
2. The Chief Executive of the Trust has therefore been invited to attend the meeting of the Committee to be held on 17 April 2018, to respond to the concerns of members in respect of the following overarching themes of the Trust's services:
 - the achievement of the current key priorities of the Trust;
 - resources and capacity;
 - call handling arrangements;
 - ambulance response times for emergency calls; and
 - non-emergency patient transport services.
3. At the time of the publication of this agenda, no response had been received from the Chief Executive of the Trust to the Council's invitation to attend the meeting of the Committee on 17 April 2018. The Director of Governance will report further to the meeting in this regard.
4. However, in accordance with the procedure previously agreed, the Committee is therefore asked to consider and agree the scope of such external scrutiny of the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust. Any matters identified by the Committee will be notified to the Trust as the emphasis for such external scrutiny, in order to ensure that maximum value can be derived from this scrutiny activity.
5. The identification of additional lines of questioning to be raised with the Trust will also be sought from members through the Council Bulletin.

Resource Implications:

The recommendations of this report seek to enable scrutiny activity to more effectively meet work programme requirements.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibility. Although external organisations are not generally required by legislation to attend before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is hoped that most would be willing to engage constructively with the Council's scrutiny activity when invited to do so.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district.

Consultation Undertaken:

The scrutiny of a number of overarching themes and specific issues of local ambulance service provision will be identified at this meeting.

Background Papers:

None

Impact Assessments:***Risk Management***

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.