

## HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 MARCH 2023

### MEMBER'S ITEM: GP ACCESS TASK GROUP

Report from: Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director Legal and Governance

Author: Michael Turner, Principal Democratic Services Officer

#### Summary

This report sets out a Member's item raised by Councillor Murray, in relation to the GP Access Task Group (Appendix 1).

#### 1. Budget and policy framework

1.1. Under Medway Constitution Overview and Scrutiny rules (Chapter 4, Part 5, Paragraph 9.1) Councillor Murray has requested that an item on this matter is included on the agenda for this meeting.

#### 2. The Issue

2.1. Councillor Murray has requested that an item be placed on the agenda and as follows:

*"At the last meeting of this Committee, following a discussion on the Interim GP Access Task Group, the following was agreed:*

- a) to note the interim report from the GP Access Task Group.*
- b) that it is not forwarded to the Cabinet at this stage.*
- c) that the report and draft recommendations be revisited in the summer when the work can be completed with more engagement with GPs.*

*A number of Members spoke during the debate in favour of the Committee agreeing to forward the report and recommendations to the Cabinet. The decisions made by the Committee (on the Chairman's casting vote), demonstrated that the Committee could not agree on a **final** set of proposals to be forwarded to the Cabinet.*

*Paragraph 11.2 of the Overview and Scrutiny Rules state: “If an Overview and Scrutiny Committee cannot agree on one single final set of proposals or recommendations to the Council or Leader/Cabinet (as appropriate), then a minority view which is supported by the largest minority, but at least three members, may be prepared and submitted for consideration by the Council or Leader/Cabinet (as appropriate) with the proposals and recommendations supported by the majority of the Committee. The names of those who dissent may, at a member’s request, be recorded on the main submission.”*

*Therefore, I request that (at least) three Members of this Committee indicate their support for a minority view which is to submit the GP Access Task Group interim report and interim recommendations to the next meeting of the Cabinet (4 April 2023).”*

2.2 This Member’s item from Councillor Murray therefore calls for three Members of the Committee to indicate their support for a minority report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet (4 April 2023).

### 3. Monitoring Officer’s comments

3.1. In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Rules, once an Overview and Scrutiny Committee has formed proposals or recommendations on any matter, the Committee will formally report these to the proper officer for consideration by the Leader/Cabinet (as appropriate) or to the Council as appropriate (e.g. if the recommendation would require a departure from or a change to the agreed budget and policy framework). In the case of Task Group recommendations, these are forwarded to Cabinet for consideration.

3.2 Paragraph 2.4, the Overview and Scrutiny Rules provide for a minority view to be submitted to Cabinet where an Overview and Scrutiny Committee cannot agree on a final set of proposals or recommendations. In order for a minority view to be reported to Cabinet this must be the view of the largest minority supported by at least three members of the Committee. The minutes record that the Committee was not able to agree on a final set of proposals.

3.3 Before a minority report can be submitted, members who are inclined to support such a report should be satisfied that:

- it is reasonable to conclude that the work of the Task Group has concluded or come to a close and
- the Task Group is in a position to make proposals or recommendations.

3.4 Further, if there is support for a minority report, members need to be cognisant that the Constitution permits a minority report to be submitted by the largest minority. Thus, if members determine to submit one now, they will not have the option to submit another when the majority report is submitted.

3.5 If three Members indicate their support for a minority report to be submitted, this then the GP Access Task Group interim report will be submitted to Cabinet as such, along with the majority view of the Committee which was to:

- a) to note the interim report from the GP Access Task Group.
- b) not forwarded the report to the Cabinet at this stage.
- c) agree that the report and its draft recommendations be revisited in the summer when the work can be completed with more engagement with GPs.

3.6 The Cabinet will then consider both views and reach a decision.

## 4. Risk Management

4.1. There are no specific risk implications for Medway Council arising directly from the contents of this report.

## 5. Legal and Financial Implications

5.1. There are no specific financial or legal implications for Medway Council arising directly from the contents of the report.

## 6. Recommendations

6.1 The Committee is asked to note that, once at least three Members of the Committee have indicated their support for a minority view, the GP Access Task Group interim report and interim recommendations (as set out at Appendix 1) will be submitted for consideration by the Cabinet at its next meeting (4 April 2023).

6.2 The Committee is asked to note that if a minority report is submitted now, no further minority report can be submitted at a later date.

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## Appendices

Appendix 1 - GP Access Task Group interim report

## Background papers

None