

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

MONDAY, 9 JUNE 2025 - 10.00 AM



PRESENT: Councillor E Sennitt Clough (Vice-Chairman), Councillor B Barber, Councillor G Booth, Councillor L Foice-Beard, Councillor A Hay, Councillor P Hicks, Councillor D Roy and Councillor A Woollard

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mrs M Davis (Chairman), Councillor J Carney and Councillor N Meekins

Officers in attendance: Amy Brown (Assistant Director) and Helen Moore (Member Services and Governance Officer)

OSC31/23 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26

Proposed by Councillor Hay, seconded by Councillor Hicks and agreed that Councillor Mrs Davis be elected as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2025/26.

OSC32/23 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26

Proposed by Councillor Hay, seconded by Councillor Barber and agreed that Councillor Sennitt Clough be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2025/26.

OSC33/23 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 20 January 2025 were confirmed and signed.

OSC34/23 FENLAND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING CCTV SERVICES

Councillor Susan Wallwork, Dan Horn, Alan Boughen and Aaron Locks together with Michael Basford, Neighbourhood Police Team Inspector, provided a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and CCTV update.

Members made comments, asked questions and received responses as follows:

- Councillor Booth stated there is an item in the report pack regarding speeding indicating that it is not the responsibility of the CSP and whilst the CSP can assist others it is down to other people to tackle that issue. He expressed concern as speeding is an issue, it has been looked at in the past but never made a priority and he feels that the CSP are not delivering what the community wants with the title of the organisation being Community Safety Partnership and he would like to know why this is not a priority? Councillor Booth continued that he believed community engagement events were meant to be held under the Police, Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 which is meant to shape the CSP's responsibilities, and reiterated why is speeding not being taken more seriously? He stated that he is aware of the Speed Watch groups but that is down to volunteers in the community. Dan Horn stated, in terms of road safety, there are many areas of community safety that have a countywide group, one being Vision Zero which coordinates the road safety work across the whole of Cambridgeshire, the countywide group and Fenland's CSP will support their work where they feel the CSP can assist. He suggested that based on the

feedback today to contact the Road Safety Partnership and ask them to come along and give an update to the Community Safety Partnership and ask if in terms of Fenland CSP is there anymore that can be done to plug issues that Vision Zero feel are not being addressed. Councillor Booth commented that speeding is one of the biggest complaints received, and he understands there is some community engagement, but feels there needs to be larger forums and feels looking at the figures shown this needs to be a priority and something that needs addressing alongside the everyday presence of the Police as previously this has had an impact. He continued that due to the accidents and fatalities on the Fen roads the speed van is likely to be returning to the area. Dan Horn stated when the Road Safety Partnership and Vision Zero came along to O&S it was on the 9 September 2024. Councillor Booth asked if Michael Basford had any comments to make on his question on the Community Speed Watch Sessions? Michael Basford responded that the Police were actively supporting it a couple of years ago but over the last year it has dropped off. He stated that he would take that away from the meeting today and if there were any opportunities to add further Speed Watch groups within Fenland it would be welcomed. Councillor Booth suggested that Fenland District Council's Communications Team help promote this and he would like this added as an action.

- Councillor Hicks asked who was responsible for setting up the groups? Michael Basford stated that there is a Speed Watch Coordinator who will identify individuals that want to join the scheme, provide the equipment, provide the training and is something that is done in house by the Police.
- Councillor Booth added Parish and Town Councils can take the lead in that as well as this has been done successfully in the past with some local villages.
- Councillor Hicks asked if the Police push for the Speed Watch team to be in certain areas across the Fens? Michael Basford confirmed that they do have certain areas that would value the support of a Speed Watch team.
- Councillor Woollard referred to the March Town situation, there is equipment at March Town Council, but it is not currently functioning and rather than spend a considerable amount of money on updating this equipment, the Council are investigating other methods or more up to date methods of policing speeding around the town. Councillor Booth added that he believed the equipment was provided by the Police and does not understand why it should be a cost to March Town Council. He understood that some Parish Councils have contributed but not all of them and the Police have provided the equipment to several groups free of charge.
- Councillor Sennitt Clough stated that there has been reports that Tholomas Drove is being used as a rat run and she would like to see a Speed Watch Team attend there. Councillor Booth stated that the issue with Tholomas Drove is it can only operate speed watch at 40mph limits and also there will need to be a risk assessment completed to make sure it is safe for the volunteers to work there.
- Councillor Susan Wallwork stated that the CSP will take this as an action to help market and spread the word about volunteers needed and set them up in the smaller parishes as well. She continued, in response to the rat run situation, there is a Speed Watch Coordinator that can be informed and they can arrange for a camera to be fitted to monitor the speed, this is not designed to catch people but to record the speed people are going, which can be an evidence base and if the committee would like the information it can be circulated after the meeting.
- Councillor Sennitt Clough stated that there have been several incidents in Whittlesey and she would like to understand the attempts that have been made to capture this information, along with some statistics to put peoples mind at rest that the CCTV is there for the benefit of the public to make them feel more secure. Aaron Locks responded it is understandable when concerns are raised where CCTV appears to be absent when serious incidents occur, and he did want to emphasise that CCTV is not a silver bullet to solve all issues and is not all seeing. He continued that CCTV cameras are not designed to prevent every incident within the district, but it does contribute significantly to community safety. Aaron Locks stated that regarding the incident of the ram-raid in Whittlesey the system was fully

operational that night, however, the incident did unfold from start to finish within two minutes and the nearby CCTV camera covers a very busy town centre market place, and at the time of the event the camera was facing towards a licensed premise. He continued the ram-raid was very sophisticated in its planning and unfortunately these incidents happen up and down the country, and CCTV alone cannot prevent or interrupt these types of criminal activity. Aaron Locks stated that in terms of the oil spill which happened in Whittlesey, CCTV did not report at the time, however, he was able to report that CCTV data has been provided to County highways officers to support their retrospective investigations of that matter. He added in relation to High Causeway the cameras can be pointed towards this area but the powers to enforce disturbances will rely on others and Whittlesey Town Council have been informed of this along with several ideas for prevention such as bollards. Aaron Locks stated that there is a role for CCTV in relation to community safety and traffic managements, but this does need support. He added in terms of reassurance in the report it does state that CCTV reports have been involved in over 1100 incidents in a year across the Fenland area leading to over 200 arrests which is one of the highest generated arrests within a year. Councillor Sennitt Clough complemented on how brilliant the CCTV at Sand Martin House was and that she learnt a lot about the capability of the cameras and what is involved.

- Councillor Hicks asked if he was right in thinking that on more serious planned crimes that CCTV is less effective because they have studied the point of direction, compared to fights breaking out in the streets etc? Aaron Locks responded yes and no, there is always a certain level of sophisticated organised crime and CCTV is widely used by specialist teams to prevent and disrupt organised crime, but it can be unfortunate that when crimes unfold quickly, they are against the clock and in the incident of the ram-raid in Whittlesey the time the call was made and reached the team the vehicle had already left in less than two minutes. Councillor Hicks stated that he would like to know what the statistics are in relation to consideration of serious crime as opposed to low-level crime. Aaron Lock stated that serious crime in Fenland is particularly low compared to what is seen on the Peterborough side.
- Councillor Booth stated that in the past people were concerned with the move to Peterborough and the concern of how many cameras will need to be monitored per staff and he was interested in knowing how AI can help with something like CCTV and if this has been considered? Aaron Locks confirmed there has been trials up and down the country but not in Peterborough and Fenland as yet, but he feels there is still a way to go before AI can support what is currently being dealt with by operators. He stated that the team in place have a good sense of where to look and what to look for and the problem is if there needs to be a facial recognition it has to be achieved at a fixed point and town cameras move at different angles, but if there are any opportunities to improve what is already in place then it will be looked into.
- Councillor Roy stated that CCTV is something that is needed to tackle crime and asked if there was any evidence to suggest that some of the low-level crime that used to take place in areas where there is CCTV is now moving outwards to the peripheries and the rural areas where there is no CCTV or it is not covered as much by CCTV. Michael Basford stated that he did not think this was the case, there will always be those individuals that will run the risk of being captured on CCTV in the town centres and wider areas, and there will always be those individuals that prefer to commit offences in the more rural areas which is why CCTV is invaluable. He continued, to pick up on the point made earlier concerning AI, the Police use facial recognition a lot and is proving to be successful, and if it was not for the presence of the cameras and the really good images that it provides it would not be as successful.
- Councillor Booth stated that he recalls from the last meeting that it was recorded that there was a need for more mobile units around concerning E scooters but was told it costs £100,000 to erect one camera in a location and asked if there had been any advance in the ability to place a mobile CCTV camera at a location, especially if there was a particular issue and have they been used? Michael Basford stated that he can confirm that as part of the Safer Streets Programme there are five mobile cameras deployed within Fenland, they

are currently located specifically to the Safer Streets Directive and if it is a Police case then they can be relocated. Aarron Locks added the cameras work on a 4G and 5G SIM technology so as long as there is a power supply and a suitable structure for the camera to be mounted, the cameras can be deployed anywhere there is a signal within Fenland, however, there is a cost to relocate cameras and as long as the budget exists they have the technology to do that.

- Councillor Booth stated that as an observation around the report there seems to be a long list of actions but what is missing is a set of KPI's which can measure how effective the CSP is and are the actions driving improvements in the areas that are being focused on and feels if this is not something that is in place then this would be nice to see this developed. Councillor Wallwork agreed with the statement made and added that their priorities are set by Police data which change quite often which makes this hard to measure long-term with there being certain things that can be looked at but the crime outcomes effect the CSP strategy and she feels that short term strategies are a better way forward. Dan Horn added the CSP operates as a partnership and there is a strategic assessment once a year, which allows the CSP to commission research on all of the statistics and all of the data from the Police and other sources, with the secondary data sources that comes to the partnership being a comprehensive report that was received April of this year and from that it was discussed what the report suggested with some of the priorities, and after a conversation with the CSP it was approved what the priorities are for the following year and what resources are available to help have a positive impact on the priorities for the year. He continued that this is all data led and throughout the year the CSP try to show the impact of what has been done with a detailed action plan with progress to the date with there being plenty of positive feedback from the Police Crime Commissioner on how the CSP operates as a partnership in this regard. Councillor Booth responded that many of these priorities have been on the list for years, he is aware that domestic abuse has been an ongoing constant issue and stated that there must be some metrics in place that can be used to show that the actions being delivered and improving the situation or not. Councillor Wallwork stated that due to the human element it means that crime will continue and domestic violence will continue as there is no way of stopping people but educating people can help and sentencing if needed. Dan Horn added that it is a countywide group that drives the domestic abuse cases and is one area where the countywide group does ask what they can help with in certain areas through the CSP partnership and the workforce development team which support the frontline practitioners with ideas to help deal with certain situations and this is why it is important to keep it on the action list. Councillor Booth stated he appreciated what has been said but surely over a long period of time there should be a downward trend in that area as a measure to understand that the work put in is effectively tackling the issue, and there must be some crime figures somewhere to show that there is a downward trend? Councillor Wallwork stated that sometimes the evidence needs to come from how many people are coming forward as well, the CSP cannot stop people from committing horrible crimes against people but what can be measured is how many women are coming forward with the help of awareness posters and campaigns in the community, the ones who need to see it do see it and this is where the uptrend of education and support networking works. Councillor Booth added that again there could be a statistic here around improved referrals to show that has been effective. Alan Boughen added that domestic abuse, much like road safety, is a countrywide partnership, the Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence Partnership (DASVP) lead on the county's response to domestic abuse, that ties in very closely with the Police who pick up the crime side and as mentioned there are some statistics available within the Police world which allows them to look at the number of domestic incidents they get against the number of those incidents that have been translated into crime investigations, so CSP as a partnership support the DASVP in the delivery of their work and the CSP focus mainly on how those messages can be put out across to the community. He continued that there may be some data that can be sourced from the DASVP that could show a number of referrals but a lot of the CSP work cannot be measured purely by statistics. Dan Horn added that if there is a domestic homicide review

dealt with by the countywide process the CSP has the responsibility for looking at that and in terms of submission that is made to the Home Office which is then verified and published with an action plan, another key area the Fenland CSP does is all the actions are put into the monitoring of the CSP partners action plan to ensure any action is monitored for updates and to make sure everything is ticked off and undertaken with any learning from that particular engagement that took place. Councillor Booth reiterated his first point that there needs to be one matrix in place.

- Councillor Foice-Beard stated that on the point of raising awareness she said that the community engagement events that take place across Fenland are absolutely amazing and she has had many resident benefit from Stop Loan Sharks and Cyber and Fraud Awareness and the fact that there are people present in person to have conversations to myth bust and to raise awareness of the different topics that are out there can be quite traumatising and overwhelming, so the community engagement events are brilliant and she asked if there could be more.

Members noted the information provided.

OSC35/23 UPDATE ON RESPONSE AND ONGOING MANAGEMENT OF ASB ISSUES IN WISBECH

Michael Basford, Neighbouring Policing Team Inspector, Dan Horn and Alan Boughen provided an update on ASB issues in Wisbech.

Members made comments, asked questions and received responses as follows:

- Councillor Hicks stated that he attended a meeting with some residents from West End, March and was informed by the officers in attendance that officers have not got enough time to police on the beat as they are spread too thinly looking after March and the surrounding villages between two officers. He asked how the Police intended to make a visible presence when there are so few officers covering a big area? Michael Basford responded that neighbourhood policing does cover a large area, and work does need to be prioritised. He continued, with the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, resources are redirected to dedicated officers to specific areas, and they will be dedicated to being visible and available to the members of the community in those specific communities but disagreed with the comment that the Police are spread too thinly.
- Councillor Booth asked if the Police will be more visible in the surrounding villages as this has been lacking for many years? Michael Basford responded in the affirmative.
- Councillor Woollard stated there has been a lot of talk concerning Wisbech, but this anti-social behaviour is prevalent in all of the towns and he has seen first-hand the issues March Town has had and would like some assurance that the initiatives that are being introduced will spread across the whole of Fenland rather than concentrating in Wisbech alone. Michael Basford assured the committee that this project will be rolled out across the whole of Fenland.
- Councillor Barber asked if Police visibility is going to be a regular presence in the towns? Michael Basford confirmed this was going to be the case with dedicated specific resources to that role. He continued the neighbourhood policing team is also supported by other teams with the help of specific funding, enabling an uplift in officers in and around town centres across the Northern District of Cambridgeshire with Peterborough included which is still a developing area but should soon see an uplift in officers in the Horse Fair at Wisbech and an increase in visible policing.
- Councillor Booth asked how long it was going to take before officers are seen in place? Michael Basford replied that 36 people were being interviewed this week and there is a plan to have them in a post within 28 days. Councillor Booth commented on the shortness of time as he imagined it was quite a few months to be trained to become a police officer. Michael Basford confirmed they were taking existing officers from other departments and bring them into neighbourhood policing and their role will be backfilled with new staff.

- Councillor Hicks asked how many new officers there will be in total? Michael Basford replied across the Northern Division, which includes Peterborough, there will be 36 new officers, however, currently at the moment unfortunately there are several vacancies to be filled with a further three officers needed to bring the number up across the board to 17 neighbourhood police officers which does not include himself.
- Councillor Barber suggested having a whole day of tackling on street parking and issuing parking tickets as this is becoming an issue across the towns and villages within the Fenland area. Michael Basford confirmed that parking tickets are given out, but the Police workload has to be prioritised, and he hopes one day civil parking is introduced into the Fenland area. Councillor Barber reiterated the point and feels this would be a good deterrent. Michael Basford confirmed that after 20 years of monitoring the work put in place it has proved that ticketing is not a particularly effective deterrent.
- Councillor Booth agreed with what has been said and stated that in Parson Drove there has been issues parking outside the school and in his experience many people will just pay the parking ticket and continue to park illegally. Michael Basford gave assurance that officers will be targeting the higher risk areas such as primary schools.
- Councillor Sennitt Clough stated in the presentation it was mentioned about ASB and young offenders and she would like to know how he has found working with schools and has this been effective in trying to prevent young people from participating in ASB? Michael Basford responded there is a dedicated school's officer in place and they work very closely with himself and the team for information sharing which can be very effective to build a picture of every aspect of the child's life. Councillor Sennitt Clough found this very reassuring as she understands some ASB is linked to things going on in the individual's life.
- Councillor Roy referred to the 'yes scheme traffic light system' mentioned in the report and asked if there are any statistics to back up how effective it has been at each level? Michael Basford confirmed he did not have any statistics with him but stated there are individuals that are known to the Police and other agencies in a number of Market Towns, and it has been noted that these names are coming to the Police and partners attention a lot less frequently and the first impression is that this scheme is having an impact.

Members noted the information provided.

OSC36/23 UPDATE ON SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE, WISBECH

Greg Lane from the NHS gave an update on the Wisbech Diagnostic Centre.

Members made comments, asked questions and received responses as follows:

- Councillor Foice-Beard asked what data was collected and how and could the committee have access to it as to better understand the conclusion in more detail? Greg Lane confirmed data has been sent through to the committee which is focused on local GP's as this is the accessible data plus what non-hospital referrals are coming through for patients that are registered to those practices, which will paint a picture of the current needs and demands for those services and that is what is going to formulate those strategic discussions about delivery now and further down the line.
- Councillor Foice-Beard stated that on paragraph 7 of the presentation it stated, 'that it is not technically possible to integrate' and asked if not now is there a timescale of when they will be working towards this? Greg Lane stated that when it comes to the NHS app this is led nationally with no local influence, but is it known this is one of the ambitions with the NHS app. Councillor Foice-Beard asked how he can guarantee this will be at the forefront of the plans and will there be regular updates? Greg Lane responded when it comes to direct booking through the NHS app, local solutions will be considered if there is not a national solution in place and there will be regular updates in terms of what the thinking will be around the NHS app.
- Councillor Foice-Beard asked what efforts are being made to ensure that staff and patients

are aware of the facilities at Wisbech as due to a recent telephone discussion to discuss an appointment there seemed to be a lack of awareness of what is in existence, the staff member in the department was very adamant that there was not a facility and the facility that was referred to in the letter was for Kings Lynn and not Wisbech. Greg Lane responded in terms of ongoing discussions that are happening around current and future delivery, all stakeholders are being included, general practice is pivotal in terms of that voice ensuring that the patient is kept aware and up to date and there are also regular updates given to Healthwatch and patient participation groups. Councillor Foice-Beard asked how this communication was being given out? Greg Lane confirmed the communication was happening through conversations and updates with bulletins and in writing within health groups. Councillor Foice-Beard reiterated that all staff need to be fully updated. Greg Lane stated that it is a minimum expectation that employees within a stakeholder position would know what their organisation does and when but he will take that information away from the meeting today.

- Councillor Sennitt Clough asked who the stakeholders are? Greg Lane responded in terms of the ongoing strategic discussions around the Clinical Diagnostic Centre (CDC) and why the North Cambridgeshire Hospital site, those stakeholders would include local GP practices from Wisbech and Fenland, colleagues from Queen Elizabeth Hospital and updates are also sent to colleagues from Norfolk and Waveney ICB including their integrated neighbourhood West Place, North West Anglia Hospital Foundation Trust, Cambridge University Hospitals and there are also Health Works representation.
- Councillor Sennitt Clough stated that a catchment area has been discussed and she would like to understand what the catchment area is and how far beyond Fenland as an administrative District does the catchment reach? Greg Lane stated that currently the catchment area is very much focused on Wisbech, Fenland and West Norfolk, with the ambition being that the catchment will be further than this in the spirit of patient choice, for the patients that sit just on the outside of Wisbech, Fenland and West Norfolk so they are given the option to access services at North Cambridgeshire Hospital and any other CBC or facility across that District.
- Councillor Hicks stated that he sits on the board of GP's, and it has been mentioned that around 70% of appointments with the GP's are with elderly and he would like some assurance that when the app is launched there will still be measures in place for the elderly patients that do not use computers or mobile phones and that still want to ring in to make appointments. Greg Lane responded as much as the NHS needs to keep up to speed with modern technology, in terms of the ability to book appointments online, there is a recognition that this will need to run alongside what is already in place so that appointments are bookable for all patients and feels it would be unrealistic to expect that all patients would swap to the app device.
- Councillor Hay stated that it was mentioned in the report that one of the main areas is Wisbech mainly because it has its own CDC but would like to understand why the portable MRI scanner was removed from the Hospital as this was valued within the town of Wisbech being as it is a very deprived area for health outcomes and what would warrant recommissioning it back into the town again? Greg Lane stated that in terms of the scanner move that was an operational decision lead by NHS England to move the scanner from Wisbech to Ely to enable the functional MRI scanner to open at Ely before the static MRI was in situ. He continued the activity levels seen at Wisbech and the demands did not make it financially viable to stay at Wisbech which is what led NHS England to make its decision to move it to Ely. Councillor Hay expressed her disappointment at this decision and asked for Greg Lane to push for a portable MRI scanner to be returned to Wisbech.
- Councillor Booth stated that in a letter regarding the CT scanner, it states that the guidance from NHS England was that it should no longer be used. He asked what that guidance was, was it that it was too old or did it not meet the new modern standards required, why was there not a decision to replace the piece of equipment and was there any push back to this decision? Greg Lane stated the answer is along the same lines as the MRI conversation with the fact that the level of demand makes the mobile not financially viable and NHS

England would not commission the mobile units. He continued that there was a national push to ensure that CDC's were becoming permanent facilities as opposed to having mobile units within them and the CT scanner was lobbied in the same way as the MRI scanner to no avail with the NHS England but he insists that these two items will still be lobbied for but stressed the need for them to be financially viable to meet an agreement. Councillor Booth commented that it was his understanding that NHS England was going to be abolished and asked if Greg Lane had any idea what the replacement was going to look like and how it was going to work, and if there will be more decision making locally that would enable the facilities to be reinstated back into Wisbech? Greg Lane stated that having more local flexibility allows more opportunity to do the things that are needed, but again the finances will need to be looked at to make sure that none of the stakeholders are running at a cost pressure to deliver, which is part of the development work in place as shown in the slides. He added as a system there would need to be an injection of funding from somewhere to allow the opportunity to put the plans together and present to organisations like local councils to see what other help can be received within the system.

- Councillor Roy stated it was mentioned about keeping the services local, the feedback he gets from residents is that they are mostly referred to King Lynn and he would like to know if the message is getting out about the facilities at Wisbech CDC or if GP surgeries are just automatically referring patients to the bigger hospitals and not giving patients the choice. Greg Lane stated to give a wider context, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has just opened its diagnostic assessment centre on the Kings Lynn site and the fact that they do offer a service at the North Cambridgeshire Hospital is now causing a capacity pressure for them in terms of running it across both sites which is where the strategic discussions become important because the service at North Cambridgeshire Hospital needs to be kept alive, so the group of stakeholders need to stay in sync in terms of strategic ambition. He continued a patient at Wisbech should always be offered the services at North Cambridgeshire Hospital if that service is available, with the wider context particularly within the CDC programme being that it is not going to double run on some services. Councillor Roy stated that Wisbech is one of the deprived areas that lacks the transport infrastructure to get people to Kings Lynn, and he constantly hears that people are struggling to afford standard living costs and extra travel expenses to Kings Lynn is not viable and feels this needs addressing to offer people information locally and what services are available at the Hospital. Greg Lane stated this links back to an earlier question around the catchment area for the site because the wider the catchment area becomes then the more beneficial it is to the local patients because the more financially viable the service delivery becomes. He continued that the object is to bring the North Cambridgeshire Hospital as a site alive into the wider CMP and Norfolk strategy because that then enhances the catchment area, which then increases the financial viability around running the services and, therefore, means more can be undertaken for the patients.
- Councillor Hicks asked how is the conclusion drawn to find if something is viable or not viable? Is it based on the cost of the individual patient and if so is that a Government guideline or is it the amount of patients using the equipment? Greg Lane replied that the costing will include the overhead of staffing cost with the offer of a certain amount of capacity, depending on how the payment is made on the CDC programme, each patient treated comes with a tariff so if they are not treating enough patients, they will not make enough tariff cost back to effectively cover the outlay. He continued this becomes a provider decision because if the income is not coming in based on the outlay then this is being run at a cost pressure and providers need to make sure they are not running at a loss as an organisation because if one service is being delivered at a loss then other services are compromised, which is where commissioning is a key part, particularly if it is an item of service fee which is effectively per patient. Greg Lane stated that in relation to the North Cambridgeshire Hospital the more activity there is within the site the more income is generated from the provider and the more financially viable that service becomes. Councillor Hicks asked how much below capacity were the machines that have been discussed at today's meeting? Greg Lane stated from memory there was around 40% in

terms of the capacity that was offered, for example a mobile MRI scanner would operate at 11 slots a day and the anticipation from the programme is that this would be run seven days per week, out of 77 slots per week the local demand was using between 30-40 per week so the extra activity would need to be found further afield to make that service viable at that site.

- Councillor Booth stated looking at the number given there are around 400 appointments per month, which sounds like they are operating seven days a week which works out around 20 appointments per day but going by what has been said the figures need to be around 60 appointments per day. Greg Lane responded if those services are operated within the CDC programme, which has the benefits because it is funded by NHS England, the guidance is seven days working meaning that is the capacity that needs to be offered. He continued if it was decided to use a more locally commissioned agreement then effectively those services could be run for the demands that exist locally, but the service would need to be amended to ensure it works out financially viable or a local decision made to run at a loss. Councillor Booth asked what the number would need to be to have the CT scanner running per day at the North Cambridgeshire Hospital? Greg Lane did not have this information to hand and marked it as an action to send the figures after the meeting.
- Councillor Barber stated that originally it seemed there were going to be two CDC's, one in Wisbech and one in Ely, with both having an MRI facility, the MRI facility was removed from Wisbech through lack of usage, which leaves one in Ely. She reiterated what Councillor Roy stated that she has had many residents not knowing this service was available in Wisbech and the GP practices seem to be sending patients to the bigger hospitals like Kings Lynn, and she feels there would have been a lot more patients using the facilities on offer had they been made aware of it. Greg Lane stated as things stand the unit at Ely hospital is still CDC owned and in terms of the MRI and CT scanner it does come back to the local demand because as stated previously if the demand was stretched out further than Wisbech this will eat into the catchment area for Ely so again it has to be financially viable to run both services at both sites. He continued with the way the programme is set up and the way NHS England commissioned it this did not make it possible for this to happen but there are options available to make it financially viable, but this will need to be worked through a local solution rather than one through the CDC programme currently.
- Councillor Sennitt Clough requested confirmation that Ely was not in the Fenland catchment area. Greg Lane confirmed that geographically no Ely is not in the catchment area because it is not in Fenland, but he referred back to the patient choice conversation, because if you are a patient who lives in Ely but work in Wisbech why cannot it be possible to use the Wisbech Hospital or vice versa and that is the ambition to give patient choice.
- Councillor Sennitt Clough stated that Ely is a much more affluent area and has a railway station whereas according to the 2021 census 26% of people in Wisbech do not own a vehicle and transport is limited, she felt that the answers given so far were driven by the stakeholders, the providers and financially rather than the facts and asked if this could be confirmed? Greg Lane stated that no one stakeholder wants to be driven by finances but the finances are a reality and that is the point of the strategic discussions to find out how to deliver these services and not leave someone sitting with a financial cost and that is the conundrum as a group which is being worked on together to solve and get the right pathways and strategies in place to make this possible. Councillor Sennitt Clough asked, of the information gathered particularly with the CT scanner that was decommissioned, how long was it active for and what did the data tell them? Greg Lane answered there is data available for a full year until March 2024, with Addenbrookes being the lead provider as a lot of patients were coming from the Addenbrookes case load because the referral pathways were not in place for local patients and this can muddy the waters in terms of where that demand was coming from, so yes there is data and yes it was used but he felt that the activities running through the MRI and CT scanners would have been uplifted from patients that were willing to travel from South Cambridgeshire up to the facility at Wisbech, so it was not all made up of the same population. Councillor Sennitt Clough asked if there was any scope for discussions around having another CT scanner and what are the processes

involved in trying to get that facility back to the Fenland catchment area? Greg Lane stated that the options would be either having machines mobile or a permanent static in situ and there are the right pathways and access points in place to generate enough activity from across the county to make those modalities viable from within that site. He added that the other option is what Addenbrookes and the ICB explored was having pads, where the mobile is parked and plugged into the generator to make it operational, and there are pads strategically placed across the county and then these services are delivered on a rotational basis, which means there would not be an MRI or CT scanner at Wisbech Monday to Friday, but it may be there on a Wednesday because that is when most activity can be generated for that location, with these being the two most viable options at this present time. Councillor Sennitt Clough asked how the Council can lobby to make sure that this can become a reality for the patients of Fenland? Greg Lane stated that he felt it would come from the NHS, ICB and the stakeholder's group in terms of putting that plan on a page to see what the different options would offer in practice and what would be needed to make it work which could also be something that can be shared with this committee to get a view on what could and could not be supported.

Members noted the information provided.

OSC37/23 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

This item had been withdrawn and will be considered at the next meeting.

OSC38/23 MONITORING INFORMATION

Councillor Sennitt Clough referred to the occasions since the last meeting when the Chairman has been asked to exercise her authority to wave the ordinary requirements in relation to the forward plan.

Councillor Booth stated he would like to see Vison Zero back as discussed in the previous item.

Members noted the waivers permitted by the Chairman since the last meeting.

OSC39/23 UPDATE ON PREVIOUS ACTIONS

Councillor Sennitt Clough stated that the response from Anglian Water is noted.

Councillor Booth stated there is a response from Anglian Water, but it is not anything definite and he would like to keep the question active and ask for regular updates when they know plans are being confirmed by November.

Amy Brown responded that Anglian Water are due to visit the committee in December and suggested before they visit the question is updated ready for them to answer.

Councillor Sennitt Clough asked if it would be possible to get a six-month update so when Anglian Water visit in December the committee have the most up-to-date information.

Councillor Booth stated that Anglian Water is developing a business plan and suggested asking for the highlights of the business plan that are relevant to Fenland to be able to give the committee a clear understanding of what will be happening in the Fenland area.

The committee agreed with the proposals.

OSC40/23 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Amy Brown gave a brief update on the work programme for the municipal year 2025/26.

Councillor Booth stated that as there are no Elections coming up that extra items could be added to the month of April 2026.

Councillor Sennitt Clough requested that Greater Anglia visit the committee based on the fact that there are three railway stations within the Fenland area, the railway is undergoing nationalisation, and there is the issue with the North Junction which could form part of a number of questions that could be asked.

Councillor Booth felt that it would be better to invite the National Rail Service as Greater Anglia are only a franchisee and cannot answer questions about the infrastructure.

Councillor Sennitt Clough suggested inviting the rail partners along as well.

Amy Brown stated she would have a conversation and see when this can be made possible.

12.00 pm

Chairman