

NOTICES OF MOTION

Report of the County Solicitor

Recommendation: that consideration be given to any recommendations to be made to the County Council in respect of the Notices of Motion set out hereunder having regard to the relevant factual briefing/background papers and any other representations made to the Cabinet.

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The Notices of Motion submitted to the County Council by the Councillors shown below have been referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2) - for consideration, reference to another committee or to make a recommendation back to the Council.

A factual 'Briefing Note/Position Statement' prepared by the relevant Head of Service is also included where appropriate or available, to facilitate the Cabinet's discussion of each Notice of Motion.

### **(a) Accountable Care Systems (Councillor Shaw)**

*This Council is concerned by the decision of the Devon Clinical Commissioning Groups to introduce an Accountable Care System for Devon's NHS and adult social care services from 1st April 2018, without the full agreement of this Council.*

*In view of the widespread public concern over Accountable Care Systems and Accountable Care Organisations, and the decision of NHS England to hold a 12-week consultation on ACOs, this Council calls on the Devon CCGs to put the introduction of the ACS on hold until local people have been fully consulted on the plans'.*

### **Briefing Note/Position Statement from the Head of Adult Commissioning and Health**

A factual briefing was distributed electronically to all members on 9 February 2018 on this matter, the key points of which are highlighted below.

Accountable Care Systems are now more commonly known nationally as Integrated Care Systems and this is the term the Council is using). At its simplest, an Integrated Care System is way of working, collaboratively, between a range of health and social care organisations, to help improve people's health, therefore organisations work together in a shared way; sharing budgets, staff, resources where appropriate, to best meet people's needs.

It is not the creation of a new organisation, or some other body seen as being undemocratic, or 'privatisation by the back door'.

It's important to draw that distinction, because there has been criticism at a national level that creating new commissioning organisations can lead to a place where people's care needs come second to the needs of those undemocratic organisations and Devon has no intention of going along such a route.

By working collaboratively with a range of organisations, Integrated Care Systems (ICS) aim to help people stay healthy, tackling the causes of illness and wider factors that affect health such as education and housing. Commissioners and providers of acute hospital and community services, primary care, mental health and social care work increasingly in partnership to plan, finance and run services.

From the patient or service users' point of view, it will be a joined-up health and social care service that works for them. Their care, however simple or complex it is, is planned. And the Council, the CCGs, the hospitals, the GPs, are all working together to that same plan.

Whilst there is a statutory obligation for health and social care organisations to work together, it makes sense to do so.

This is not a new concept. Integration of care is something that Devon has been providing for some years, with front line health and social care staff working together in the same teams. So, an Integrated Care System builds on the solid progress already established.

The NHS Constitution and Local Authority Constitution remain at the heart of everything done, meaning anyone can receive high-quality NHS care, free at the point of access, whenever they need it. People will still see a GP when they need it and there will still be hospital care. Social care will continue to operate as it does now but integration will mean services are increasingly organised around the needs of individuals, not organisational boundaries.

Working in partnership across a wide range of services, people will be helped to stay healthy, receive more support and treatment at home rather than having to go into hospital if it's not necessary, and see their GP more quickly.

If people do need to be admitted to hospital, they will be supported to get home quickly with the support they need.

With NHS and Local Authorities now working more closely together than ever, this should give our doctors, nurses and social care staff the best chance of success by enhancing our partnership working.

#### **(b) Sunset for the Royal Marines and Future Resilience (Councillor Greenslade)**

*The County Council expresses concern at the conclusions of the Defence Select Committee report "Sunset for the Royal Marines" regarding the future strength of the Royal Marines and the implications for the economy of the county and the viability of Royal Marine bases in Devon such as those in Plymouth and at RMB Chivenor.*

*Devon County Council resolves to play an active part in lobbying to retain Royal Marine bases in our County'.*

#### **Briefing Note/Position Statement from the Head of Economy and Skills**

##### **Background**

- (1) Devon County is home to three Royal Marine bases: Royal Marines (RM) Chivenor in North Devon, which is home to 1,200 personnel; Commando Training Centre Royal Marines Lympstone in East Devon, which trains around 1,400 recruits a year; and Bickleigh Barracks, just north of Plymouth, which hosts 42 Commando.
- (2) The Royal Marines also have a number of key bases in the City of Plymouth, including RM Tamar, RM Stonehouse, the Royal Citadel and at Devonport.
- (3) These bases make a significant contribution to the economies and communities in which they are sited. The wages of military personnel tend to be above the local average, and the direct contribution of the service personnel and their families is multiplied by the local supply chains that each base supports.

## **A Better Defence Estate**

- (4) On 7 November 2016 the Ministry of Defence (MoD) published A Better Defence Estate which outlined its plans to make more efficient use of the Defence Estate. This included the announcement that the MoD intends to close RM Chivenor by 2027 and to consolidate the units currently based at Chivenor (24 Engineer Regiment and the Royal Engineers & Commando Logistics Regiment) in the Plymouth/Torpoint area. It was also announced that the Royal Citadel and RM Stonehouse in Plymouth and RM Norton Manor Camp in Somerset would also be closed, with a similar consolidation of capabilities in the Plymouth/Torpoint areas.
- (5) Subsequent to that announcement, Sir Michael Fallon visited Chivenor on 17 March 2017 at the invitation of Peter Heaton-Jones MP. At the end of his visit, Sir Michael was quoted as saying that “there is no final decision. The overall intent is to close some of the smaller Royal Marine bases and cluster all the Royal Marine units together in the Plymouth Devonport area. That’s the overall intent. We now have to work through the detail and see exactly what it would cost to move the particular units, so that’s work that will now go on for the next year and a bit. We’ll know in a year or two what the final decision will be.”<sup>1</sup>
- (6) Since then, the MoD has said very little. That is despite Peter Heaton-Jones MP asking questions in Parliament seeking an update to the situation, including most recently in November 2017. On 15 January 2018, however, Minister of State Mark Lancaster stated to Parliament that “I can confirm that it remains the intention to dispose of the Royal Citadel and Stonehouse in 2024 and Chivenor in 2027, and to provide units for the Royal Marines in either Plymouth or Torpoint. I cannot confirm exactly what form that will take at this stage, as further work is required, but I will update the House in due course.”

## **Defence Select Committee Report**

- (7) On 1 February 2018 the Defence Select Committee published a report entitled “*Sunset for the Royal Marines? The Royal Marines and UK amphibious capability*”.<sup>2</sup> The report explained that “following the Government’s announcement of the National Security Capability Review (NSCR), unofficial reports have emerged suggesting that major reconfigurations to the United Kingdom’s amphibious units are being considered, with specific threats to the strength of the Royal Marines and to the Royal Navy’s Albion class amphibious ships. The review process has been almost entirely closed and Parliament has not been involved in the discussion of what would represent a drastic reduction in defence capability.”
- (8) The report made a number of recommendations, including for the MoD to be more transparent about what it is planning and cautioned strongly against any reduction in the capability of the Royal Marines.
- (9) On the question of base closures the Committee said that it “welcome[s] the decision to consolidate HQs of a number of units in 3 Commando Brigade to a new location in the Plymouth/Torpoint area. This is in keeping with the Department’s overall objectives to make better use of the Defence Estate and reduce its cost, and will have the benefits of consolidating units within the Brigade. But the Department should communicate clearly and often with the personnel affected and their families as the reforms to the Defence Estate proceed, and we would urge that the work in relation to Plymouth/Torpoint site is completed and its outcome communicated as soon as is possible.”

## **Future of the RM Chivenor site**

- (10) The economic contribution of the Chivenor base has not been formally evaluated since the 1990s, when activities and staffing levels at the base have changed significantly. However, any closure of RM Chivenor or any significant reduction in activity at the base would undoubtedly have a negative impact on the local economy in the short to medium term as

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<sup>1</sup> North Devon Gazette, 17 March 2017

<sup>2</sup> <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmdfence/622/62202.htm>

jobs are lost at the base and in the supply chain. There would also be consequences for local public services, particularly schools in the Chivenor area. The Marines' integration into the local community also means that there will be some significant social implications. Marines provide examples of role models for young people and in an area where levels of aspiration are low.

- (11) In the longer term, the site could have significant potential for economic development: it is over 250 Ha and located on a level and accessible spot adjoining the attractive North Devon coast in an area that suffers from a lack of housing supply and employment opportunities.
- (12) However, the precise potential for the site is unclear. Successfully regenerating such a site and mitigating the negative economic impacts from closure would require significant advanced planning and investment.

#### **External funding to support the development of options for the future of the site**

- (13) In late 2017, the Devon & Torbay One Public Estate partnership, which includes both Devon County Council and North Devon Council, was awarded £50,000 by the Cabinet Office to support a "visioning exercise" that would explore possible future economic uses of the Chivenor site in the event that the MoD withdraws from the base. Similar visioning exercises have been undertaken elsewhere in the UK when the closure of a major military base has been anticipated (e.g. RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk; army bases in Wiltshire) and have helped to plan a sustainable economic future for the communities affected by the closure.
- (14) The Cabinet Office has made a similar award to Somerset County Council to support similar visioning work around RM Norton Manor Camp, while the Heart of the South West LEP has also pledged £40,000 to support an analysis of the economic potential/opportunities around Chivenor, Norton Manor Camp, and the reconfiguration of units in the Plymouth area. We have therefore been exploring the scope for commissioning a study jointly with North Devon Council, Somerset County Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council and Plymouth City Council.
- (15) However, no work has yet been initiated. We had been told to expect an update on the Ministry of Defence's broader estates strategy before Christmas and were awaiting details of that. No update has been forthcoming, however, other than what was said by the Minister of State in Parliament on 15 January 2018 (see above). If this work is to be progressed then the input and co-operation with the Ministry of Defence will be crucial.
- (16) As stated above, it would be preferable if any representation to the Ministry of Defence from Devon County Council could be made jointly with North Devon Council. We have discussed this with officers at North Devon Council, who are supportive of this approach. We understand that North Devon Council is preparing to take a paper on this issue to its Executive in early April.

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This Report has no specific equality, environmental, legal or public health implications that will not be assessed and appropriate safeguards and/or actions taken or included within the detailed policies or practices or requirements in relation to the matters referred to herein.

JAN SHADBOLT

[Electoral Divisions: All]

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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<u>Background Paper</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>File Reference</u>
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Nil