

## CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 24 OCTOBER 2007

- Report Title: **Clostridium Difficile Outbreaks at Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Hospitals Trust – Report by the Healthcare Commission**
- Documents Attached: (a) Urgent Report to Cabinet, 15 October (Item 8).
- Cabinet's decisions on this report were as follows:-*
- (i) *AGREED the Leader and Chief Executive be authorised to negotiate with NHS colleagues a package of measures through which the County Council can help provide public reassurance on long-term improvements;*
- (ii) *APPROVED the setting up as soon as possible of a local "Health Watch" which provides the public an independent route for registering concerns about their local health services.*
- (b) Background Note on NHS Scrutiny, Patient and Public Involvement and Complaints Mechanisms.
- Purpose of Consideration: (a) To obtain more details of the likely cost to KCC of these decisions and how they are to be funded;
- (b) To examine how the proposed "Health Watch" is intended to work and, in particular, how it will relate to KCC's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to the independent Local Involvement Network for health and social care which KCC will be required to establish from next April under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill
- Possible Decisions: The Constitution (*Appendix 4 Part 8*) requires the Committee to take one of the following decisions:-
- (a) make no comments; or
- (b) express comments but not require reconsideration of the decision; or

- (c) require implementation of the decision to be postponed pending reconsideration of the matter by the Cabinet in the light of the Committee's comments; or
- (d) require implementation of the decision to be postponed pending reconsideration of the matter by full Council.

Previous Consideration:

None, but there has been a previous proposal for a Kent Health Watch. This was agreed by Cabinet on 11 July 2005, and considered by the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on 20 July 2005 (Minute 13).

Background Documents:

None.