

## **Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee July 27<sup>th</sup> 2015**

The committee held a special meeting to discuss and comment on the Local Government Association Peer Review of Decision Making Arrangements. The committee chose to confine its response to issues relating specifically to their role.

The peer review recommended merging the Active and Cohesive Communities and Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committees. There was unanimous opposition to this recommendation stating that, if implemented, it would adversely affect the committee's ability to deliver effective and robust scrutiny of health related issues. In addition it was considered whilst the use of Task and Finish Groups was a valuable tool in the scrutiny process and should be continued they needed to be more streamlined and time limited.

In addition the committee supported the suggestion that the Council's Constitution Working Group should be requested to review and make recommendations to change this committee's terms of reference to ensure that the lessons learned from the issues at Stafford Hospital and from the resultant Francis Report are embedded into this Council's arrangements. To this end the committee has been working closely for a number of years with Staffordshire County Council, who have overall control of scrutinising health organisations, to ensure this is in place.

With regard to timing of meetings the committee supported the current practice of the majority of the Council's meetings starting at 7pm. Members did not feel that evening meetings placed excessive demands upon their time.

The committee supported the recommendation of re-introduction of members Information bulletin suggesting that it be incorporated into the Members website when it was up and running.

Cllr Colin Eastwood

Chair Health and Wellbeing Committee