

**Council: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016**

**OPPOSITION Motion in the name of Cllr Phil Cohen**

Funding of community pharmacies

Council welcomes the Government's decision to delay the £170 million of planned cuts to community pharmacies beyond October and to re-open negotiations with the pharmacy profession over future plans.

Council notes that the Member's Item on this subject discussed at the Health Overview & Scrutiny committee (HOSC) in May did not achieve a consensus: the Labour members of the committee voted to respond to the Government's consultation by opposing the cuts, and the Conservative members of the committee voted against this.

Council notes the Labour Group's subsequent submission to the consultation, a copy of which was circulated to all members of HOSC.

It had been feared that up to 3,000 community pharmacies across the country could face closure under the proposals and over one million people signed a petition calling on the Government to think again.

Health Minister David Mowat said to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society on September 5, "We've seen the petition, and that's frankly an accolade to the way you are regarded amongst communities.

"There's been a long consultation on the proposals and we've been considering the results of that consultation for some while. It was our intention that these plans go ahead from October. We are not now going to be in a position to do that."

This decision reflects the strength of feeling among residents in Barnet and elsewhere about the vital health role that pharmacies have in the community. They can offer advice and support and take the load off GPs and the hospital sector.

Council supports any proposals to strengthen this and welcomes constructive discussions between the Government and the pharmacy profession on the contribution of community pharmacies.

Council asks the Chair of HOSC to write to the Health Minister urging him to support the sustainable funding of community pharmacies and to withdraw the threat of cuts.

*Under Full Council Procedure Rule 23.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting*