

**Council: 1 November 2016**

**Agenda item 15.1 – Amendment in the name of Alison Cornelius**

Funding of Community Pharmacies

*Delete all and replace with:*

**Council notes the Government's proposed changes to the funding of community pharmacies following an initial consultation.**

**Council notes the plans would see an overall cut to community pharmacy funding of 4% for 2016/17 and 3.4% for 2017/18, but notes the list of exemptions including those that are located in the 20% most deprived areas in England or are more than a mile from another pharmacy.**

**Council recognises that the overall pharmacy spend has increased by 40% over the last decade to £2.8bn and that over the same period the number of pharmacies has increased by over 18%. Council notes that 40% of pharmacies are now in clusters of three or more within ten minutes' walk of each other and that the average pharmacy now receives nearly £1m per annum for the NHS goods and services it provides, of which around £220,000 is direct income. Each pharmacy currently receives an establishment fee of £25,000 irrespective of size or location.**

**Council acknowledges that pharmacists make a very valuable contribution in treating minor ailments and giving sound advice - quite apart from their role in dispensing medication - and that this means fewer patients have to go to either their GP or A&E. Council believes community pharmacies should be fairly funded for the vital work they do.**

**Council notes that this issue was discussed at the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) in May and that consensus was not reached on whether the Committee should reply to the consultation as one, as not all the committee members could agree the wording, in its entirety, of the submission that Cllr Cohen proposed on the evening. However, it was agreed that individual members or political Groups could make submissions independently.**

**Council further notes that it was agreed that the Committee would fulfil its function of scrutiny by considering the Government's post-consultation proposals.**

**Council therefore calls on the HOSC to consider the issue of community pharmacy funding at an appropriate future meeting, in line with what had been agreed at its May meeting.**

*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.*