

In accordance with Procedural Rule 10.5, the permission of the Presiding Officer is sought, to present this Urgent Motion to Full Council on the 12th July 2023.

The subject of the motion has arisen between the deadline for the submission of motions and the date of the meeting. We believe that the motion requires an urgent decision in the public interest which cannot be dealt with by other means.

Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors A O Rogers; D Wood, K Morgan, S Evans, D Grehan, H Gronow, P Evans, A Ellis

Despite the email from the Chief Executive sent to Members at 1326 hrs yesterday, this Council regrets that it had no prior information of plans to discontinue the inhouse provision of the night mobile homecare service. All Members were made aware of this proposal via an email sent two days ago by staff working in the service who were summoned to attend a meeting with officers and unions last week to be told that it was intended to outsource the service to other providers in the private/independent sector.

This flies in the face of the Council's commitment to retain directly provided services where the staff are paid on National Terms and Conditions. It is unforgivable that such a change to a much valued and necessary service, was being considered, until yesterday, by management under an unpublished operational delegated decision.

The Cabinet Work Programme had also been varied, whereby both the Annual Director of Social Services report and the draft Adult Services Strategy which were to be considered in July, are now rescheduled to be considered in October 2023. Should these reports have been considered in July as planned then members would at least have had some information about the proposal to discontinue the night service.

The Operational Delegated decision now being published goes some way to answer the concerns of Members about due process, however what it doesn't do is authorise the officer decision in March to not take referrals, thus deliberately running down the service creating the statement in the CEO email that " the current arrangements no longer presents the most effective means of providing this care and support. ". Under these circumstances it is important to establish how officers can use operational authority to reduce a service, with the ultimate aim of removing it, without the knowledge and consent of Members.

This Council therefore requests that the CEO make a statement today, before recess, as to:

- Why the service was deliberately run down in March and no delegated decision notice was published announcing that change.
- How the removal of a service is allowed to be defined as an operational decision as opposed to a Cabinet/Full Council decision.