

Surrey County Council and East Sussex County Council Joint Scrutiny of the Orbis Programme – 5 October 2015

A joint meeting of the Orbis Scrutiny Boards, that consist of five elected Members of the Surrey County Council Overview Board's Transformation sub-group and five elected Members of the East Sussex Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee, has been set up to scrutinise the Orbis programme. Co-Chaired by Cllr Mike Blanch and Cllr David Munro, the Boards met jointly for the first time at Surrey County Council County Hall on 5 October 2015 to scrutinise the Orbis Business Plan to be presented to each authority's Cabinet in the near future.

The Boards agreed the following comments and recommendations:

1. Most importantly, the Boards supported the Business Plan in principle and wished all concerned in its implementation the best of luck in surmounting the challenges ahead.
2. However, there was general agreement that the plan could have been improved by the inclusion of more specific proposals to achieve the benefits, financial and otherwise, that were outlined. The Boards look forward to more detailed measures being specified in the near future, especially in the area of costs vis-a-vis benefits. At their next meeting in the New Year, the Boards will be paying particular attention to:
 - Details of the efficiencies and tangible benefits proposed
 - The procurement and cost of a common Business Support Platform and its effect on the Orbis Business Case
 - Property, productivity measures and pay harmonisation pressures
 - Case studies from other authorities
 - Evidence that cost-shunting was not occurring when extensive delegation to service managers occurs
3. It was recognised that, the achievement of the plan's ambitions would require firm, sustained Member support.
4. The Boards urged that the health community, especially the Clinical Commissioning Groups, should be involved as soon as practicable.
5. Individual achievements arising out of the Orbis programme should be highlighted as soon as they occurred.

Councillor David Munro
Chairman
Surrey County Council
Council Overview Board

Councillor Mike Blanch
Chair
East Sussex County Council
Audit, Best Value and Community
Services Scrutiny Committee