

# Item no

Report to: **Executive**

Date: **Tuesday 10 January 2006**

Report of: **Partnerships Scrutiny Committee**

Subject: **The Darzi Review of Acute Health Services North and South of the Tees**

Ward: **All**

## 1 **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to receive the report of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee's investigation into the implications of the Darzi Review of Acute Health Services North and South of the Tees for the residents of the District of Easington in terms of access/transport to NHS services.

## 2 **Consultation**

- 2.1 In preparing this report consultation has been undertaken with the Leader of the Council, Executive Member for Health and the Chief Executive.

## 3 **Background**

- 3.1 The background to the Darzi Review, its recommendations and the terms of reference established by the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee are set out in the Partnerships Scrutiny Committees report attached herewith (Appendix 1).

## 4 **Position Statement**

- 4.1 The Partnerships Scrutiny Committee have met on 13 September, 4 and 25 October, 15 November and 6 December 2005 to hear evidence from key witnesses who were either involved in the Darzi Review process or represented organisations who would be affected by the Darzi proposals and their potential effects upon the provision of transport/access services to those health facilities referred to in the Review.
- 4.2 The attached report details the results of these investigations and concluded with a number of recommendations put forward by the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee which were aimed at minimising the impact of the Darzi Review proposals on residents of the District of Easington in terms of access/transport to NHS services.
- 4.3 In view of the tight timescales in finalising the Council's response to the Darzi Review consultation exercise, it was agreed that the issues raised within the report regarding the need for transportation solutions to be established in response to any changes proposed under the Darzi Review should be incorporated in the Council's response.

- 4.4 Accordingly, a formal response to the Darzi Consultation was submitted by the Leader of the Council within the deadline for responses of 23 December 2005. A copy of the response is attached herewith also.
- 4.5 In view of the timescales detailed above, the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee delegated production of the final review report to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Support Manager.
- 4.6 The final report has been considered by the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 4 January 2005.

## 5 **Implications**

- 5.1 The financial, legal, policy, risk, communications and Corporate Implications of this report remain as detailed in Sections 7 and 8 of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committees report appended herewith.

## 6 **Recommendation**

- 6.1 The Executive is recommended to
- (i) receive the report of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, and endorse the recommendations detailed therein as part of the Council's formal response to the Darzi Review consultation exercise, and;
  - (ii) endorse the letter of the Leader of the Council as the Council's formal response to the Darzi Review consultation exercise.

## **Background Papers**

- 1 "Acute Services Review – Hartlepool and Teesside" – Report by Sir Ara Darzi.
- 2 "County Durham and Tees Valley Strategy Health Authority welcomes report on Health Services North and South of the Tees" – County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority Press Release.
- 3 "The Darzi Review of Acute Health Services North and South of the Tees" – Report to Partnerships Scrutiny Committee 13 September 2005.
- 4 Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Minutes –  
13 September , 4 and 25 October and 15 November 2005
- 5 Presentation to Easington Primary Care Trust Stakeholder Event – 17 October 2005.
- 6 Your Guide to Transport for Health in County Durham and Darlington – joint leaflet by NHS, Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council.
- 7 Patient Public Involvement forum for Easington District – Report on Test Journeys to hospitals using public transport.