

DRAFT SHROPSHIRE LOCAL PLAN - EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC - CONSULATION APRIL to JUNE 2024

Representor: Midlands Partnership Foundation NHS Trust (MPFT) and Shropshire Community NHS Trust (SCHAT) (ID Reference: AO669)

The following documents were published on 25 April 2025 for a six-week period of consultation.

GC25: The newly proposed draft policy on Housing Provision for Older People and those with Disabilities and Special Needs and its explanation

GC44 Shropshire Local Plan Updated Additional Sustainability Appraisal Report - April 2024

GC45 Updated Housing and Employment Topic Paper - April 2024

GC46 Updated Green Belt Topic Paper - April 2024

The purpose of the consultation is to seek views from all parties on these four documents only.

I can confirm that our client, the Midlands Partnership Foundation NHS Trust (MPFT) and Shropshire Community NHS Trust (SCHAT) does not wish to add to its existing representations in respect of Documents GC44, GC45 and GC46.

In respect of the new proposed Policy set out in Document GC25 our client notes the significant levels of new provision for older people and those with disabilities and special needs.

The NHS is supportive of the approach in the Peoples Strategy to ,wherever possible, support older people and those with disabilities and special needs living in Shropshire to remain independent within their own homes, within their existing communities and with access to their established support networks.

In the context of a rural county paragraph 11 of the supporting text states, "However, older people and those with disabilities and special needs living within these small rural settlements often have a very strong connection to their community and a clear preference to remain within it. In circumstances where these individuals have support or care needs, the only practicable means of meeting these needs, whilst also respecting their preference to remain within their existing community, is to provide support within their existing home." It might be an obvious point but to ensure appropriate health care facilities are available for an ageing population both close to rural communities as well as higher level specialised centralised services requires appropriate resourcing. The Midlands Partnership Foundation NHS Trust (MPFT) and Shropshire Community NHS Trust (SCHAT) has already contributed to the Examination on this matter and as part of its response, the County Council made significant concessions not only in respect of the importance of health infrastructure but also in relation to the appropriateness of support through new development, including through CIL.

In our client's view the new proposed policy reinforces the arguments that have already been made and look to the continuing Examination and Proposed Modifications to the Local Plan and its associated Infrastructure provisions and mechanisms drawing together these threads and deliver extra resourcing to support improvements in the health sector.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge safe receipt of this response.

With kind regards.

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