



## Council of Governors' Meeting

<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>Lead Governor's Report</b>
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Approval

Discussion

Information

Assurance

### Introduction

A lot has happened in the last few months. As the world continues to face new events so does our Council of Governors. Next month, we will be holding our annual members meeting on the 23 September. This will most certainly be a unique experience as it will be the first one held virtually. There will be information made available on the Trust website for those interested in joining us.

We will also be having our governor elections for public and staff governors. I am excited to continue working with colleagues who will choose to re-stand in representing our membership. However, I am also excited at the opportunity to work with new governors from all communities and backgrounds that represent our catchment area. For public and staff members that are interested in standing I encourage you to do so when nominations open in September. Our Membership team and external election agency will be in contact with you in the coming weeks with more information.

### Membership Strategy

The Council of Governors have representatives on the Strategy and Engagement group. Over the last several months we have worked with the Communications and Engagement team creating our Membership Strategy which I am pleased is being presented today by our Deputy Director of that division.

As we represent our membership, it goes without saying we have taken the matter of the process very seriously. There have been five drafts before what we presented in complete form here to you today but what has run throughout for all involved is to be inclusive of all those that we represent. I hope that this importance to the equality and diversity that we will be striving for is reflected in this piece of work.

### COVID – 19

In the news at the moment we hear a lot of information on face coverings, attending appointments and potential second waves of the pandemic. The Trust, much like our Council is always looking for new ways of working, but also not forgetting what worked well before.

An example of this was to be had at our Strategy and Engagement group meeting last month. Governors in the group had an open forum discussion on what we had learnt and experienced from virtual meetings. We recognised a lot of the benefits and conveniences of meeting this way. However, we also felt it should not be forgotten that there are nuances of a meeting that are lost when not having the opportunity to meet face to face. Therefore when we reach that point in the future we will look forward to meeting again in person but also acknowledge that these opportunities may not be for some time.

### Elective Care Centre

I wish to congratulate and thank all of those that were involved in the consultation process for the proposed Elective Care Centre that is to be built in Colchester. With my background in governance I took particular interest in this piece of work long before I became the Lead Governor. I recently attended the virtual meeting held by both the Clinical Commissioning

Groups (CCG) where the recommendation received a unanimous vote of approval from both Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG and North East Essex CCG.

During the public consultation events in Spring our Council arranged to have public governors attend several meetings across Essex and Suffolk. I personally attended the Woodbridge meeting listening not only to the presentations being made but the questions and concerns of the residents.

As a resident of Suffolk myself, I am very much aware that several politicians, the local press and our communities have had their concerns about the selection of Colchester as the approved site. I would like to assure those that feel this way that I and my fellow governors will remain engaged throughout this process to make sure all voices on this matter continue to be heard.

### **Regional Governors**

There is an active network of Lead Governors across East Anglia and we have kept in touch to share what is working and to seek ideas from each other about our responsibility to maintain effective governance and support for our Trusts. Most of the areas we have shared together have been common across all the Trusts. I'm pleased to say that the way ESNEFT has maintained its assurance and sought to keep governors updated on the rapidly changing situation has been at the forefront of ideas. I was pleased to host a virtual meeting of the network in June.