



Wells City Council

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Subject	Community Hospital Consultation
Date of report	14 th July 2025
For consideration at	Full City Council
Date of consideration	24 th July 2025

Introduction and Background

I has been reported by members of the public that beds at West Mendip Community Hospital are due to be reduced from 36 to 16 and that other local hospitals at Frome Community Hospital is set for the same reduction. This is expected before September 2025 and is in addition to the reduction of 18 (of 18) beds at Shepton Mallet Community Hospital lost in 2017.

This is an overall reduction of 35% (32/90) within the local area, serving Wells within a 7 year period.

As Councillors will be aware, this will likely see a significant detrimental impact to patients, their families and those working within these settings.

West Mendip Community Hospital was built in April 2005 to replace the facilities lost to local people with the closure of Butleigh Hospital and the Wells and District Hospital. The proposed reduction significantly reduces the resilience to the local area, just 10 years after it was created for this very purpose. At this time there was a general understanding that this decision was not within the direct interest of Wells, but borne to support the wider District.

Initial reports would suggest that the needs of those access hospital services would be expected to be absorbed at Yeovil District Hospital, Bath RUH or Taunton Musgrove.

As Council are aware from previous discussions and subsequent letters to the NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board on two separate occasions, the provisions at Bath and Taunton are already under increased strain due to the closure of maternity and stroke provisions at Yeovil General Hospital earlier this year, as such, these proposed amendments are likely to further exasperate these issues.

Recommendations

Council is asked to:

1. Note the concerns raised by members of the public
2. Delegate authority to the Town Clerk to write to necessary Trust representatives to seek explanation, and detail of the proposed amendments, rationale for change and expected impacts and mitigations.