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Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Our Ref: IM/LP/MOU

**Re: Cheshire and Merseyside Health Care Partnership Response to the updated Draft Memorandum of Understanding**

Thank you for communicating the updated draft Memorandum of Understanding on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. We understand that the March board of the Health Care Partnership wish to receive an update on the intention of partners in respect of approval of the MOU, and that you require notification of intention and progress within our organisation by no later than 12<sup>th</sup> March.

The next available Cabinet meeting where there will be an opportunity to have a formal discussion on the MOU will be held on the 1st April 2021.

In advance of the 1st April, Cabinet Members have met to discuss the latest draft and we can confirm that Cabinet will be recommended to support the latest iteration of the MOU and in addition we wish to stress that ongoing support will be contingent on the following:

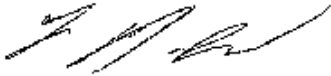
- The commitment to a six-month review of the MOU and confirmed Board membership for each of the 9 local government elected representatives is welcomed. However, we would wish to see a commitment to a further review at 12 months aligned to the introduction of the proposed legislative changes and the demise of the Clinical Commissioning Groups. This is because the structural and policy impact is significant and we feel a further review, as the new system starts to embed, is necessary to offer assurance to the Council.
- The Council would also wish to request further consideration is given to the issue of voting rights on the Board. It is noted that the proposed MOU states that voting rights be applicable to 3 members only, the Council would wish to express that the Partnership consider full voting rights for all members.

We would like to request clarification on the following legal issues: -

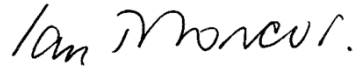
- Although the MOU recognises the role of Overview and Scrutiny Committee function, it does not detail how this will be taken forward. Further information on regular reporting mechanisms is required.
- The Assembly is referenced as a 'democratic forum'; however, this is misleading as it is not constituted as such. We would recommend that the terminology is clarified or indeed reviewed.
- Page 26 of the document refers to the Europeans Communities Act 1972 which has been repealed. This will require amendment.

In conclusion, the Cabinet on behalf of the Council will be recommended to support the principles laid out in the MOU and will expect full engagement in the emerging new arrangements. As stated, the Council's ongoing support is subject to the clarifications outlined above. We also wish to reinforce the importance on our Sefton Borough, and the opportunity to work together to improve the Health and Wellbeing of Sefton resident.

Yours sincerely,




**Councillor Ian Maher**  
**Leader of Sefton Council**



**Councillor Ian Moncur**  
**Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing**

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