

Leader of the Council

CLLR VICTOR BROAD

Daniel Elkeles
Post: ESTH 2020-2030
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust
4th Floor Ferguson House
St Helier Hospital
Wrythe Lane, Carshalton
Surrey SM5 1AA.

Our ref: VB/ae
Date: 21st September 2017

Dear Daniel,

Epsom and St Helier 2020-2030

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals Trust's involvement document 'Epsom and St Helier 2020-30'. Our response to your questionnaire is appended to this letter.

As you know, your Trust provides hospital and clinic services for around 50,000 Reigate & Banstead residents. The Borough Council is therefore very interested in your proposals for the longer term clinical and financial stability of the Trust, and keen to be engaged in your decision-making process.

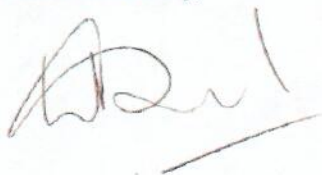
We support – in principle – the creation of a specialist acute facility at either Epsom or Sutton, subject to the retention of a full suite of local services at Epsom Hospital, including non-urgent Accident & Emergency services.

We do, however, feel that more detailed information is required before any decision be taken on the location of any such facility, and understand that this is work that your organisation currently has underway.

On that basis, we would ask that the Trust continues to engage with the Borough Council, and that any decision on the future of hospital provision in the area is made based on transparent and comprehensive public consultation and relevant local evidence.

I look forward to hearing more about your proposals in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Victor Broad

Leader of the Council

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Annex: Response to questionnaire questions

1) Do you agree with our aim to provide as much care as possible from our existing hospital sites at St Helier and Epsom and do this by working more closely with the other local health and care providers?

Epsom Hospital currently provides an important service for many Reigate & Banstead residents. We welcome the investment that the Trust has been making and continues to make into this facility. It is vital that a full suite of local services is retained at Epsom Hospital in the future, including non-urgent Accident and Emergency services, in the light of the location of this hospital within the Trust's catchment area.

2) Do you think we have made the case that we will improve patient care by bringing together our services for our sickest or most at-risk patients on a new specialist acute facility on one site?

We support in principle the creation of a specialist acute facility at either Epsom or Sutton. However our support is subject to the retention of a full suite of local services at Epsom Hospital, including non-urgent Accident & Emergency services, in light of the location of this hospital within the Trust's catchment area.

3) We have set out several scenarios on how we can do this. Do you think we should consider any other scenarios?

Where in the borough our residents live will influence how convenient a specialist facility at either Epsom or Sutton is to access. We do not, at this early stage, and with only the very limited amount of information available, consider that we are able to express a preference for either Option 1 or Option 3 (that is, whether a specialist acute facility should be located at Epsom or at Sutton). However, locating a specialist acute care facility at St Helier would require longer travel distances for our residents and therefore the option described as Option 2 in your publications is not an option that can be supported by the Borough Council.

We ask that – in reaching any decision on the location of a specialist facility– account is taken of the wider geography of specialist acute provision and accessibility to services from across the whole Trust catchment area.

4) How would you like to be involved in these discussions in the future?

We ask that the Trust continues to engage with the Borough Council, and that any decision about the future of hospital provision in the area is made based on transparent and comprehensive public consultation and relevant local evidence.

5) Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

We welcome the ongoing efforts of the Trust to work with the Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group and the Surrey Heartlands Sustainability and Transformation Partnership to provide the services that local people need. We agree with the Trust that there is an urgent need for investment in the Trust's estate to ensure that future service provision for our residents is not compromised, but have concerns that about the level of uncertainty over whether funding will be available to deliver any of the options outlined in the involvement document. It is important that the Trust is open with residents about this uncertainty, and seeks to ensure that future proposals are based on providing value for money and an efficient and effective service for residents.