

Open response to a request for information from  
**Charlie Mansell**  
Chair of Sutton and Cheam Labour Party

19 March 2018

Dear Charlie,

There is a very simple explanation for this approach to the Council.

As you know we have completed a Strategic Outline Case for our estates strategy for the future. In it we propose to build a new 500 bed acute specialist facility on one of our sites. If the site is chosen to be at St Helier then we would build this behind the existing A-C blocks and we would also build a multi-storey car park. We have published the plans for this as part of our Strategic Outline Case which is available on our website. When we have done this we would then not need a part of our existing site because we would have ended up with around 800 beds on the St Helier site, **which is many more than now**.

Since there is such a shortage of land available for housing as part of our response to the Planning Inspectorate we asked for the potential to designate some of the site for housing should at a point in the future we not need it.

As you have quoted this is about having the ability to be flexible, should this be needed, for the future:

*"The plan covers a long period up until 2031 and it is possible that some of the buildings on this site may become surplus to requirements over this time and become vacant. In the event of this and if there are no other viable health uses for the relevant building(s), other uses such as residential should not be precluded."*

It was for consideration only if in the future space becomes vacant and is not needed for the delivery of health services.

We have been through the same process for both the Epsom and Sutton sites as well. Hope that clarifies the situation.

Daniel Elkeles  
Chief Executive  
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust