

## COUNCIL 6 FEBRUARY 2013

### SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Public Questions**

The public questions are circulated around the chamber

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Councillors Questions**

The councillors questions are circulated around the chamber

#### **Agenda Item 7(a) – Strategic Theme Motions**

##### **Motion 2 (Conservative)**

Submitted by Councillors Samantha George, Krystal Miller and Debbie Shears

This Council recognises that residents in Merton greatly value their local facilities and services, and notes that there have been considerable efforts to protect and preserve a number of community assets that haven't come to fruition, for example:

- The Campaign for Morden Tavern community group was unsuccessful in re-opening this locally listed building as a community pub despite considerable support from local residents.
- In June 2008 under the previous Government, five post offices closed in Merton (Sherwood Park Road; Green Lane; Coombe Lane; Wimbledon High Street; and Woodside Parade).
- The last Labour administration closed Wimbledon Park and Lower Morden libraries meaning that these community assets were lost to the borough.
- The Morley Park Trust has so far been thwarted in its attempts to take over the running of the future Morley Park playing fields situated in the Copse Hill area.

Some work is being undertaken by the Council on a potential Community Trust for Merton's library services. This Council wants to see the community in Merton fully involved in the opportunity to protect and enhance vital amenities such as libraries, community centres, local shops, pubs, swimming pools, allotments, parks and post offices.

This Council therefore welcomes provisions within the recent Localism Act for the introduction of a new Community Right to Bid and Community Right to

Challenge (in force since 2012), which have the aim of keeping amenities in community use by giving local people the chance to bid to buy or run these services. This will benefit the recreational, cultural and sporting wellbeing of residents in our area.

This Council accordingly resolves to:

- a) Ask Cabinet to name a specific Cabinet Member to take forward this initiative.
- b) Raise awareness among Merton residents of the Community Rights Grants Programme, as well as the national website and telephone advice service, which are available to anyone working to keep vital facilities open in their neighbourhood.
- c) Operate a voluntary public log of organisations which have indicated they could be interested in running council services or bidding for community assets in Merton.
- d) Hold a public meeting within the next 3 months and invite interested community groups who might like to develop and run community assets, such as the Campaign for Morden Tavern, the Morley Park Trust and representatives of former post offices, to come and discuss their aspirations for local facilities with council officers and ward councillors, and then to report back to Full Council by the autumn.

## **Agenda Item 9 – Notice of Motion**

### **L/D Amendment to Labour Motion (1)**

That the final paragraph is amended to read:

“Council therefore urges the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to ensure that any proposals to close accident and emergency, maternity services and other related services at St Helier hospital are referred to the Secretary of State for a final decision, in the event that it considers the consultation to have been inadequate, or that the changes are not in the interest of the local health service, clarifying its reasons for so doing.”

The amended motion would then read;

“Council recalls and reiterates its decision at the full Council meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012 to;

“vigorously oppose the proposal to close accident and emergency and maternity services at St Helier Hospital {and} resolves to continue to do everything in its power to keep St Helier Hospital’s accident and emergency,

maternity services and other related services open, including encouraging residents to respond to the consultation.”

Council notes that since 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012;

The proposed consultation on the closure of St Helier’s A & E, maternity services and other related services has been suspended;

Epsom Hospital has now been included in the Better Services Better Value review;

On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013 the review recommended that two hospitals out of St Helier, Epsom, Kingston or Croydon University Hospital should lose their A&E and Maternity departments;

Consultation on these proposals will begin in spring or early summer.

Council further notes that on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012 the Leader of the Council received a comprehensive letter from the Secretary of State for Health which stated; “Where an OSC or a joint OSC is not content with the adequacy of the NHS’s consultation with it, or does not believe that the changes being proposed are in the interest of the local health service, it can refer the proposals to the Secretary of State for Health for a final decision. “

Council does not believe that the closure of St Helier A&E, maternity services and other related services would be in the interests of the local health service.

Council therefore urges the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to ensure that any proposals to close accident and emergency, maternity services and other related services at St Helier hospital are referred to the Secretary of State for a final decision, in the event that it considers the consultation to have been inadequate, or that the changes are not in the interest of the local health service, clarifying its reasons for so doing.

### **Conservative Amendment to Labour Motion (1)**

That the the words underlined in the amended Motion below be inserted and the words shown in speech bubbles to the right be deleted:

Council recalls and reiterates its decision at the full council meeting of 12 September 2012 to:

“vigorously oppose [..]the proposal to close accident and emergency and maternity services at St. Helier Hospital [and] resolves to continue to do everything in its power to keep St. Helier Hospital’s accident and emergency, maternity services and other related services open, including encouraging residents to respond to the consultation.”

Council also recalls and reiterates its decision at the full council meeting of 28 March 2012 to “discourage any scaremongering on this matter [...] **and using rumour as a political tool**, as this could alarm residents, particularly those who depend upon NHS care at St. Helier hospital.”

Council notes that since 12 September 2012:

- The proposed consultation on the closure of St. Helier’s A&E, maternity services and other related services, due to start last autumn, **will now not start until after Easter**~~has been suspended~~
- Epsom Hospital has now been included in the Better Services Better Value review
- On 9 January 2013 the review recommended that two hospitals out of St Helier, Epsom, Kingston or Croydon University Hospital should lose their A&E and maternity departments
- Chairman of Merton’s Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel, **Councillor Suzanne Evans, and Stephen Hammond MP have secured a meeting with Anna Soubry, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, to raise concerns on behalf of Merton residents regarding the threatened closure of services at St Helier Hospital.** Consultation on these proposals will begin in spring or early summer

Council further notes that on 7 November 2012 the Leader of the Council received a comprehensive letter from the Secretary of State for Health which stated: “Where an OSC or Joint OSC is not content with the adequacy of the NHS’s consultation with it, or does not believe that the changes being proposed are in the interest of the local health service, it can refer the proposals to the Secretary of State for Health for a final decision.”

Council does not believe that the closure of St. Helier A&E, maternity services and other related services would be in the interests of the local health service.

Council therefore urges Merton’s Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to ensure that any proposals to close accident and emergency, maternity services and other related services at St. Helier hospital are referred to the Secretary of State for a final decision.

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*The amended Motion would then read:*

### **Motion 1**

Council recalls and reiterates its decision at the full council meeting of 12 September 2012 to:

“vigorously oppose [...]the proposal to close accident and emergency and maternity services at St. Helier Hospital [and] resolves to continue to do

everything in its power to keep St. Helier Hospital's accident and emergency, maternity services and other related services open, including encouraging residents to respond to the consultation."

Council also recalls and reiterates its decision at the full council meeting of 28 March 2012 to "discourage any scaremongering on this matter [...] and using rumour as a political tool, as this could alarm residents, particularly those who depend upon NHS care at St. Helier hospital."

Council notes that since 12 September 2012:

- The proposed consultation on the closure of St. Helier's A&E, maternity services and other related services, due to start last autumn, will now not start until after Easter
- Epsom Hospital has now been included in the Better Services Better Value review
- On 9 January 2013 the review recommended that two hospitals out of St Helier, Epsom, Kingston or Croydon University Hospital should lose their A&E and maternity departments
- Chairman of Merton's Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel, Councillor Suzanne Evans, and Stephen Hammond MP have secured a meeting with Anna Soubry, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, to raise concerns on behalf of Merton residents regarding the threatened closure of services at St Helier Hospital.

Council further notes that on 7 November 2012 the Leader of the Council received a comprehensive letter from the Secretary of State for Health which stated: "Where an OSC or Joint OSC is not content with the adequacy of the NHS's consultation with it, or does not believe that the changes being proposed are in the interest of the local health service, it can refer the proposals to the Secretary of State for Health for a final decision."

Council does not believe that the closure of St. Helier A&E, maternity services and other related services would be in the interests of the local health service.

Council therefore urges Merton's Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to ensure that any proposals to close accident and emergency, maternity services and other related services at St. Helier hospital are referred to the Secretary of State for a final decision.