

Merton Council Council

15 April 2015

Supplementary agenda

19 Tabled Conservative Amendment to Item 7d

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Agenda Item 19

AMENDMENT TO MOTION AGENDA ITEM 7d COUNCIL MEETING 15 APRIL 2015

Councillor David Williams will move and Councillor Suzanne Grocott will second that the words underlined in the amended Motion below be inserted and the words struck through be deleted.

Agenda Item 7d – Strategic Theme Motion

This council is shocked and appalled to learn of the secret plan to close St Helier hospital, which was revealed by the BBC on Monday 13 April. This comes despite recent assurances from hospital bosses that St Helier hospital was safe for at least the next five years.

Council notes that the Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Liberal Democrats visited St Helier hospital on the very day this shocking plan was revealed and was roundly heckled by local residents.

Council notes that it is alleged that the secret plans under consideration by Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust include a preferred option to close both St Helier and Epsom hospitals and to build a new hospital in Sutton. Council recalls that a similar proposal drawn up as part of the Better Healthcare Closer to Home programme was rejected by the previous ~~Labour~~ government after being called in by Merton's ~~Labour administration~~ Overview and Scrutiny Commission in 2005.

Council therefore welcomes the prompt intervention from Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, who has made clear that he is opposed to plans to replace Epsom and St Helier hospitals with an 800 bed “super hospital” and that these plans would not be implemented by his Party in government, stating publicly:

“We believe smaller local hospitals have a vital role to play in the future of our NHS”

Council reiterates its clear commitment to keeping our local hospital open and:

- 1 Calls for the release of these secret plans to close St Helier hospital
- 2 Calls for full disclosure of who is ~~really~~ behind these secret plans
- 3 Requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Health and the Chief Executive of Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust outlining the council's shock at these secret plans and the way they have been disclosed and making clear that Merton Council will continue its fight to protect our local hospital.

The amended Motion would then read:

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