

Agenda Item 7c (ii)

Labour Motion on the Strategic Theme

Council is appalled that the Conservative MP for Wimbledon, Mr Stephen Hammond, voted in favour of Clause 119 of the Care Bill which allows the Secretary of State, as the person who makes the final decision on hospital closures, to bypass local opposition to a hospital closure even if the hospital is performing well. Council notes that the sign heralding the promised £219m redevelopment of the hospital has recently been taken down and is concerned that by voting in favour of Clause 119 Mr Hammond has betrayed local people and the campaign to save St Helier Hospital.

Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to Mr Hammond outlining council's deep disappointment that he voted in favour of new powers which, where another local hospital was in financial difficulty, could allow St Helier to be downgraded or closed despite the wishes of local people.

The motion is signed by John Dehaney, Stan Anderson and Dennis Pearce.

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