

COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2015 STRATEGIC THEME MOTION – LABOUR

Councillor Linda Kirby, Councillor Katy Neep and Councillor Tobin Byers

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.

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 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 was rejected by the previous Labour government after being called in by Merton's Labour administration.

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 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.

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