



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

COUNCIL, 27 MARCH 2013

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

A CLOSURE OF ST GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, HORNCHURCH

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council acknowledges the invaluable contribution that St George's Hospital has made to the quality of life of the people of Havering, particularly older people and their dependents. It is therefore with deep regret that after various unsuccessful attempts at justifying closure of the site the Primary Care Trust has now achieved its objective.

In light of this the Council places on record its strongly held view that the future use of the site should have regard to the heritage of the site and to the needs of the people of Havering. It is widely accepted that Havering has one of the largest growing elderly populations in London. To this end, and subject to the appropriate planning processes, the Council will seek to influence any proposed development of the site.

In particular it will enter into urgent discussions with the Primary Care Trust and its successors to reinforce the strength of local feeling that the future use of the site should reflect its long-standing historical medical and community care relationship with the local community. Those discussions should explore the possibility of a pathfinding development of an older persons' village. For example, this might comprise a mixed development of retirement homes for sale and rent (involving private developers and housing associations), sheltered housing, a resource centre encompassing medical and nursing facilities, residential care facilities and provision for a luncheon club, together with other local amenities. Such development should attempt to retain as much as possible of the current architectural heritage of the site with new buildings reflecting architectural sympathy with that heritage.

In pursuance of this the Council will also:

1. Consider including a specific policy or site allocation in the forthcoming Havering Local Plan enshrining these objectives and the necessary planning principles;
2. Make urgent representations to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government as to the desirability of, and seeking his support for, a pathfinding scheme of this nature as a demonstration of 'the new localism' and as a measure of joined up government seek his liaison with

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the Secretary of State for Health regarding ownership and disposal of the site;

3. Consult with appropriate heritage bodies regarding possible measures for the protection and preservation of existing buildings on the site.

This Council believes that such a development would be ideally located, in a pleasant environmental setting and close to essential transport hubs. It would provide opportunity for self-help among a community of retired and older people and would be likely to attract resource from voluntary and community organisations. It would also be of benefit to the health and well-being of those people and help facilitate more people to live independent lives for longer and avoiding loneliness.

The Council concludes that in addition to the obvious community benefits, the principle of such a development would have a positive impact on the increasingly stretched resources of the various public sector agencies, including the NHS.

A1: Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Amend to read:

Although the St. George's Hospital site in Hornchurch is a matter for the CCG, this Council wants to work in partnership to achieve the following for its local community:-

- 1) Establish a specific health facility on the site.
- 2) Protect Havering's Greenbelt
- 3) Any proceeds from the sale of the site must be spent on the local health economy in Havering.

B REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE: WEBCASTING MEETINGS

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

When in the interests of transparency Cllr Michael Deon Burton first proposed that council meetings be recorded on the WebCam there was some opposition from camera shy members concerned about costs. A valid concern, but public scrutiny is good for local democracy and the WebCam is needed because so few residents actually attend meetings. At present the WebCam only covers Council and Cabinet meetings.

Therefore this Council agrees the WebCam should be extended to cover all Regulatory Services Committee meetings to ensure the conduct of members is of the highest standard and to help restore/maintain public confidence in the

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planning process that is often badly shaken by contentious decisions and behaviour.

B1: Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Amend to read:

This Council notes the question of extension of webcasting of Council meetings to Regulatory Services Committee meetings is already under review by Governance Committee and awaits its report before considering the matter further.

C HOUSING BENEFIT CHANGES - BEDROOM TAX

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council asks the Government to re-examine the measures it is putting in place to cut housing benefit from some of Havering's most vulnerable residents on the grounds that their social housing has a spare bedroom;

Believes it to be an unworkable policy given that if people moved house it would not save any money;

Notes that according to the Government's own impact assessment, two thirds of the households affected have a disabled person; and

Calls on the Government to drop the policy and think again.

C1: Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Amend to read:

This Council notes that the Government has re-examined its measures to reform Housing Benefit and made changes for the Armed Forces, Foster Carers and households with a child having severe disabilities and allocated resources for discretionary payments in other cases.