

Meeting: Council

Date: 6th December 2006

COUNCIL MAIN DEBATE; STEVENAGE – OUR HEALTH, OUR HOSPITAL

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1 PURPOSE

To brief Members on the outcome of the acute services review and the implications for hospital services locally and to inform the Council main debate, 'Stevenage our health, our hospital'.

2 BRIEFING

Members may be aware that following its review of the clinical and financial assumptions underpinning Hertfordshire's 'Investing in your Health' Strategy, the County's two primary care trusts (PCTs) have announced (10/11/06) that the previously proposed new hospital in Hatfield is not affordable.

In reaching this conclusion, however, the PCTs supported the principle established through 'Investing in your Health' that acute hospital services in East and North Hertfordshire need to be centralised on a single site. In the absence of the Hatfield project, it is understood that the only two sites on which this can happen are at the Lister or the Queen Elizabeth II (QEII) in Welwyn Garden City.

It is further understood that the two PCTs are now embarking on a period of detailed refinement of their initial analysis on the consolidation of acute hospital services across the County. This work will be completed by the end of January and thereafter, between February and June, 2007 there will be public consultation on the options.

- This information forms the background to the Council main debate item, for which the invited speakers are Ann Walker, Chief Executive of the Herts PCTs and Nick Carver, Chief Executive of the East and North Herts NHS Trust.