



Dear Subscriber

A personal email to St Albans district councillors

All St Albans councillors NEED to read this !

Dear Councillor,

Further to our e-mail on the 23rd of July entitled "Railfreight Or Houses Or Both + A NEW Hospital In St Albans?" may we firstly thank those who have taken the trouble to read the e-mail.

Whilst our campaign is firmly centred around the provision of a hospital to serve all residents of West Hertfordshire, we have also made it clear that we seek to retain appropriate services on each of the three sites, in addition to the provision of a centrally located new hospital.

At the time of sending our last email, we were aware of a letter that had been sent from The Department of Health and Social Care to Christine Allen, Chief Executive of WHHT, but we were not able to disclose the contents as the trust were refusing to release it. They have now been forced to release it.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE LETTER](#)

It's vitally important for St Albans councillors to understand the impact of the letter. There are those who consider that St Albans Hospital is safe, and that our proposal for the provision of a new hospital might risk the retention of any facilities at St Albans.

The letter is unequivocally clear. In all of the 3 NEW options, the Dept of Health supports a paltry £50m expenditure from the entire budget (possibly £590m) to be allocated to Hemel and St Albans combined.

It is, therefore, quite clear that WHHT are NOW only seeking to refurbish and/or redevelop Watford to the significant detriment of St Albans and Hemel.



THIS new hospital COULD be in your district. If you support us.

Whilst we could dissect the letter enclosed in greater detail, to focus on key considerations, there are two significant further facts we would like to bring to your attention.

Firstly, the document refers to deliverability by 2025. The suggestion that providing either new or refurbished facilities by that date on the current WGH site is, frankly, risible. Putting aside issues surrounding the emerging Local Plan for a moment, today's announcement by the home secretary who says [New homes and hospitals will be granted "automatic" permission to be built as part of sweeping planning reforms in England.](#)

The construction phase of a new build facility on a clear site could without question be considerably quicker than that offered in Watford, and so deliverability and timelines are not valid reasons to discount our proposal.

Secondly, HertsValleysHospital.co.uk are keen to engage with all stakeholders in a collaborative way and do not wish to be contentious in our methods. Nevertheless we cannot ignore that based on the letter received, it could appear that the legal requirements of Treasury Green Book are being brushed aside, and that the option of a new hospital is not being given due consideration. Also, without a comparison, the required test of best use of public money can't be satisfied. The Green Book quite specifically requires that ALL viable options are properly considered and only discounted after full analysis.

We are therefore of the opinion that the trusts current plans will lead to a

- **Failure to include a thorough analysis of an “option” for a new hospital WITHIN ST ALBANS DISTRICT in the SOC**
- **A plan to only invest <£50m in planned care in St Albans between now and 2030 and NO guarantee to keep services in St Albans AT ALL**

Conversely, OUR own proposal would provide a totally NEW hospital, in St Albans district, that could be delivered in a realistic, achievable and timely manner, together with planned care facilities AND meet community requirements!

In addition, the potential for significantly increased funding as previously referred to, coupled with the opportunity that the Bricket Wood / Chiswell Green

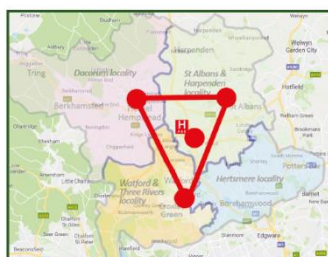
land presents, leads us to conclude that St Albans councillors need to urgently raise the matter with The Trust, County Council and local MP's, at the very least urging them to include an option to properly evaluate our proposal at the Outline Business Case stage.

The trust intends to finalise a long list of options mid-August and there will be NO NEW hospital in St Albans on that list as it stands!

Please email us at info@hertsvalleyshospital.co.uk if you'd like to know more. We'd be happy to present to the council or individual members as required on an urgent basis.



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