

COUNCIL – 13 DECEMBER 2017

MOTION ON NOTICE

Princess Alexandra Hospital

The Council recognises the conscientious commitment of staff at Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) and notes with extreme concern their current recruitment needs and physical infrastructure needs.

Staff shortages, including a nurse vacancy rate of 25 per cent, have left wards struggling to cope with the number of patients. The A & E Department also struggles to deliver the national four-hour standard. Two other local hospitals have changed into Urgent Care Centres which deal only with minor injuries. This creates an additional demand for services on PAH which deals with both major and minor injuries, life threatening chest pains, and head injuries.

Many parts of the physical infrastructure at PAH are beyond its designed life and it is unable to accommodate patients in a manner appropriate for a 21st Century health facility. Indeed, water ingress and sewage egress, in some vital areas, present a real risk to the integrity of the hospital.

The Council believes that urgent investment is required now to address the challenges faced by the hospital, and that there needs to be a commitment for the provision of a new hospital. A new hospital, as part of a health and wellbeing campus, should provide adequate services for East Herts, Harlow and surrounding areas. This is to ensure that the residents will benefit from emergency and GP services, physiotherapy units, social care, a new ambulance hub, and a training centre for nursing and healthcare.

The Council resolves, together with Mark Prisk, MP for Hertford and Stortford, to urge the Government to:

- (A) ensure that the Princess Alexandra Hospital is treated as a priority case for investment to address its current physical infrastructure challenges;
- (B) support the hospital Trust in working with other public sector and private sector bodies to develop a business case for the

investment necessary to achieve a new hospital as part of a health and wellbeing campus; and

- (C) instruct NHS England and NHS Improvement to work positively with the health economy, and with the Councils of West Essex and East Hertfordshire, to deliver a plan to secure financially sustainable, appropriate and sufficient access to health services for the communities served by PAH and the West Essex CCG.

Proposed by Councillor E Buckmaster
Seconded by Councillor R Brunton