

E2.3 Epsom and Ewell Council (via questionnaire)

Whilst we are of the view that Epsom should be the site of the new acute provision, the Council fully supports the business case for the location of specialist services on one site. We understand the benefits of the model in respect of being able to have a full complement of specialist consultants, medical staff and nursing staff, as well as access to state of the art facilities for those who are acutely unwell. We also support the retention of district hospital services, and subsequent investment in those sites not chosen for the location of acute services. Epsom and Ewell are seeing not only a population increase, but also an increase in our aging population and as such, this provision would be a vital resource for our residents.

The Council would be concerned about the location of a new acute service in Sutton based on the following considerations: Travel time is of significant concern to our residents, especially during peak-times with a challenge on the time taken being under 30-minutes (particularly of those living in the South of the borough) Epsom and Ewell are predicted to see a significant increase in population size, as well as an increase in our ageing population. Such may lead to a greater need to acute services. We do not feel this has been adequately reflected in the business case. Sutton and Merton residents live in close proximity to St Georges and Kingston hospitals; both with accident and emergency provision. Croydon University Hospital is also in close proximity. The build on the Sutton site would be a significant under-taking and remains the most expensive. Epsom and Ewell also have pockets of deprivation and we are concerned about the accessibility of the Sutton location by these groups.

The Council would be concerned about the location of a new acute service at St Helier Hospital based on the following considerations: Travel time is of significant concern to our residents, especially during peak-times (and more so than the Sutton option), with a challenge on the time taken being under 30-minutes (particularly of those living South of the borough) Epsom and Ewell are predicted to see a significant increase in population size, as well as an increase in our ageing population. Such may lead to a greater need to acute services. We do not feel this has been adequately reflected in the business case. Sutton and Merton residents live in close proximity to St Georges and Kingston hospitals; both with accident and emergency provision. Croydon University Hospital is also in close proximity. Due to the current poor state of the building, this would be the longest time to build and the most complicated, delaying the availability of acute services to our residents. Epsom and Ewell also have pockets of deprivation and we are concerned about the accessibility of the St Helier location.

Epsom and Ewell is predicted to see a significant increase in population size, as well as an increase in our ageing population. Population growth over the next 10-years, up-until 2030, is likely to see us house 87,600 residents, with an additional 3,200 who will be over the age of 65-years. Such a significant growth in population may lead to a greater need for acute services and therefore give just reason for the location of an acute site within our borough. The business case does stipulate that this build will see the least impact on older people. In addition to this, despite the Council's disapproval Epsom has recently seen the sale of land with the purpose of housing an extra care facility (inclusive of recovery beds), with the addition of key-worker accommodation. These modern facilities may be used in such a way as to attract the specialisms required, whilst offering the opportunity create a centre of excellence in respect of medical care. Unlike the other populations within the catchment area, Epsom and Ewell residents are also not within easy access of St Georges or Kingston Hospitals, or Croydon University Hospital and therefore the loss of acute care could be deemed to have a greater impact on our borough residents. Epsom is the cheapest site to develop.

Our residents have reported the following concerns: -Travel time for all. -Timely access to acute care, particularly in respect of maternity provision, children, and for our older people. -provision for mental health care. The Council supports these concerns, whilst highlighting the need to consider a growing population in relation to these concerns. For example, timely access to acute care is likely to be negatively impacted by a growing population whereby there is an increase of cars on the road and therefore increased congestion. We also need to highlight the needs of our more vulnerable residents, inclusive of mental health but also those with learning difficulties and/or autism, as well as those with physical health concerns. We know there are a disproportionate number of health conditions within these communities that may lead to requiring acute care. Whilst this consultation process is seeking the views of those who are vulnerable, and the Integrated Impact Assessment gives consideration to certain groups, the consultation document is remiss in documenting how these groups have already been considered in the proposal and the preferred option of Sutton.

The preferred solution is to locate the new hospital at Epsom. In light of the increase in costs this option might have across the whole NHS system, our second preference would be the Sutton location.