

---

**PETITION TO COUNCIL – PROPOSED CHANGES TO EMERGENCY SERVICES AT QUEEN ELIZABETH, QUEEN MOTHER (QEQM) HOSPITAL, MARGATE, ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

To: **Council – 5 December 2013**

By: **Madeline Homer, Director of Community Services**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Wards: **All**

---

**Summary:** **A Petition to the Council has been received in relation to proposed changes to emergency services at the QEQM Hospital, Margate Accident & Emergency Department**

**For decision**

---

**1.0 Introduction and background information**

- 1.1 Under the Council's petitions scheme, if a petition contains more than 1000 signatures, the petition organiser will be offered five minutes to present the petition at a meeting of Council; and, at the meeting at which presentation of the petition takes place, Council will debate the petition and decide how to respond.
- 1.2 The petitions scheme also states that the total time devoted to the consideration of petitions at any single Council meeting will not exceed 30 minutes.

**2.0 Current Situation**

- 2.1 A petition containing 1,989 valid signatures has been received from Mrs Betty Renz, stating:

"We the undersigned protest against changes to emergency services at QEQM A&E department".

- 2.2 Mrs Renz, as petition originator, has confirmed that she will present the petition to Council at this meeting. Under the petitions scheme, have up to five minutes in which to speak.
- 2.3 As the petition has more than 1,000 signatures, Council is required to debate it.
- 2.4 For reference Members are asked to note that on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013 Cabinet received a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Panel to provide an update regarding the scrutiny review work in relation to the proposed Clinical Strategy by the East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT). It was agreed by Cabinet Members to defer making a final decision on the matter until after the Overview & Scrutiny Panel has made recommendations to Cabinet regarding the public consultation by the EKHUFT Board on the proposed Clinical Strategy for East Kent. The cabinet report is attached at Annex 1 for information.

### **3.0 Options**

3.1 Under the petitions scheme, Council may take any of the following actions:

- i) Refer the petition for consideration by Cabinet, a committee or the Overview & Scrutiny Panel
- ii) Hold an inquiry into the matter
- iii) Undertake research into the matter
- iv) Hold a public meeting
- v) Hold a consultation
- vi) Hold a meeting with petitioners
- vii) Write to the petition organiser setting out its views about the request in the petition

3.2 Council may also write to the East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust regarding the petition.

### **4.0 Corporate Implications**

#### **4.1 Financial**

4.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

#### **4.2 Legal**

4.2.1 Under the terms of the Council's Petitions Scheme, a petition of this size must be debated at the meeting of Council at which it is presented.

#### **4.3 Corporate**

4.3.1 None arising directly from this report

#### **4.4 Equity and Equalities**

4.4.1 None arising directly from this report.

### **5.0 Recommendation**

5.1 That Council debates, and decides on a course of action to be taken in relation to, the petition.

### **6.0 Decision Making Process**

6.1 Under the Council's petitions scheme, Council is required to debate the petition and decide on a course of action to be taken in relation to it.

Contact Officer:	Madeline Homer, Director of Community Services, Ext. 7123
Reporting to:	Dr Sue McGonigal, Chief Executive and S. 151 Officer, Ext. 7002

### **Annex List**

Annex 1	Report to Cabinet, 14 November 2013
---------	-------------------------------------

**Corporate Consultation Undertaken**

Finance	<i>Sarah Martin, Financial Services Manager and Deputy S. 151 Officer, ext 7617</i>
Legal	<i>Harvey Patterson, Corporate &amp; Regulatory Services Manager and Monitoring Officer, ext 7005</i>