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## PETITION TO COUNCIL – ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE

To: **Council – 16 July 2015**

By: **Larissa Reed, Director of Community Services**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Wards: **All**

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**Summary:** **A petition to the Council has been received in relation to downsizing the Accident and Emergency Service at the QEQM hospital.**

### **For decision**

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#### **1.0 Introduction and background information**

- 1.1 Under the Council's petitions scheme, if a petition contains more than 1,000 signatures, the petition organiser will be offered five minutes to present the petition at a meeting of Council; and, at the meeting at which the presentation of the petition takes place, Council will debate the petition and decide how to respond.

#### **2.0 Current Situation**

- 2.1 A petition organised by Cllr Peter Campbell has been validly signed by 1,502 persons. The petition prayer reads:

"We the undersigned, call upon Thanet District Council to vigorously oppose any plans by the East Kent Hospital Trust to downsize or end the provision of high quality Accident and Emergency services at the QEQM hospital at Margate.

- 2.2 In addition to the 1,502 persons who have validly signed the petition, 153 signatures were disallowed as they were deemed invalid in accordance with the Council's petition scheme. Of the 1,502 valid signatures 1,469 were from inside Thanet.
- 2.3 Mrs Margaret Symonds has been nominated by Councillor Campbell to present the petition at this meeting; she will, under the petitions scheme, have up to five minutes in which to speak.
- 2.4 The Leader and senior council officers met with the CEO of the East Kent University hospital trust and asked that local people were fully and properly consulted in any decisions made about changes to healthcare provision in Thanet. This has also been raised by the Thanet Health and Wellbeing Board who have also agreed the need for full public consultation on any changes.

#### **3.0 Options**

- 3.1 As the Council does not have and direct control over this matter the Council could consider making representations on behalf of the petitioners to the East Kent Hospital Trust. In addition Health Scrutiny is part of the functions of Kent County Council (KCC), therefore the Council could refer the petition to KCC consider.

## **4.0 Corporate Implications**

### **4.1 Financial**

4.1.1 There are no financial implications identified within this report.

### **4.2 Legal**

4.2.1 This matter is dealt with under the Council's scheme for dealing with petitions from the public which is contained within the constitution.

### **4.3 Corporate**

4.3.1 In accordance with the Council's petitions scheme, if a petition contains more than 1,000 signatures, Council will debate the petition and decide how to respond.

### **4.4 Equity and Equalities**

4.4.1 There are no specific equity and equalities issues arising from this report.

## **5.0 Recommendations**

5.1 The Council can debate the petition and either:

- a) Make representations to the East Kent Hospital Trust.
- b) Refer the petition to Kent County Council Health Scrutiny Panel for them to consider.
- c) Refer the petition to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for review.
- d) The Council's representative on the Thanet Health and Wellbeing Board (THWB) raise the petitioner's concerns at the next THWB Meeting.

## **6.0 Decision Making Process**

6.1 As the Council is not responsible for the provision of Accident and Emergency Services, Full Council can decide on the taking the appropriate action as described in the report.

Contact Officer:	Larissa Reed, Director of Community Services
Reporting to:	Madeline Homer, Chief Executive

### **Annex List**

None	N/A
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### **Corporate Consultation Undertaken**

Finance	Nicola Walker, Head of Financial Services
Legal	Tim Howes, Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer