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## **QEQM HOSPITAL PETITION - COUNCIL REFERRAL TO CABINET**

To: **Cabinet – 22 October 2015**

Main Portfolio Area: **Community Services**

By: **Senior Democratic Services Officer**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Thanet Wide**

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**Summary:** The report introduces a petition to Thanet District Council on QEQM Hospital's Accident & Emergency Services that are being proposed for downsizing by the East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) as part of their proposed new strategy for delivery of health services in the region.

### **For Decision**

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#### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 On 16 July 2015, Council considered a petition on the downsizing of Accident and Emergency Service at the QEQM hospital. The prayer of the petition read as follows:
- “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.”
- 1.2 The meeting was advised that the Leader of Council and senior Council officers engaged the CEO of the East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust in discussion and requested that Thanet local views be taken into consideration during the review to be undertaken by EKHUFT. The report to Council is attached as Annex 1 to this Cabinet report.
- 1.3 After debating the petition, Members agreed the following:
- “That the Council refer the petition to Cabinet and recommend that Cabinet set up a Cabinet Advisory Group which would consider the petition in tandem with other emerging proposals from the East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust.”
- 1.4 It is Council's understanding that the issues regarding the re-organisation of the QEQM Hospital's Accidents & Emergency Services will be made public towards the end of 2015. It is therefore appropriate for Council to consider ways of ensuring that local views are taken on board when the anticipated review takes place.
- 1.5 At an appropriate time, Cabinet would need to report back to Council on what action has been taken regarding the Full Council recommendation.

#### **2.0 Cabinet Response to the Petition Referral by Full Council**

- 2.1 In order for Thanet District Council to best articulate the concerns of the residents with regards to the proposed review of the QEQM Hospital's Accidents and

Emergency Services, a QEQM Hospital Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) should be set up to study the issue more closely and advise Cabinet.

- 2.2 Taking into consideration the view of the CAG, Cabinet will thereafter agree an approach to engage and influence the EKHUFT review process. Draft terms of reference, membership size of and representation on the proposed QEQM Hospital Cabinet Advisory Group are attached as Annex 2 to the report.

### **3.0 Proposed Terms of Reference of the QEQM Hospital Cabinet Advisory Group**

- 3.1 The following are the proposed draft terms of reference for consideration by Cabinet:

- a) Study the proposed re-organisation of the QEQM Hospital's Accidents & Emergency Services;
- b) In the event that EKHUFT conducts a public consultation, prepare a draft Thanet District Council response to the consultation;
- c) Produce a final report for consideration by Cabinet.

### **4.0 Options**

- 4.1 Members may choose to set up the QEQM Hospital Cabinet Advisory Group as recommended by Full Council.
- 4.2 Members may opt not to set up a Cabinet Advisory Group.

### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

#### **5.1 Financial and VAT**

- 5.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

#### **5.2 Legal**

- 5.2.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

#### **5.3 Equity and Equalities**

- 5.4.1 There are no equity and equalities issues arising directly from this report.

### **6.0 Recommendations**

Cabinet is asked to agree the following recommendations:

- 6.1 As per the recommendation of Full Council; establish the QEQM Hospital Cabinet Advisory Group;
- 6.2 Set the membership at 9 Councillors;
- 6.3 Representation on the CAG to be as follows:  
5 UKIP; 2 Conservative; 1 Labour; 1 Democratic Independent Group (DIG);
- 6.4 Approve the draft terms of reference as set out in Annex 2 of the report.

## **7.0 Decision Making Process**

- 7.1 This is a referral from Full Council that Cabinet can make a decision on and the decision is subject to call-in by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

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Reporting to:	Nicholas Hughes, Committee Services Manager

### **Annex List**

Annex 1	Petition to Council Report – 16 July 2015
Annex 2	Proposed terms of reference and membership size of the QEQM Cabinet Advisory Group

### **Background Papers**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Details of where to access copy</b>
None	N/A

### **Corporate Consultation Undertaken**

Finance	Nicola Walker, Interim Head of Financial Services
Legal	Ciara Feeney, Head of Legal Services & Deputy Monitoring Officer