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District of **easington.**

**6 March 2007**

**Your ref.**

**Our ref.        JC/COMS/PSHIPS/070301**

*District of Easington  
Council Offices  
Seaside Lane  
Easington  
Peterlee  
County Durham  
SR8 3TN*

Dear Councillor/colleague,

**The Darzi Review of Acute Hospital Services North and South of the Tees**

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985, Section 100B(4)(b) the Chair, following consultation with the Proper Officer, considers that the attached report should be considered as a matter of urgency by the **Meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee** to be held on **Tuesday 13 March 2007**.

Further to the decision of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on 20 February 2007, representatives of Hartlepool Borough Council's Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum will be in attendance to discuss their Council's position in respect of the findings of the Independent Review Panel into The Darzi Review.

For Members information, a copy of correspondence to the Prime Minister, from the Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council in this respect is attached.

Yours faithfully

**Janet Johnson**

**Chief Executive**

To: **All Members of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee**

Councillors R Burnip, PJ Campbell, J Haggan, B Joyce, T Longstaff, Mrs S Mason, D Milsom, C Patching, Mrs B A Sloan and R G Wharrier

c.c. All Scrutiny Chairs - for information only  
File - Scrutiny Office  
Noticeboard

**Chief Executive's Department**

**Councillor R Waller  
Executive Member  
Adult & Public Health Services**

Home Address: 153 Park Road, Hartlepool, TS26 9JB

CEMS/JB



28<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Rt Hon Tony Blair MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister

The recent decision by the Secretary of State for Health to endorse the recommendation of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in respect of University Hospital has been met with both anger and disappointment by myself, my colleagues and the town as a whole.

In view of this a special Council meeting was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007 where the following resolution was passed: -

"That the Council joins the Labour Group in deploring the decision of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in respect of University Hospital Hartlepool and to totally condemn the broken promises of the Blair Government. We demand that this decision be urgently reconsidered so that those promises, made by both the Prime Minister and the former Health Secretary John Reid, can be delivered in full.

Furthermore the Council reaffirms its commitment to health services that are accessible, accountable and of the highest quality in Hartlepool, for Hartlepool. It is vital that we resist any further migration of both jobs and services out of the town to Stockton and fight any downgrading of services at University Hospital Hartlepool.

Health services in Hartlepool must be both maintained and indeed improved. We need increased funding, better transport links, improved primary care in our communities, an immediate development of new and equipped health centres and improved terms and conditions for all health sector workers in the town. We must seek a full and comprehensive understanding of the NHS proposals for Hartlepool and a timetable for its investment programs.

The Council therefore resolve that the full powers of this Council's scrutiny process be employed to deal with these issues and that the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee urgently set out a timetable for investigation, reporting back to Council at the earliest opportunity."

The people of Hartlepool feel extremely let down by this Labour Government and so, in view of the above resolution, I ask you to do all in your power to have this decision reversed and prevent the further downgrading of health services in Hartlepool.

Yours Sincerely

COUNCILLOR RAY WALLER  
Leader of the Hartlepool Labour Group