

# Report of Sir John Whittingdale OBE MP's additional public consultation survey

NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board

Community capacity public consultation January – April 2024

July 2024



This report has been authored by Stand, independent specialists in involving people and communities in health service transformation.

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The project was carried out in line with best practice industry standards for public consultation and applicable regulatory standards.

### **Thank you**

The authors would like to express their gratitude to everyone who responded to this survey. Without your input this report would not have been possible.

We are grateful for the support and co-operation of Sir John Whittingdale OBE MP and his staff in producing this report.

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# Executive summary

## Introduction

On 25 January 2024, Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System published proposals for changes to community hospital services that, if approved, would lead to the closure of St Peter's Hospital in Maldon.

A consultation document and a range of supporting information was published to inform people and communities living and working in the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System area. Patients, carers, residents, community groups, organisations and other stakeholders were invited respond to the consultation in a range of ways, by:

- Completing the consultation survey online or on paper
- Attending one of a series of ten scheduled consultation events
- Attending events organised by partner and stakeholder organisations
- Providing a written response on email or by post
- Providing a response over the phone.
- Presenting evidence at a public consultation hearing.

Concern that the questions put to residents in the official consultation questionnaire designed by NHS Mid and South Essex did not allow local people to give sufficiently detailed responses and make their views heard in full led the Member of Parliament for Maldon, Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale OBE, MP to run an additional consultation survey.

The questions were set by Sir John's office and the exercise approved by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. The survey was launched on 5th March 2024, constituents were given the opportunity to respond until 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Sir John was assured by local NHS leaders that responses to his survey will be taken into consideration as part of the consultation process.

NHS Mid and South Essex asked the independent analysts of its public consultation to support Sir John's office in analysing the feedback collected in response to his survey. This is that report. The report aims to transparently convey the community's perspectives and concerns, providing a detailed overview of constituents' responses to ensure all voices are heard and considered in the decision-making process. The report will be forwarded to NHS Mid and South Essex for consideration by decision-makers.

The survey was promoted by:

- Emailing constituents that have raised local health issues since 2020.
- A leaflet drop in the local area.
- An article on Sir John's website [johnwhittingdale.org.uk/?p=3313](https://johnwhittingdale.org.uk/?p=3313)
- Survey linked to on social media and in newsletters.

1,108 constituents responded to this survey.

Demographic and location information was not collected.

## Key findings

### Awareness and Communication

- Nearly all respondents (92.8%) were aware of the consultation proposals.
- Most learned about it through local press, social media, banners, or word of mouth, with only a few noting they had found out through Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System's consultation promotion.

### Usage and Service Preferences

- Three fifths of respondents said they or a family member use services at St Peter's Hospital every three to six months.
- Four fifths of respondents said they use the hospital regularly.
- Blood tests, rehabilitation, scans/X-rays, and maternity appointments are the services respondents use most commonly.

### Service provision in Maldon

- A large number of comments emphasised the necessity of maintaining all services at Maldon.
- Blood tests, maternity appointments, the stroke ward, scans/X-rays, outpatients, and rehabilitation/physiotherapy were highlighted as essential services.
- Respondents cited ease of access, convenience, and proximity to bus routes and walking distance as key reasons to keep services in Maldon.
- Respondents feel more services are required in Maldon, not fewer due to the growing population in Maldon.

### Transport and Parking Concerns

- Respondents highlighted difficulties travelling, particularly by public transport, to hospitals other than St Peter's and parking problems at those alternative locations.
- Accessible outpatient services is important to respondents with good transport links and adequate parking.

### Future of St Peter's Hospital

- Many respondents believe St Peter's Hospital has been deliberately neglected and advocate for its refurbishment or redevelopment.
- Concerns about the lack of promised new facilities and the need to keep services local due to rural isolation were expressed.

### Trust in the local NHS leadership

- Respondents expressed doubts about the practicality of finding and accessing suitable alternative sites.
- Respondents raised previous broken promises about a new hospital leading to further trust concerns.
- Some suggested that the deterioration of St Peter's Hospital was intentional.
- Poor information sharing about the consultation was cited.
- Lack of trust in the estimated cost of fixing the St Peter's Hospital and affordability

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Context and background

On 25 January 2024, Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System published proposals for changes to community hospital services that, if approved, would lead to the closure of St Peter's Hospital in Maldon.

A consultation document and a range of supporting information was published to inform people and communities living and working in the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System area. Patients, carers, residents, community groups, organisations and other stakeholders were invited respond to the consultation in a range of ways, by:

- Completing the consultation survey online or on paper
- Attending one of a series of ten scheduled consultation events
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- Providing a written response on email or by post
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Concern that the questions put to residents in the official consultation questionnaire designed by NHS Mid and South Essex did not allow local people to give sufficiently detailed responses and make their views heard in full led the Member of Parliament for Maldon, Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale OBE, MP to run his own consultation survey.

The questions were set by Sir John's office and the exercise approved by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

Sir John was assured by local NHS leaders that responses to his survey will be taken into consideration as part of the consultation process.

This report presents an independent analysis of the feedback collected through this initiative. It aims to transparently convey the community's perspectives and concerns, providing a detailed overview of the constituent responses to ensure all voices are heard and considered in the decision-making process.

## 1.2 Objectives

The stated objective of the survey was:

- To “allow constituents the opportunity to submit more detailed responses to the proposals than the official consultation questionnaire permits”.

## 2 Methodology

Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale OBE, MP organised this consultation survey.

This report presents an independent analysis of the feedback collected through this initiative. It aims to transparently convey the community's perspectives and concerns, providing a detailed overview of the constituent responses to ensure all voices are heard and considered in the decision-making process.

### 2.1.1 Survey

Constituents were given the opportunity to respond to the survey from 5th March – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

The survey questions were set by Sir John's office and the exercise approved by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

The survey was sent out in an email allowing for open responses to all questions. Constituents either responded by:

- Completing the questions in the body of an email.
- Printing the questions out and completing them in paper format and returning them by email or by post.
- Sending correspondence not directly answering the questions, but still providing their views.

The survey questions are available at Appendix 1.

### 2.1.2 Number and range of responses

A total of 1108 respondents took part in the survey.

### 2.1.3 Notes on analysis

All of the questions were open questions which meant:

- all responses were coded,
- respondents interpret questions in different ways,
- the base sizes (total number of responses) to questions differ, so for the most part percentages have not been calculated, and
- comments received that were inappropriate to a particular question have been extracted and moved to the most relevant question. Where this is the case, it has been noted in this report.

### 2.1.4 Data protection

Participants provided data on the basis of consent. Every effort has been taken to ensure that individuals cannot be identified in this report.

# 3 Analysis of the survey

## 3.1 Summary of responses

This section contains the themed analysis of all responses received from the survey by question.

### 3.1.1 Question 1.1: Are you aware of the proposal to close the existing maternity, stroke and outpatient facilities at St Peter's Hospital? Yes/No? (N=1036)

Constituents were asked if they were aware of the proposal to close the existing maternity, stroke and outpatient facilities at St Peter's Hospital. This was an open-ended question.

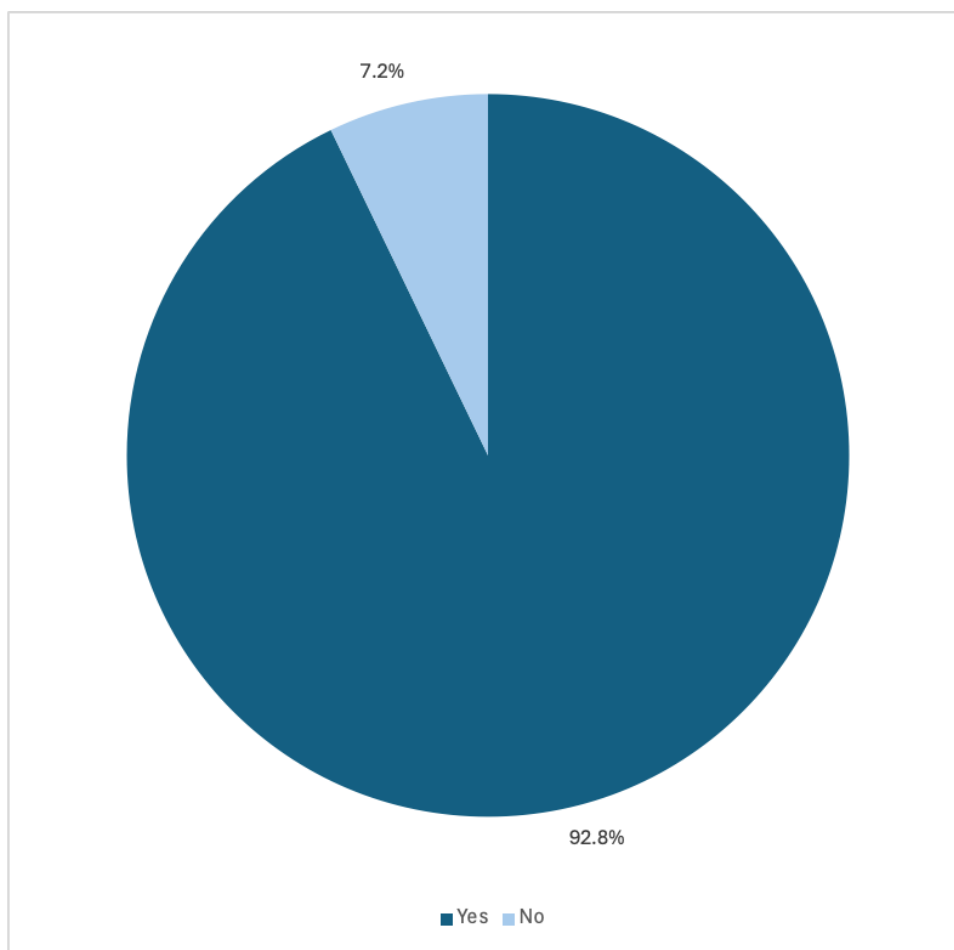
Nearly all respondents were aware of the proposal to close the existing maternity, stroke and outpatient facilities (Table 1 & Figure 1: 92.8%).

Table 1: Awareness of the proposal (N=1019)

Response	No. of responses	% of responses
Yes	946	92.8%
No	73	7.2%



Figure 1: Awareness of the proposal (N=1019)



#### i.Question 1.2: Further comments

Some respondents provided more than just a yes or no answer. These comments have been themed into the following responses. In total, 36 comments were received (Table 2).

13 respondents described that they heard about the proposed closure either through the local press, social media, a banner or by word of mouth.

*“By word of mouth not a formal notification. We got the public consultation document from the Library.”*

Seven respondents indicated they were only made aware of the proposed closure via their MP, and this was either by email or correspondence surrounding this survey.

*“No, I was not aware of closure until you informed me via email and post.”*

One comment could not be themed and was categorised as other. This comment can be found in Appendix 2.

Table 2: Comments coded around awareness of the proposed closure (N=1036)

Coding	No. of comments
Through local press, social media, a banner or word of mouth.	13

<i>Only heard about it through this email, survey – contact from the MP</i>	7
<i>I thought maternity, stroke and outpatients' departments had already moved</i>	5
<i>Only heard about it recently</i>	3
<i>I attended or replied to the public consultation</i>	3
<i>We thought these changes were temporary</i>	2
<i>There's a proposal to close St Peter's but there isn't a new hospital to replace it</i>	2

Some comments were received that are not appropriate to this question (N=18). These comments have been extracted and moved to Question 7. You can find the full list of these comments in Appendix 3.

### 3.1.2 Question 2.1: How often have you or your family members utilised services at St Peter's Hospital? (N=1025)

Constituents were asked how often they or a family member has utilised services at St Peter's Hospital. This was an open-ended question.

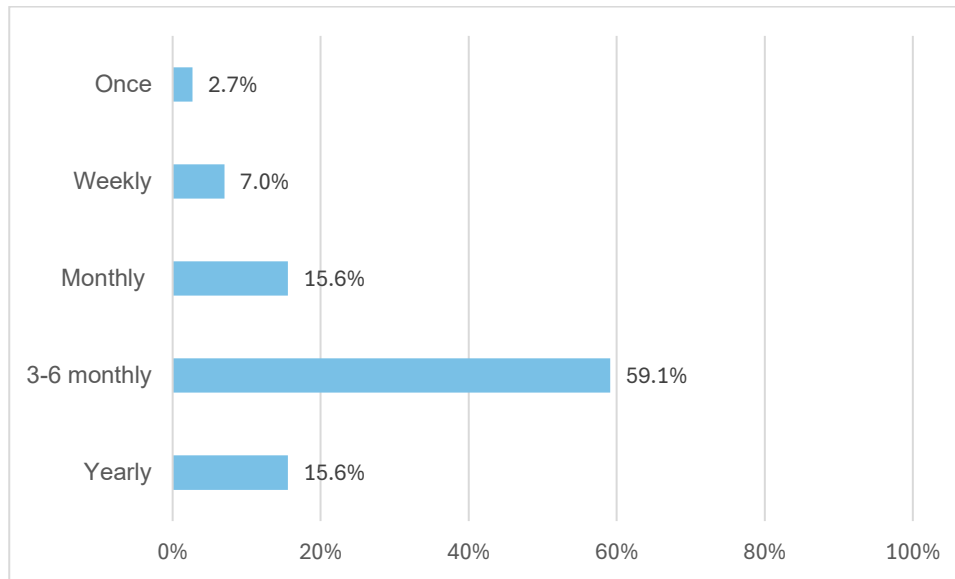
Responses received from 186 constituents allow us to quantify utilisation of the services. These responses can be seen in the below table and chart (Table 3, Figure 2).

Nearly three in five of the respondents that provided data allowing us to quantify usage of St. Peters indicated they or a family member use the services every three to six months (59.1%).

*Table 3: How often have you or your family members utilised services at St Peter's Hospital? (N=186)*

	<b>No. of responses</b>	<b>% of responses</b>
<i>Once</i>	5	2.7%
<i>Weekly</i>	13	7.0%
<i>Monthly</i>	29	15.6%
<i>3-6 monthly</i>	110	59.1%
<i>Yearly</i>	29	15.6%

Figure 2: How often have you or your family members utilised services at St Peter's Hospital? (N=186)



ii.

### iii. Question 2.2: Visualisation of services used

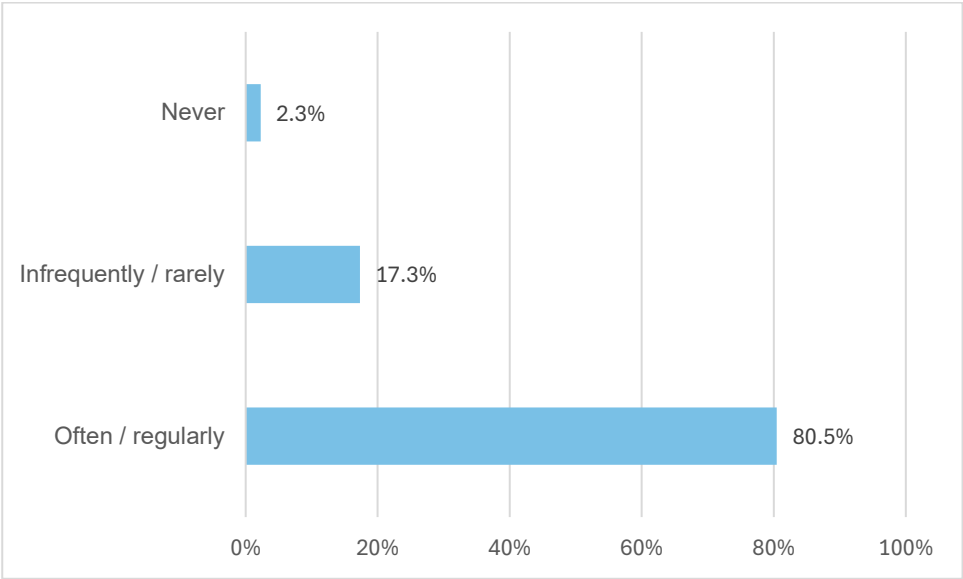
Responses from 399 constituents allow us to visualise usage. Note responses from these constituents could be subjective. These responses can be found in the below table and chart (Table 4, Figure 3).

Four in five of the respondents feel that they use St Peter's often or regularly (80.5%).

Table 4: How often have you or your family members utilised services at St Peter's Hospital? (N=399)

	No. of responses	% of responses
<i>Never</i>	9	2.3%
<i>Infrequently / rarely</i>	69	17.3%
<i>Often / regularly</i>	321	80.5%

Figure 3: How often have you or your family members utilised services at St Peter's Hospital? (N=399)



#### iv. Question 2.3: How have you or your family members utilised services at St Peter's Hospital? (N=1025)

In Question 2, constituents were also asked how they utilised services. This was an open-ended question.

When constituents were asked how they or a family member utilised services at St Peter's Hospital many responded indicating the services they use, with 1948 comments received (Table 5). A smaller proportion (85) indicated how they accessed the services (Table 6, Figure 4). We will break the responses down per element.

##### Question 2.3.1: Services

In total 1950 comments were received from constituents to suggest the services that have been utilised at St Peter's Hospital (see Table 5).

Over half of the respondents that answered this question suggested that they attend St. Peters for blood tests, with 625 comments.

*“Annually for blood tests.”*

259 comments suggested respondents attend St Peter's for rehabilitation including physiotherapy.

*“My mother stayed in the rehabilitation ward after a bad fall. They were very caring to her.”*

A good proportion also suggest that they attended St Peter's for scans or x-rays (257 comments).

*“Infrequently, gastrology, outpatient x-ray outpatient.”*

240 comments suggest respondents have attended for maternity services.

*“...Have had most of my pre-natal appointments there, scans, post-natal stay after birth of both children, continence service, eye checks for children, blood tests.”*

In total, six comments could not be themed and were therefore categorised as other. These comments can be found in Appendix 2.

Table 5: How have you or your family members utilised serves at St Peter's Hospital? (N=1025)

Coding	No. of comments
Blood tests	625
Rehabilitation including physiotherapy	259
Scans or x-rays	257

<i>Maternity</i>	<i>240</i>
<i>Outpatients</i>	<i>151</i>
<i>Audiology</i>	<i>86</i>
<i>Eye clinic</i>	<i>81</i>
<i>Stroke ward</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>Cancer</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Diabetes</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Dermatology</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Heart</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Podiatry</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Mental health</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Cherry Tree clinic</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Paediatrics</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Parkinson's</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Dementia</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Minor Injuries</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>OOH GP</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Gastro</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>ENT</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Sexual health</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Vaccinations</i>	<i>3</i>

### **Question 2.3.2: Access**

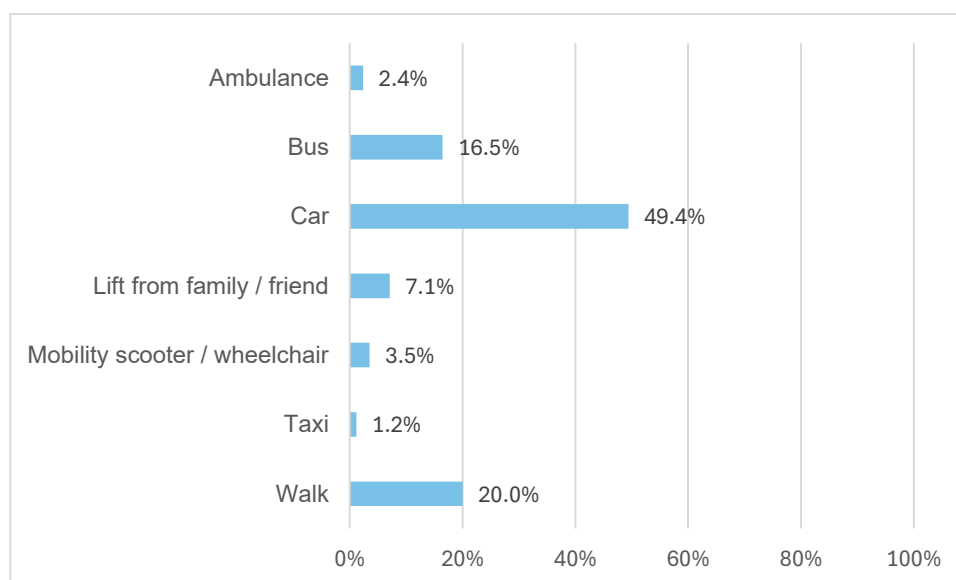
69 respondents told us how they accessed St Peter's Hospital, with just under one in two suggesting they get there by car (49.4%).

One in five indicate they walk to St Peter's Hospital (20.0%).

*Table 6: How have you or your family members utilised services at St Peter's Hospital? (N=69)*

	No. of responses	% of responses
<i>Ambulance</i>	2	2.4%
<i>Bus</i>	14	16.5%
<i>Car</i>	42	49.4%
<i>Lift from family or friend</i>	6	7.1%
<i>Mobility scooter wheelchair</i>	3	3.5%
<i>Taxi</i>	1	1.2%
<i>Walk</i>	17	20.0%

Figure 4: How have you or your family members utilised serves at St Peter's Hospital?



### 3.1.3 Question 3.1: Which services should continue to be provided in Maldon? (N=1003)

Constituents were asked which services should continue to be provided in Maldon. This was an open-ended question.

The full list of services respondents discussed can be found below (Table 7). In total 1891 comments were received telling us the services they feel should continue.

Many comments indicate that respondents feel all services should continue at Maldon (486 comments).

*“The services currently provided should be retained as these are essential for all current and future users.”*

Blood tests are also high on the agenda for respondents (279 comments).

*“Blood tests, X Rays and physio should all continue.”*

243 comments indicate that maternity should continue in Maldon, with 172 comments mentioning the stroke ward.

*“Outpatients, blood test, x-ray, stroke and maternity.”*

Scans / x-ray, outpatients and rehabilitation / physiotherapy should also continue in Maldon (156 comments, 144 comments, 86 comments respectively).

*“...from outpatient appointments, x rays, physio, blood tests, as well as in patient for rehabilitation and maternity.”*

Seven comments could not be themed and were therefore categorised as other. These comments can be found in Appendix 2.

Table 7: Which services should continue to be provided in Maldon? (N=1003)

Coding	No. of comments
All services	486
Blood tests	279
Maternity	243
Stroke ward - care	172
Scans - X-ray	156
Outpatients	144
Rehabilitation including Physiotherapy	86
Additional services should be added / services should be reinstated	54
Minor Injuries	33
A&E	27
OOH GP	24
Mental health – counselling (Cherry Tree Clinic)	20
Eye clinic	17
Audiology	17
Intermediate care	16
Cardiac - Heart	13



<i>Consultants</i>	12
<i>All current inpatient services</i>	10
<i>Walk in centre</i>	9
<i>Convalescence care</i>	7
<i>Parkinson's</i>	7
<i>Cancer care - Chemotherapy</i>	6
<i>Dementia</i>	6
<i>Dermatology – skin ulcers</i>	6
<i>Respiratory / Pulmonary</i>	5
<i>Diabetes</i>	4
<i>Paediatrics</i>	3
<i>Don't know</i>	3
<i>Podiatry</i>	3
<i>Endocrine</i>	2
<i>Vaccinations</i>	2
<i>Specialist appointments</i>	2
<i>Follow-up test results</i>	2
<i>Minor surgery</i>	2
<i>Pathology</i>	2
<i>Fast track</i>	2
<i>Injections – muscular</i>	2

**v.Question 3.2: Do you have any comment on the reason for your answer? (N=1003)**

Constituents were asked if they have any comments for the reason for their answer to the initial question [which services should continue to be provided in Maldon...]. In total 1535 comments were received. These comments have been broken down into three areas below.

Ten comments could not be themed and were therefore categorised as other. These comments are available in Appendix 2.

**Convenience, accessibility and support for St Peter's Hospital**

In total, 522 comments were received that discussed convenience, accessibility and / or support for St Peter's Hospital. The full list of themes can be found in the below table (Table 8).

Respondents felt that the services should continue due to ease of access and convenience, being on a bus route or within walking distance (362 comments).

*"It is convenient to use outpatients at St Peter's as it is the same distance for me as Broomfield but less crowded and a more prompt service. I am too old for maternity service but Braintree is a long way from Maldon."*

*"It is unacceptable to ask people to travel miles for these services. They need to be kept under one roof too."*

Easy access or lack of cost associated with parking at St Peter's was noted (76 comments).

*"Shorter waiting times for getting an appointment and when you attend. only 15 to 20 minutes to drive there. ease of parking."*

Table 8: Which services should continue to be provided in Maldon?(N=1003)

Coding	No. of comments
Easy to access/Closer/local / convenient / bus route / walking distance /	362
Parking is easier and free at St. Peters	76
St Peter's offers a good, friendly or superb service	23
Maldon area and surrounding villages are rural and need access to services – St Peter's serves these areas	17
Can be seen quicker at St Peter's Hospital	8
The location of St Peter's means you can get to appointments around other commitments such as work and children	7
Renovate St Peter's Hospital / don't build new	7
Services are currently overstretched and will be worse if St Peter's closes	6
The services are used and appreciated, we are lucky to have them and are grateful	5
Easier to navigate St Peter's Hospital	4
Speedier recovery at St. Peters Hospital – staff/patient ratio	3
Jobs lost will have an impact	2

<i>Larger hospitals are service focused and not patient focused</i>	2
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### Increased travel and access concerns

In total, 578 comments were received that discussed concerns over increased travel and access. The full list of themes can be found in the below table (Table 9).

188 respondents feel all other hospitals or options were either too far away or too difficult to get to.

*“Put yourself in the situation of an elderly person who has been given an outpatients appointment for 9am but has to travel there by public transport! It would be impossible. Not everyone has cars, not everyone can rely on neighbours or friends to transport them. It’s outrageous to expect this of your constituents.”*

Public transport was discussed, with 172 respondents concerned about travel to other hospitals, or services other than St Peter's.

*“Have only public transport - Broomfield distant and buses rare.”*

Difficulties with parking at alternative locations, including the lack of park and ride options was a concern (47 comments).

*“All of them as if you live anywhere within the Dengie you are looking at a round trip of 50 plus miles to any other hospital none of which are reasonably accessible by either public transport or private car with a minimum journey time of an hour each way assuming you can park at these other hospitals when you get there and that is already a serious issue at Broomfield for example and closure of St Peter's would make this considerable worse.”*

Also, worth noting are the concerns of a small number of respondents surrounding unfulfilled promises of a new hospital and the need for a new hospital (6 comments).

Table 9: which services should continue to be provided in Maldon?(N=1003)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Other hospitals / replacement services too far / difficult to get to / stressful / lack transport / time consuming</i>	188
<i>Poor public transport / ridiculous travel times to other hospitals</i>	172
<i>Additional costs due to further travel such as taxis / parking / fuel</i>	51
<i>Parking elsewhere is a problem / no park and ride</i>	47
<i>Currently poor infrastructure - road congestion will get worse with additional travel</i>	41
<i>Environmental Impact of additional travel to further services</i>	35

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Average age of Maldon residents is increasing but services are decreasing</i>	15
<i>We were promised a new hospital, or we need a new hospital</i>	6
<i>Risk to life with further travel for some patients – consequence of closure adding additional pressure</i>	5
<i>Currently failing ambulance service – capacity will get worse</i>	5
<i>Distance to Maldon is far enough for some</i>	4
<i>All services should be under one roof</i>	3
<i>Don't close St Peter's Hospital until other facility is fully operational</i>	2
<i>Loss of other facilities: South Woodham Clinic / St. John's hospital Chelmsford</i>	2
<i>People who have had a stroke stay in hospital longer</i>	2

### Importance of local services

In total, 425 comments were received that discussed the importance of local services. The full list of themes can be found in the below table (Table 10).

Respondents referred to the growing population within Maldon and the surrounding areas suggesting a requirement for more services to support this growth, rather than a reduction (187 comments).

*“The town is rapidly growing and local services are essential.”*

Respondents were concerned about additional travel for the elderly, many of whom don't drive or venture far (74 comments).

*“All services should be retained. Elderly residents can get there easily.”*

*“...Maldon district has a large number of elderly residents who need local services. Maldon District population is increasing rapidly due to all the new housing and local hospital facilities are vital.”*

Table 10: which services should continue to be provided in Maldon?(N=1003)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Growing population - services should increase not reduce</i>	187

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Easy access required for the elderly</i>	74
<i>Other hospitals are busy / can't cope with current demand – keeping services in Maldon will help</i>	69
<i>Currently difficult to get GP appointments - local services would help to take pressure off GPs</i>	36
<i>Further travel not appropriate for some - feeling unwell, certain health conditions, disabilities</i>	30
<i>A local service is vital for local people, such as Community hospitals / cottage hospital - less stress / closer to home</i>	23
<i>Young mothers need access to services – should have the option to birth locally</i>	6

Some comments were received that are not appropriate to this question (N=28). These comments have been extracted and moved to Question 7. You can find the full list of these comments in Appendix 3.

### 3.1.4 Question 4.1: If you or a member of your family needed maternity services, would you wish to use a midwife-led unit in Maldon? (N=1022)

Constituents were asked if they or a family member needed maternity services, would they wish to use a midwife-led unit in Maldon. This was an open-ended question.

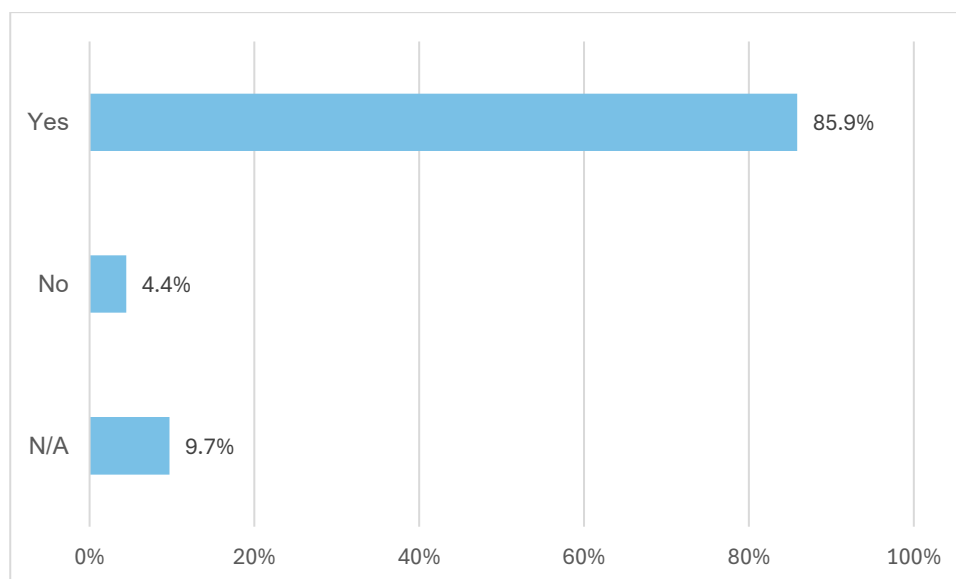
In total, 990 constituents responded with data that could be quantified in the below table and chart (Table 11, Figure 5).

Over four in five respondents that provided information that could be quantified, indicate that they or a family member would wish to use a midwife-led unit in Maldon (85.9%).

Table 11: If you or a member of your family needed maternity services, would you wish to use a midwife-led unit in Maldon? (N=990)

	No. of responses	% of responses
Yes	850	85.9%
No	44	4.4%
N/A	96	9.7%

Figure 5: If you or a member of your family needed maternity services, would you wish to use a midwife-led unit in Maldon?



#### vi. Question 4.2 Further comments

Respondents also provided comments to this question. These comments have been coded into the following themes below (Table 12). In total, 195 comments were received.

80 comments infer that St Peter's Hospital is closer, quicker or easier to get to.

*"I am currently pregnant and am very upset because I do not drive which will add constant stress to my pregnancy."*

*"Braintree is a long way and not served by bus."*

Respondents also reflected on past experiences, with 56 comments expressing satisfaction with their own, or their family/friends' previous interactions with maternity.

*"I have many friends that have used this service and have found it to be invaluable..."*

*"Both my children were born at St Peter's and my wife attended classes there. I would like my children to be able to use the same services if they remain in the area."*

In total, six comments could not be themed and were therefore categorised as other. These comments can be found in Appendix 2.

Table 12: If you or a member of your family needed maternity services, would you wish to use a midwife-led unit in Maldon? (N=1022)

Coding	No. of comments
St Peter's Hospital is closer, quicker or easier to get to - some commenting a lack of transport	81

<i>Satisfaction / happiness with previous experience at St Peter's – either their own experience or family/friends</i>	56
<i>Only offer standard births so there would be the need to transfer elsewhere – no doctors, require back for emergencies</i>	14
<i>Population is increasing in area – makes sense to have maternity unit in the area</i>	12
<i>St Peter's offers a smaller, friendlier or intimate service</i>	8
<i>St Peter's Hospital would be good for check-ups, antenatal, postnatal</i>	7
<i>Unable to comment / don't know</i>	6
<i>St Peter's would relieve pressure or free up beds</i>	3
<i>St Peter's offers more choice</i>	2

Some comments received were not appropriate to this question (N=4). These comments have been extracted and moved to Question 7. You can find the full list of comments in Appendix 3.

### **3.1.5 Question 5.1: If you or a family member needed intermediate care or stroke rehabilitation, would you want this to be provided in Maldon? (N=1032)**

Constituents were asked if they or a family member needed intermediate care or stroke rehabilitation would they want it provided in Maldon. This was an open-ended question.

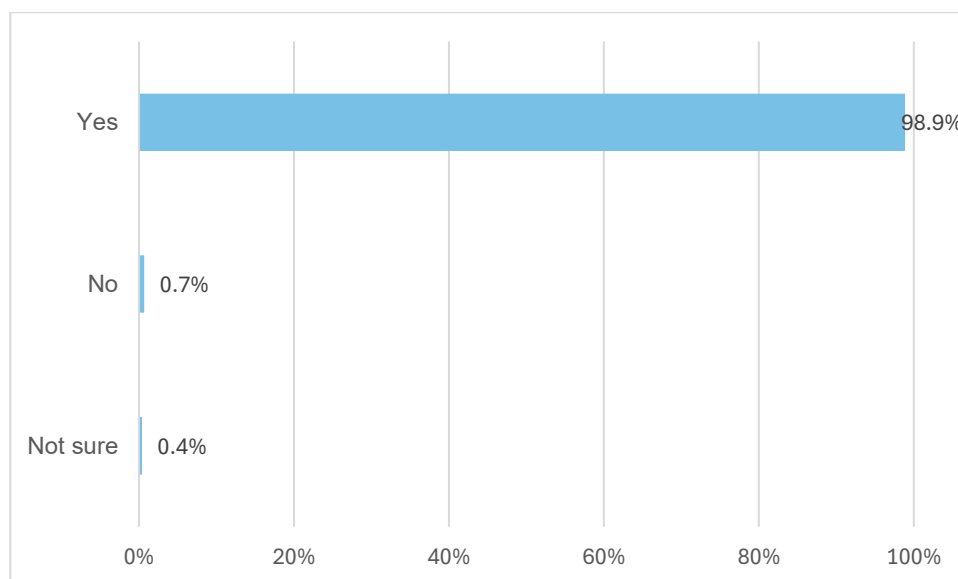
In total, 804 constituents responded with data that could be quantified in the below table and chart (Table 13, Figure 6).

Nearly all indicated that they would like intermediate care or stroke rehabilitation provided in Maldon (98.9%).

*Table 13: If you or a family member needed intermediate care or stroke rehabilitation, would you want this to be provided in Maldon? (N=804)*

	<b>No. of responses</b>	<b>% of responses</b>
Yes	798	98.9%
No	6	0.7%
Not sure	3	0.4%

Figure 6: If you or a family member needed intermediate care or stroke rehabilitation, would you want this to be provided in Maldon?



## vii.Question 5.2: Further comments

Respondents also provided comments to this question. These comments have been coded and broken down into the following areas. A total of 380 comments were received.

29 comments could not be themed and were therefore categorised as other. These comments can be found in Appendix 2.

### The importance of local services

In total, 154 comments addressed the importance of local services. A full list of the comments can be seen below (Table 14).

93 comments discuss how patients and / or visitors need local services, and how they will struggle to any of the other options.

*“...supporting the family member during Rehabilitation is important. I was able to visit every day. If this service had been moved, that would not have been the case.”*

*“Intermediate care/stroke rehabilitation should be available locally for ease of access and to avoid lengthy car journeys for patients and visitors alike.”*

24 comments address the need for services to be available in Maldon.

*“...for the physical and mental recovery of those who need this service, that they can have the support of family and friends! This is extremely difficult for those who now have to travel to Brentwood Hospital to visit their relatives and friends. It was a cruel and insensitive decision to move these services out of the area and shows a total lack of care and empathy for patients and visitors. These services should be returned to the Maldon district as a matter of urgency!”*



Table 14: If you or a family member needed intermediate care or stroke rehabilitation, would you want this to be provided in Maldon? (N=1032)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Local services needed for patients and visitors – some are unable or will struggle to get to the other options they are too far</i>	93
<i>Services need to be in Maldon – more convenient</i>	24
<i>Elderly need services to be local / St Peter's Hospital</i>	23
<i>Maldon is easier more accessible (including cost)</i>	7
<i>Need a local hospital for stroke emergencies – need to act quickly</i>	5
<i>Local services will reduce the carbon footprint / better for environment</i>	2

## Travel concerns

In total, 75 comments discussed concerns over travel. A full list of the comments can be seen below (Table 15).

21 comments discussed the impact of long car journeys.

*“I assume that such patients are likely to have limited mobility, and so local treatment is an advantage (psychologically as well as practically). Bussing over a long distance, especially on our local roads, is tiring.”*

Table 15: If you or a family member needed intermediate care or stroke rehabilitation, would you want this to be provided in Maldon? (N=1032)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Long car journeys / time spent in the car, including congestion is unacceptable - some people will struggle more than others e.g. stroke victims</i>	21
<i>Travelling anywhere else would be difficult or impossible. Services need to be accessible including cost and parking. Parking is terrible at the other options</i>	17
<i>The area has poor public transport – no train service</i>	10
<i>Stroke patients and some people with disabilities can't drive or get public transport elsewhere - discrimination / extended travel is difficult for them as well as expensive</i>	10
<i>Population in Maldon and surrounds requires services to be available, perhaps an additional hospital</i>	9

<i>Public transport from Dengie to anywhere other than Maldon is impossible. St Peter's Hospital serves the Dengie well</i>	8
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### Specific comments on stroke care

In total, 34 comments specifically addressed stroke care. A full list of the comments can be seen below (Table 16).

16 comments suggested that rehab or intermediate care should be in Maldon.

*“Rehabilitation not immediate care.”*

Table 16: If you or a family member needed intermediate care or stroke rehabilitation, would you want this to be provided in Maldon? (N=1032)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Constituents would want rehab and intermediate care in Maldon - not immediate</i>	16
<i>Stroke patients need familiar surroundings, their own community</i>	4
<i>Stroke services have already moved to Brentwood</i>	3
<i>It isn't possible for stroke services to be available everywhere but there should be a pathway and enough available beds</i>	3
<i>Inpatients may be expected to travel</i>	2
<i>Suggestion: care homes offering provision – even if it is temporary</i>	2
<i>Services should be available in Maldon for all Stroke care, including immediate</i>	2
<i>Can't rule out future need / not needed it so far</i>	2

### Support for St Peter's Hospital

In total, 32 comments showed support for St Peter's Hospital. A full list of the comments can be seen below (Table 17).

Respondents suggest that St Peter's stroke care should be reinstated and that is where they would like to receive treatment (13 comments).

*If I should need stroke or rehabilitation in the future, I would prefer this to be locally in St Peters.*

Table 17: If you or a family member needed intermediate care or stroke rehabilitation, would you want this to be provided in Maldon? (N=1032)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Rehabilitation at St Peter's Hospital needs to be reinstated – would want to receive care here as it is accessible</i>	13
<i>Praise for local, personal, caring highly skilled treatment at St Peter's hospital for stroke / TIA</i>	8
<i>To move the service elsewhere is unacceptable</i>	4
<i>Good parking at St Peter's Hospital</i>	3
<i>St Peter's Hospital is on a bus route</i>	2
<i>St Peter's Hospital offers a personal touch – others don't</i>	2

### The impact of moving services on quality of care

In total, 31 comments discussed the impact of moving services on quality of care. A full list of the comments can be seen below (Table 18).

Comments addressed the isolation and recovery of patients (12 comments).

*“There is no public transport directly to Brentwood from this area and a lot of relatives would be unable to visit their loved ones regularly. Family/friend visits to stroke patients are known to aid recovery. Patients would feel very isolated.”*

Table 18: If you or a family member needed intermediate care or stroke rehabilitation, would you want this to be provided in Maldon? (N=1032)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Patients feel isolated if they aren't local to home / recovery should be stress free not involve long distance travel</i>	12
<i>Further travel causes undue stress to family and carers</i>	11
<i>A requirement to address staffing, including the additional travel they are incurring – they may struggle with retention</i>	3
<i>There's currently a poor ambulance service</i>	3
<i>Some patients are at higher risk of stroke</i>	2

### Acceptable options and requirements

In total, 25 comments discussed acceptable options and what they would like to see happen. A full list of the comments can be seen below (Table 19).

Seven comments were satisfied with care in either Broomfield, Burnham, Billericay or the Dengie area.

*“Yes, or Broomfield.”*

Table 19: If you or a family member needed intermediate care or stroke rehabilitation, would you want this to be provided in Maldon? (N=1032)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Would be happy with Broomfield, Burnham, Billericay, Dengie area</i>	7
<i>If services or facilities were better / more modern elsewhere this would be satisfactory</i>	5
<i>Parking should be free with plenty available for staff and patients</i>	4
<i>A purpose-built facility or hospital should be built (as promised)</i>	3
<i>Services in Maldon are not essential</i>	3
<i>New site needs to be accessible</i>	3

Some comments received were not appropriate to this question (N=4). These comments have been extracted and moved to Question 7. You can find the full list of comments in Appendix 3.

### 3.1.6 Question 6.1: Should outpatient services continue to be made available on the St Peter’s site or could they be relocated to another repurposed site in the town? (N=995)

Constituents were asked if they thought outpatient services should continue to be made available on the St Peter’s site or could they be relocated to another repurposed site in the town. This was an open-ended question, with 858 constituents responding with data that could be quantified - as shown in the below table and chart (Table 20, Figure 7).

Over three in five respondents felt that outpatients should be made available on the St Peter's site (65.0%).

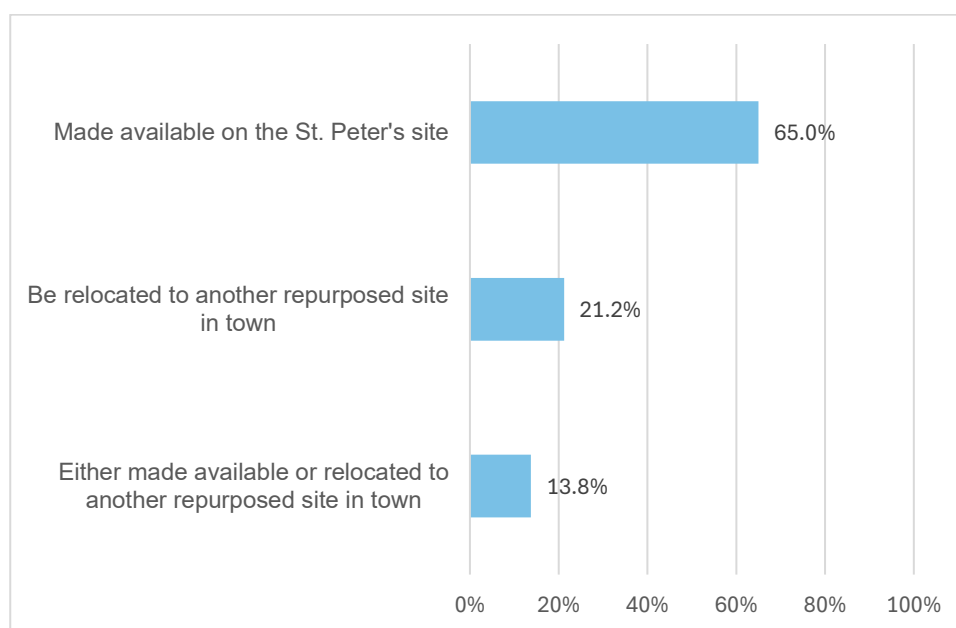
Over one in five indicated that outpatients should be relocated to a repurposed site in town (21.2%).

Table 20: Should outpatient services continue to be made available on the St Peter’s site or could they be relocated to another repurposed site in the town? (N=858)

	No. of responses	% of responses

<i>Made available on the St Peter's site</i>	<i>558</i>	<i>65.0%</i>
<i>Be relocated to another repurposed site in town</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>21.2%</i>
<i>Either made available or relocated to another repurposed site in town</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>13.8%</i>

Figure 7: Should outpatient services continue to be made available on the St Peter's site or could they be relocated to another repurposed site in the town?



#### viii.Question 6.2: Further comments

When constituents were asked about their preferred location for outpatients, 1240 additional comments were received. These comments have been coded and broken down into the following areas.

27 comments could not be themed and were therefore categorised as other. These comments can be found in Appendix 2.

##### **Support for St Peter's Hospital**

A total of 503 comments expressed support for continuing outpatient services at St Peter's Hospital. The table below shows the full list of themes (Table 21).

Respondents felt that the St Peter's site was central and easy to access with many mentioning the good transport links and parking (283 Comments).

*“On the St. Peters site as it is on a bus route with bus stops opposite and there is free parking available too. Car travel to St Peter's doesn't use up any of the town Centre parking that is often full now.”*

*“They should most definitely remain on the St. Peters site, as far as I can see there is no other suitable site within easy reach of the town centre, especially for anyone having to use the risible bus services.”*

*“Outpatient services should continue to be made available at St Peter's, which is easily accessible by public transport. Any relocation should only be considered if suitable public transport is available.”*

Table 21: Preferred location for outpatients (N=995)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>St Peter's Hospital is central location and already has good transport links and free parking - ease of access</i>	283
<i>Invest in St Peter's and bring it up to a modern standard (including expansion), repurposing costs money spend these funds on St. Peters saving the NHS funds in long-term</i>	60
<i>Can't think of a more suitable location than St Peter's – it's open and available, why move it?</i>	43
<i>St Peter's is a large site, and all services can be in one place – efficiency, economic, continuity of care</i>	40
<i>Elderly population and those with mobility issues will struggle to get anywhere else</i>	19
<i>St Peter's is a great site, with many having an emotional attachment. It signifies the history of the town. It is a historical building (main building) and must not be demolished main building</i>	16
<i>Don't know where else it could be relocated to / no alternative location offered</i>	14
<i>New site would be expensive and a waste of money when already have a site</i>	6
<i>New site will not be fit for purpose / it won't have the same services as St Peter's</i>	6
<i>Avoid further development costs including price of land - less upheaval / land is available St Peter's Hospital</i>	5
<i>St Peter's Hospital is not in a bad state / why relocate this site was purpose built?</i>	5
<i>St Peter's can support the growing population</i>	4
<i>St Peter's doesn't require parking in the town centre</i>	1

£18m isn't that much	1
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## The importance of local services

In total 236 comments discussed the importance of local services as shown in the table below (Table 22).

Respondents indicated the importance of having outpatients locally, either in the town or town centre. (226 comments).

*"I would like these services to be local at the current site or close by."*

*"It doesn't matter where, but it does need to be in Maldon."*

Table 22: Preferred location for outpatients (N=995)

Coding	No. of comments
Outpatients needs to be local, either in the town (Maldon) or the town centre	226
Elsewhere is too far (Broomfield, Braintree, Chelmsford)	8
People rely on local services	2

## Travel discussions

Respondents discussed travel in 191 comments as shown in the below table (Table 23).

Respondents also felt that outpatient services need to be accessible with good transport links and easy access to public transport (88 comments).

*"Far better to have services provided at the same site but if relocated parking/accessibility need to be paramount."*

The importance of available and free parking at a new site was also discussed (42 comments). With some respondents inferring that a new site will not be able to offer suitable parking (15 comments). A few respondents mentioned particular concerns over parking at Broomfield and Southend (3 comments).

*"They could be re-located to other sites in Maldon with similarly easy access by car or bus and with adequate parking"*

Table 23: Preferred location for outpatients (N=995)

Coding	No. of comments
Proposed site needs to be accessible with good transport links and public transport	88

<i>New site needs to have parking / free parking</i>	42
<i>Parking at the new site will be inadequate</i>	15
<i>Maldon has good public transport</i>	14
<i>Not enough town centre (Maldon) parking – usually at capacity</i>	12
<i>Poor public transport in the area</i>	6
<i>There will be a heavier reliance on cars, buses, taxis</i>	5
<i>Parking at Broomfield and Southend is particularly bad</i>	3
<i>Maldon is congested and a new site will cause more congestion</i>	3
<i>Proposed alternatives are not local or accessible relocating would incur longer travel and parking fees</i>	2
<i>Maldon (town centre) has good parking</i>	1

### Quality and continuity of care

Quality and continuity of care was discussed in 156 comments as shown in the below (Table 24).

38 comments discussed continuity of care in terms of keeping St Peter's until the new service is in operation.

*“They could be relocated to a new site within Maldon providing buses and location was still easy to get to. However St Peter's should stay until this new facility is built and transport routes and parking added.”*

Table 24: Preferred location for outpatients (N=995)

<b>Coding</b>	<b>No. of comments</b>
<i>St Peter's should stay until the new site is added / continuity of service is important.</i>	38
<i>The new site must have adequate facilities and services, be appropriate and an improvement – extended services such as OOH GP, WIC</i>	35
<i>A purpose-built building will be more cost effective and have better facilities – more economical</i>	23
<i>All services should be available on one site</i>	17



<i>Increase in population in the area (more houses) – lack of infrastructure and a need for more services</i>	14
<i>Broomfield lack capacity – long waiting lists</i>	6
<i>GPs are at crisis point in the area – difficult to get an appointment, this may get worse</i>	5
<i>The outpatient service is relied on and needs to continue – including the elderly population</i>	5
<i>Maldon has a growing older population</i>	3
<i>New build is preferred – with an increased capacity to include A&amp;E</i>	3
<i>Maldon will lose services – with outpatient services being moved to hospitals</i>	3
<i>Moving sites / services is not acceptable</i>	2
<i>Phased transition from the old building to a new building</i>	2

### Concerns and recommendations for St Peter's Hospital

A total of 73 comments addressed concerns and recommendations for St Peter's Hospital with the full list of themes shown below (Table 25)

26 comments indicated that St Peter's is now not fit for purpose or will cost too much to bring it up to standard.

*“St Peters is showing its age. “Repurposed” sites should be much more modern.”*

A few comments from respondents expressed concern over parking at St Peter's (4 comments).

*“I would prefer the existing St Peter's site although some more parking at the site would be handy for those coming from the Dengie.”*

Table 25: Preferred location for outpatients (N=995)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>St Peter's Hospital is not fit for purpose or will cost too much to bring it up to standard</i>	26
<i>St Peter's shouldn't have been neglected and allowed to deteriorate</i>	19
<i>Selling some or all the land would provide the funds for a purpose-built site</i>	10

<i>Re-build new on the same site – lots of space</i>	10
<i>More parking is required at St Peter's Hospital</i>	4
<i>Demolish the older buildings at the back</i>	4

## Communication and transparency

A total of 36 comments were received in terms of communication and transparency as shown in Table 26.

22 comments discussed doubts about finding a suitable hospital.

*“Yes as I doubt a good site could be made available given parking and it would surely involve staff travel with increased costs and logistic issues.”*

Though fewer respondents discussed this issue, a common theme was the lack of faith and trust in the local NHS services with the majority of the comments discussed within the remit of communication and transparency (see highlighted rows in Table 21, 25, 26 & 27). Some of the discussions covered respondents' doubts about finding, keeping, and accessing an appropriate site, broken promises about a new hospital, the deterioration of St Peter's, a lack of awareness and information sharing about the consultation, and financial implications such as the cost to improve St Peter's Hospital (61 comments).

Table 26: Preferred location for outpatients (N=995)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Doubts about moving to another appropriate site in town or a new build option – there's a lack of trust as the new hospital didn't happen</i>	22
<i>What are the options?</i>	4
<i>Re-purposed building could be a temporary option and the service may be removed in the future</i>	3
<i>Lack of information has been shared about the consultation</i>	1
<i>Many promises, but they don't happen</i>	1
<i>Ask staff if St Peter's is suitable</i>	1
<i>NHS want to sell the land for housing to make money. What will happen with the money?</i>	1
<i>...as long as it happens</i>	1
<i>Could be relocated but those in authority should already have planned a solution.</i>	1

<i>Belief that an initial move in to town will lead to an eventual move out of town</i>	1
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### Further recommendations

Respondents provided further recommendations in 18 comments as seen in Table 27.

Six comments suggested that the costs and benefits of a new site need to be weighed up.

*“Potentially relocated, but the benefits vs cost/investment would need to be clearly understood.”*

Table 27: Preferred location for outpatients (N=995)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Costs / benefits should be weighed up on keeping St Peter's and a new site</i>	6
<i>Use unused buildings in the town initially – ideally all under one roof</i>	6
<i>Option suggested: Council offices (need major changes),</i>	3
<i>Need our own hospital – as promised</i>	3

Some comments received were not appropriate to this question (N=5). These comments have been extracted and moved to Question 7. You can find the full list of comments in Appendix 3.

### 3.1.7 Question 7: Would you like to add any further comments? (N=1102)

Constituents were asked if they had any other comments. We have also included the comments from the other questions that were more appropriate here (41 comments). Please note if the comments included from the previous questions are also repeated in this question, we have only included them once.

A total, 1223 comments have been coded and the full list of themes can be found in the following tables.

69 comments could not be themed and were therefore categorised as other. These comments can be found in Appendix 2.

### St Peter's Hospital

In total, 444 comments discussed St Peter's Hospital. The full list of themes can be seen in the following table (Table 28 ).

Constituent's opinion is that St Peter's Hospital has been deliberately run down with a lack of finance. They believe this should never have occurred (89 comments).

*“St Peter's has been deliberately run down by the NHS, the people of Maldon deserve better.”*

*“I know that the building needs money spent on it (although it begs the question how has it become so run down), but moving services and finding and fitting out new sites will also be expensive. It seems just too good a resource to abandon.”*

Respondents feel that St. Peters should be either refurbished or redeveloped and brought up to standard (48 comments).

*“The main Victorian building is sound. it might need replumbing, decorating etc. the outbuildings at the rear of the main building should be demolished, as they're falling apart. New buildings can be built where they were, so providing up to date facilities.”*

Table 28: Other comments (N=1102)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>St Peter's has been deliberately run down (a lack of funding) and left to deteriorate – this shouldn't have happened they should have spent money</i>	89
<i>Invest - refurbish, refresh or redevelop St Peter's - bring up standard, potentially find temporary site until the permanent site is ready - other options will also be expensive</i>	48
<i>Keep St Peter's Hospital open - it is vital that you fight for us</i>	45
<i>St Peter's Hospital is needed and serves the community well – retain services</i>	38
<i>Maldon is getting bigger and specifically needs St. Peters and more services to support the growth, not a reduction</i>	37
<i>The building is beautiful and made to last, it is historic and is a part of the community - should be a listed building</i>	28
<i>Closure will mean access to services will be more difficult - not possible for those that lack transport or the elderly</i>	20
<i>Closing St Peter's doesn't make sense – short sighted</i>	18
<i>Demolish and rebuild – either all or just the outbuildings, there's plenty of land</i>	18

<i>The loss of St Peter's Hospital will impact service provision – it will get worse with longer waiting lists and reduced efficiency</i>	18
<i>Previous experience of St Peter's - excellent</i>	13
<i>If sold - ensure funds from the sale for medical needs of those in Maldon - replacement / local NHS trust - no guarantee of this</i>	11
<i>St Peter's is easy to access – minimises time out of work</i>	10
<i>The location of St. Peters is important to Maldon residents</i>	9
<i>St Peter's is a great hospital – still fit for purpose</i>	8
<i>Public transport to St Peter's is good - easily accessible</i>	7
<i>Maternity - St. Peters amazing, best in area - personal service</i>	7
<i>St Peter's lack of funding and support - government are to blame</i>	7
<i>Ensure there's a replacement in place before shutting St Peter's</i>	6
<i>Parking is easy at St Peter's</i>	5
<i>Staff have been moved out of St. Peters – maternity</i>	2

## Concerns with travel

In total, 250 comments discussed concerns with travel. The full list of themes can be seen in the following table (Table 29).

Concerns were raised over poor transport to other hospitals or locations (79 comments).

*“I think more services are needed in the area, not less. Traffic on a12, waiting lists and parking issues at Broomfield makes the closure of services in Maldon nonsensical. The hospital should be upgraded not demolished. I assume the building will be given to greedy developers for yet more housing which will place even more pressure on overloaded roads and public services. I think Braintree is too far away, especially for non drivers as bus services are limited, unreliable and expensive.”*

*“The ICB survey indicated the distance from Maldon to the new sites for services, it does not include the additional journey times from Burnham and the Dengie villages or the infrequent public transport and connections. it is highly unlikely appointment times will take into account the difficulties encountered when utilising public transport to these more distant sites.”*

The retention of services in the area was also addressed, suggesting that services need to be accessible as the area is rural and isolated (39 comments).

*“We are isolated here by poor transport links that are only getting worse. We need to bring more services local with the influx of people - everyone can see that.”*

Table 29: Other comments (N=1102)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Poor public transport to other hospitals/ locations – will be a struggle for those who don't drive</i>	79
<i>It is too far to all the other hospitals / locations (Chelmsford, Colchester, Braintree, Brentwood, Broomfield – the sick shouldn't be expected to travel</i>	68
<i>Retain services in the area - they need to stay in Maldon and be accessible – it is rural and isolated</i>	39
<i>Parking at other locations including Broomfield is poor</i>	19
<i>Further travel comes with additional costs</i>	15
<i>Further travel has an environmental impact</i>	12
<i>Taxis are too expensive to other hospitals</i>	10
<i>Maldon is too far for some (Dengie residents)</i>	6
<i>Community transport is possible - not regular</i>	2

## Importance of local services

In total, 213 comments discussed the importance of local services. The full list of themes can be seen in the following table (Table 30).

Respondents were concerned about the population increase in the area and the lack of additional services to support this (82 comments).

*“...Do any of the hospital trust executives live in Maldon? And use NHS, as opposed to Private medical services. Are they aware of the population growth of the Maldon and surrounding villages...”*

*“The residents of Maldon have seen enormous changes to the little town over recent years and all without sufficient investment in the infrastructure. The health facilities are already stretched beyond imagination - try getting a GP appointment. To have existing services removed is wholly unacceptable and a decision not being taken with the best interests of the people of Maldon at its heart. Maldon is no longer a quaint little Essex town. It is a sprawling conurbation and at the very least deserves a health service at local level.”*

Table 30: Other comments (N=1102)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Maldon / Dengie areas are getting bigger and the population is increasing – there's a need for local services</i>	82
<i>It is irresponsible to remove vital services that can be treated locally further afield, there's a need for more services - this doesn't help health and is devastating to the local community, could be life or death for some</i>	43
<i>Elderly and other vulnerable people rely on a local service or St Peter's – they would struggle to travel elsewhere</i>	34
<i>There's a lack of access to GPs in the area - a local service would help / removing the service will make it worse</i>	25
<i>There will be more road congestion caused due to service move</i>	20
<i>Visits will be impossible especially for the elderly</i>	6
<i>It's essential that mental health support (Cherry Tree) is local -it can mean life or death</i>	3

## Communication and transparency

In total, 150 comments discussed communication and transparency. The full list of themes can be seen in the following table (Table 31).

Conversations and promises were made about a new hospital and medical facility to no avail (40 comments).

*“Years ago there were plans on displayed for a new hospital at that location with the new buildings being built behind the current ones before the old was demolished. I also understand that the money had been put aside. What happened to that?”*

It is important to note that some conversations highlight a lack of faith and trust in the local NHS (see highlighted rows in Table 28 and Table 29). These discussions focus on the lack of two-way communication, the perception that decisions are already made, as well as the financial implications of refurbishment (223 comments).

Table 31: Other comments (N=1102)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Conversations and promises over a new hospital / medical facility - one is needed</i>	40

<i>You don't listen, you need to listen to our views, we have a vote</i>	26
<i>Thanks for listening to our views</i>	19
<i>ICB want to sell the site / cost saving exercise – so need it closed</i>	13
<i>It's a done deal</i>	13
<i>This is a long-standing discussion – no solution</i>	8
<i>Need to be more transparent / honest - all of the costs, options, travel time</i>	6
<i>Where is the money that was set aside for the new hospital? £20m makes refurb viable</i>	5
<i>Should have consulted users before making decisions</i>	5
<i>Where did the £18m figure come from? Did you get estimates or use an independent consultant</i>	4
<i>More communication would have been appropriate to make people aware – such as the elderly and less technical</i>	3
<i>St. Peters isn't the only hospital that needs investment</i>	3
<i>What are the options - where do you propose and when do you propose to make the changes / consultation survey not clear</i>	3
<i>Misled that the changes are temporary</i>	2

## Quality of care

In total, 96 comments discussed quality of care. The full list of themes can be seen in the following table (Table 32).

26 comments noted capacity levels at other hospitals.

*“It is very difficult for some people to travel further afield with Braintree in particular being too far and not readily accessible by public transport. The services provided at St Peters would be greatly missed and surely they take up many appointments from Broomfield which is already seriously overstretched.”*

Table 32: Other comments (N=1102)

Coding	No. of comments
<i>Other hospitals (including Broomfield) are overcrowded, overcapacity - local treatment would reduce the load</i>	26



<i>Maldon needs a new hospital to support the population growth</i>	12
<i>Currently waiting times are long, and service is lacking in the area</i>	11
<i>Population is increasing in areas surrounding Maldon too</i>	10
<i>A&amp;E is needed</i>	8
<i>Crematorium has been built</i>	5
<i>Minor injury unit and WIC needed in Maldon</i>	10
<i>Hospital transport not available for Maldon residents / very unreliable / costly for NHS</i>	4
<i>ICB want to replace services in inappropriate and inadequate premises</i>	4
<i>We don't need more houses or flats</i>	4
<i>Maternity unit is needed</i>	3

## 4 Summary of findings

In summary, feedback emphasised the following factors as important:

### **Awareness and communication**

Nearly all respondents (92.8%) were aware of the proposal to close the existing maternity, stroke, and outpatient facilities at St Peter's Hospital, awareness was mostly through various unofficial channels like local press, social media, banners, or word of mouth (13 comments). Seven respondents found out through Sir John or this survey.

### **Usage and service preferences**

A significant portion of respondents (59.1%) indicated that they or a family member use St Peter's services every three to six months, with 80.5% using the hospital regularly. Blood tests were the most frequently mentioned service (625 comments), followed by rehabilitation (259 comments), scans / X-rays (257 comments), and maternity services (240 comments). Many respondents (20.0%) walk to St Peter's Hospital, underscoring its convenience.

### **Support for continuing services**

A majority of comments (486) emphasised the importance of continuing all services in Maldon. Specifically, blood tests (279 comments), maternity services (243 comments, 85.9%), the stroke ward (172 comments, 98.9%), scans/X-rays (156 comments), outpatients (144 comments), and rehabilitation/physiotherapy (86 comments) were highlighted. Respondents cited ease of access, convenience, proximity to bus routes, and walking distance as key reasons (362 comments). Many also noted the growing population in Maldon and the need for more, not fewer, services (265 comments).

### **Transport and parking concerns**

Public transport and parking were significant concerns. Respondents worried about the difficulty of travelling to other hospitals (379 comments) and the adequacy of parking at alternative locations (163 comments). Specific concerns about parking at Broomfield and Southend were mentioned (19 comments). The importance of maintaining accessible outpatient services with good transport links in the town or town centre was stressed (314 comments), along with the need for free and adequate parking at any new site (42 comments).

### **Future of St Peter's Hospital**

Many respondents (108 comments) felt that St Peter's had been deliberately neglected and believed this should never have happened. They advocated for investing, refurbishing or redeveloping the hospital (108 comments). There were also worries about the area's rural isolation and the necessity of keeping services local (590 comments).

### **Issues of trust in local NHS leaders**

Despite fewer comments, a recurring theme is a lack of faith and trust in the local NHS leaders. Key concerns include doubts about finding and accessing a suitable site, broken promises about a new hospital, the deterioration of St Peter's, poor information sharing about the consultation, and the costs associated with getting St Peter's up to standard as

well as the affordability element. Additional discussions emphasise the lack of two-way communication and the perception that decisions are predetermined (290 comments).

## 5 Next steps

This report is included as an appendix to Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board's draft public consultation report. Its findings have been considered in the analysis of consultation activities.

The draft report will be published on 10 July 2024 and presented to Mid & South Essex Integrated Care Board at its Board Meeting in Chelmsford on 11 July 2024.

Local people will have until Wednesday 31 July 2024 to give any further comments on the draft feedback via the consultation team.

The final report will be passed to Mid & South Essex ICB to publish. Its outputs will inform a decision-making business case that will be reviewed by NHS England. The report will be considered by board members as they make decisions on:

- The organisation of stroke rehabilitation and intermediate care community hospital inpatient beds
- Whether or not to permanently locate the midwife-led birthing unit in Mid and South Essex at the WJC Birthing Centre at Braintree Community Hospital
- Continuing to pay for services to be provided on the St Peter's Hospital site, or to pay for those services to be provided in alternative locations in the future.

The date of the meeting that will consider these matters will be announced in due course.

## 6 Appendices

### Appendix 1 – Survey Questions

Questions were shared as open responses:

1. Are you aware of the proposal to close the existing maternity, stroke and outpatient facilities at St Peter's Hospital? Yes/No
2. How often have you or your family members utilized services at St Peter's Hospital? And how?
3. Which services should continue to be provided in Maldon? Do you have any comment on the reason for your answer.
4. If you or a member of your family needed maternity services, would you wish to use a midwife-led unit in Maldon? Yes/No
5. If you or a family member needed intermediate care or stroke rehabilitation, would you want this to be provided in Maldon? Yes/No
6. Should outpatient services continue to be made available on the St Peter's site or could they be relocated to another repurposed site in the town?
7. Would you like to add any further comments?

### Appendix 2 – Other comments

During the analysis some comments could not be themed and were categorised as other. Below are the comments received per question.

Question 1.2 - Awareness
<i>"I know the Maternity unit has closed but not the stroke &amp; outpatients..."</i>

Question 2.3 - Services
<i>"...endocrine appointments in St. Peters."</i>
<i>"...health checks."</i>
<i>"...gynaecology."</i>
<i>"... referrals from our GP."</i>

Question 3.1 – Which services should continue in Maldon?
<i>"...general health checks."</i>
<i>"...and 24h pharmacy added."</i>

Question 3.1 – Which services should continue in Maldon?
<i>“...Gastroenterology...”</i>
<i>“...gyno screening.”</i>
<i>“Path lab...”</i>
<i>“A full range of clinics and wards, similar to that provided at Orsett Hospital for example (where 2 weeks ago I had to travel to for a CT Scan)”</i>
<i>“...&amp; frailty.”</i>

Question 3.2 - Which services should continue to be provided in Maldon? Do you have any comment on the reason for your answer.
<i>“In our hometown of Burnham on Crouch for example, the mainly Maternity Support Services (Cottage Hospital Style) Nursing Home has long been closed, the Burnham Clinic building seems to be in the process of systematically and cynically being run down. The Burnham Clinic used to provide a really wide range of services to all ages to back up GPs and take weight off their Surgeries and as you’ll be aware there’s even an opportunistic threat to move the single Surgery out of town which would be a further body blow to the elderly, carless and those with young children alike.”</i>
<i>“...Maldon is not especially convenient for me – too far to walk (10 miles) parking is virtually impossible...”</i>
<i>“All the current services should be provided on site, even if it means some of them being housed within portacabin/temporary buildings whilst a new facility is built on the same site.”</i>
<i>“...These could all be provided on a Health Hub, Maternity Unit and small inpatient department.”</i>
<i>“...also having cancer services in Maldon would vastly improve quality of life for patients...”</i>
<i>“...The new facility should be fully operational before the current hospital is closed...”</i>
<i>“Outpatients, including blood tests, stroke rehab, minor medical procedures. Because these don’t need to be centralised.”</i>
<i>“Have these services on the ground floor so there is no need for the lift to be accessed.”</i>
<i>“Cochrane evidence shows this [visiting], this is the gold standard of medical research.”</i>
<i>“They should also consider reopening the cafe that used to be there and look in to some social engagements for the community my late Nan used to love these!!”</i>

<b>Question 4.2 - If you or a member of your family needed maternity services, would you wish to use a midwife-led unit in Maldon? Other comments received</b>
<i>"I accept this has to be under constant review because of falling numbers AT THE MOMENT. Could that changed with all the new housing."</i>
<i>"No lack of trust in service."</i>
<i>"The midwives can be based in the community in a similar fashion to the District Nurses. Does there have to be a community hospital to provide this service?"</i>
<i>"No is better for locals to go to Chelmsford or Basildon who are better equipped."</i>
<i>"No we would prefer one in Burnham."</i>
<i>"Unlikely but yes"</i>

<b>Question 5.2 - If you or a family member needed intermediate care or stroke rehabilitation, would you want this to be provided in Maldon?? Other comments received</b>
<i>"...not necessarily for intermediate."</i>
<i>"...but yes if it cuts the wait time."</i>
<i>"...but would accept that the maternity and outpatient services might take priority if only they could be saved."</i>
<i>"...initially Once it has been assessed patients could possibly be taken elsewhere."</i>
<i>"...I needed rehabilitation after a brain injury and wasn't offered anywhere close enough ended up getting poor service from a general hospital."</i>
<i>"...as I understand that only a few beds at ST Peters were for Maldon District residents..."</i>
<i>"...I sincerely hope this is not a reduction in care very costly and often leads to bed blocking and greater ambulance waiting times."</i>
<i>"But 13 years of Tory rule has decimated the public sector and we no longer have options on where we get rehabilitation, as with many of the real experiences those who cannot afford to buy into the private sector experience."</i>
<i>"Why would we choose to travel further afield to an even busier hospital?"</i>
<i>"...Perhaps not wise having it [stroke care] on the top floor though ☺"</i>
<i>"Yes - the same applies to cardiac rehab."</i>
<i>"Yes and COPD rehabilitation (provide)."</i>

<i>"As mentioned, our friend's recent experience has shown that there is a big gap in the eastern region for adequate support for stroke victims."</i>
<i>"...but in my opinion St Pater's is no longer fit for purpose and has been stated is very expensive to keep open, but a facility like Braintree may be appropriate."</i>
<i>"Yes - I am having to travel to Braintree."</i>
<i>"...or some distance from Maldon, it is likely that longer stays would be necessary in order to help the patient to return to their home (maybe with assistance) in Maldon."</i>
<i>"Yes - it is vital to the speedy recovery of patients."</i>
<i>"Yes if I am still living locally."</i>
<i>"Having a service just put in one location for most of the county feels like a backward step and not forward thinking. The NHS are not planning...The government are partly responsible for this and need to stop the excessive spending on HS2 and put more of that money in the NHS and schools."</i>
<i>"changing location could hinder the patients rate of recovery."</i>
<i>" yes (as appropriate to where they are living!)"</i>
<i>"It I can understand that to provide 24/7 inpatient care could be expensive in St Peters or elsewhere in Maldon..."</i>
<i>" i can't understand why you would even ask the question....."</i>
<i>"Was pleased to be able to visit my Nan under these circumstances."</i>
<i>"...we've used this in the years past."</i>
<i>"...this would have been very useful when my mother had the TIA'S."</i>
<i>"...I am sure the service could be updated, if needed to be, to produce excellent care."</i>
<i>"...if non in SWF."</i>
<i>"Time spent travelling and wasting in an ambulance can lead to incurable/untreatable consequences."</i>

<b>Question 6.2 - Should outpatient services continue to be made available on the St Peter's site or could they be relocated to another repurposed site in the town?</b>
<i>"...Unfortunately, any other site would then give more reason to close St Peters for everything else...."</i>
<i>"...potentially with clinicians moving between them (like the private sector does)."</i>
<i>"not as existing."</i>



<i>"We pay for this service in our taxes and rates."</i>
<i>"If this was to a retirement homes provider who are looking for space in Maldon it might be that they could also use the top floor to provide additional facilities. to support Care system. There should be a one way system in the Hospital using Spital road as the entrance and access to London Road on leaving."</i>
<i>"the site has plenty of space to redevelop suitable premises and still probably have acres left over for housing."</i>
<i>"Car travel to St.Peters doesn't use up any of the town Centre parking that is often full now"</i>
<i>"No Maldon is central for the Dengie otherwise we have to travel over an hour for appointments that can be handled more locally and for those that don't drive the public transport is a nightmare."</i>
<i>"it seems to still offer a more personal experience when you attend it, as opposed to Broomfield where you feel you are just a number..."</i>
<i>"What would the site be used for instead - more housing? That means more people needing these services."</i>
<i>"8 million seems like a drop in the ocean in relative terms. Without a doubt it will be realised Maldon needs its own hospital in the next few years and what then? we will be looking at something in the realms of 500 million pounds..."</i>
<i>"and given the negative experience of new medical centres such as Crouch Vale, why would anyone believe that alternative facilities would either appear or be an improvement?"</i>
<i>"What Maldon needs is 2 community hospitals like the Braintree Community Hospital."</i>
<i>"I was led to believe that a site had been identified within the Knowle Farm area close to Morrisons supermarket."</i>
<i>"as I doubt a good site could be made available given parking and it would surely involve staff travel with increased costs and logistic issues"</i>
<i>"There needs to be a sustainable long term plan not one that is 'cobbled together' to quell public concern."</i>
<i>"Could be moved to new enhanced GP surgery or elsewhere."</i>
<i>"Witham? Somewhere with better links to faster roads."</i>
<i>"I myself had some of my oncology appointments at St Peter's at a time when travelling long distances was not good for me as I was already extremely tired. Moving the outpatients to another Maldon location would be acceptable to me. I am totally against moving them further away."</i>

<i>"Mundon or Maldon town or Heybridge."</i>
<i>"Handley Gardens??..."</i>
<i>"Have modular units (porta cabins) been considered within the grounds? These are widely used within the NHS. What are the plans for the St Peters site? Who are the land owners?..."</i>
<i>"Even the possibility of using MDC offices is not suitable as it is too far from a bus stop."</i>
<i>"South Woodham Ferrers would also be a good option for drivers."</i>
<i>"The government are failing the people of this area."</i>
<i>"it's more a concern that Maldon would lose these services particularly as bearing in mind the new housing &amp; a growing population."</i>
<i>"I urge you to press for a removal of these plans."</i>

<b>Question 7.1 – Other comments</b>
<i>"... I live in Bradwell on Sea and was lucky enough to have a midwife led birth at this hospital; my other two children were consultant led births at Broomfield and St John's in Chelmsford before it closed...so if this proposal came in to effect you'd be seeing many more babies being born on the side of the A12!"</i>
<i>"Last year, an elderly Southminster relative was hospitalised and, following extensive treatment at Broomfield, needed support in a rehabilitation unit. The only available bed was in Halstead. This was an incredibly challenging situation for both the patient and relatives in the Dengie who could not visit or provide support. Local capacity would avoid these stresses. I understand that the ICB reckons it will take £18m to bring St Peters up to scratch. This is less than 1% of their total operating budget. Assuming the spend is over multiple years, this is nothing more than a rounding error...Finally, can I please take this opportunity to implore you to ensure the British Government is doing everything it can to seek resolution to the desperate situations in Gaza and Ukraine, where healthcare needs are far more acute than those in Maldon!"</i>
<i>"South Woodham Ferrers now has a large Doctors or clinic, about time as this is a large town too."</i>
<i>"I am sure that you are aware of the strong feelings in Burnham on Crouch regarding any relocation of the surgery."</i>
<i>"In the past developers have expressed interest in building a new community hospital in exchange for the StPeters site if they were made to build the facility first this could work but knowing how builders renegrade this would have to be enforced."</i>
<i>"Why isn't the NHS properly funded? It's like defence spending. We know we are going to need it, and soon, but when Russia is marching up the high street it's too late."</i>

<i>Unfortunately what is needed is an increase in Tax. Don't worry politicians eventually do the right thing once they have exhausted every other possibility."</i>
<i>"It would have been prudent to ask users of the facilities if they wanted St Peter's to be part of an investment plan, to improve the facilities."</i>
<i>"The convenience of the Trust and medics should be ignored. Look at Dorset provision for a sensible central and local provision."</i>
<i>"We would like to see ..., screening centres, minor op and cottage hospital/recuperation centres introduced."</i>
<i>"Making a centre of excellence is a good idea as it makes best use of resources, however, that centre of excellence needs to have adequate parking and transport to help those who attend there. ..."</i>
<i>"People need urgent care quick what is death rate due to delays in getting care be it pregnancy or anything else."</i>
<i>"it would be appropriate to move the services temporarily elsewhere in the town while that is completed."</i>
<i>"A lot of redundant building on that site..."</i>
<i>"BUT you could sell the main building and the ramshackle chapel to a private developer to turn into flats with, perhaps, access from Wellington Road, and parking for the flats only...."</i>
<i>"Look at Google Maps there is an extremely large area from the road to the rear of the main building on which you could put a (perhaps) 2 storey building and parking. I think the gates onto the main road need changing - they are not wide enough now. I don't care if they are historic, they are just not practical."</i>
<i>"I would like to propose, investors to establish a private clinic, with a part used for NHS."</i>
<i>"the Emporium in the High Street is still awaiting someone to take over the premises..."</i>
<i>"Whipps Cross hospital built in the 1850s like St Peter's. They kept the original building and cleared all the old buildings behind it replacing it with a several storied modern building. It works fine and the same should be done to St. Peter's - keep the old original building..."</i>
<i>"Couldn't the council offices be converted to become the new so-called hub right in the centre of Maldon. It seems to be a similar size to Danbury or South Woodham."</i>
<i>"I don't know if the following information will help you regarding St Peter's but Berwick Infirmary was in the same situation. The old hospital has been demolished and a new hospital is being built on the old town centre site. The full history is available on Google ... I searched for New hospital for Berwick and noted so many similarities with the situation at St Peter's.  The Conservative M P was heavily involved at all stages. The site was cleared. Architectural plans are on line . Funding was found."</i>

<i>Maybe the Berwick MP could make a contribution to the proceedings. No doubt you have your own ideas and are exploring a range of options. I had recent experience of a clinic visit with my husband who has dementia and found it very stressful. A complete overhaul is needed."</i>
<i>"Why isn't CVMC used for similar outpatient services and minor injuries?"</i>
<i>"It also serves to keep medical professionals local, recruitment has been an issue for some time. To fulfil the positions of a decent staffing pool and the needs of the community it serves to keep nurses and doctors local and enables them to have a better work life balance."</i>
<i>"New buildings will not make a success of any service viz Danbury Medical Centre fiasco. NHS Staff need to be invested in the services provided for their community and to the wider area not merely fulfilling a business plan St Peters has had this and managed to maintain through years of neglect."</i>
<i>"We need to protect our NHS services so that all can receive them that's why we pay our national insurance to receive care that is on the locality of where we live not miles away."</i>
<i>"we need to relocated services before we shut st peter .they can use some of the empty shop or bank in the high street."</i>
<i>"This closure is ...and is required solely to save money for the benefit of the governments illegal migrants project."</i>
<i>"It's about time we stopped having massive hospitals and went back to having hospitals for convalescence and having clinic facilities."</i>
<i>" was turned away at the recent meeting so have been unable to have my say on the matter."</i>
<i>"Unfortunately due to a lack of pressure from the local MP since 1992, even though they were aware all the way through of structural problems with St peters, nothing has ever been brought to the house. Therefore this district has had no chance of appealing to the government for financial aid in restructuring St peters since 1992. The choice to vote against community hospitals on at least 2 occasions has also backfired in the wrong direction. This district requires an MP who is willing to fight hard and just, even with his own party, if need be to get the right results for the people of this town. I call for the MP for Maldon to relinquish his seat at the next General election."</i>
<i>"I know that the building can't be preserved because all workhouses were designed the same and many have been turned into flats, so they look the same from outside but I like to think that Maldon's workhouse should still be a public space, providing care."</i>
<i>"Over the years all the Hospital services that were available in Chelmsford Town have disappeared resulting in longer travel time for Hospital services."</i>
<i>"Business studies have shown that the larger centralised sites become the more inefficient they get. Smaller local facilities are better in every sense."</i>

*"his government, are walking all over people of this Country. This country, has major issues, our children are being housed in shipping containers...We are being over run, by people being allowed to come into our country, being housed before our own, free furniture, cars & money, behind the scenes their is an army coming together, ready to harm us. All, those in parliament are forever arguing amongst themselves, while this is happening, but, that is ok, you all concentrate on making our lives worse by closing down, a hospital that makes our lives easier by being there. One more thing, what was the point of this survey, when the hospital has already been sold?"*

*"Thank you for your update on St Peter's future, it is most welcome. Whilst not answering all of your questions directly there is one important element that is not mentioned here or anywhere else, I have seen. When the original plans for Broomfield were announced, St Peters and St Micheals were to be given the same status i.e. emergency services and modern rebuild on site or nearby. Once again, the authorities have gone back on their word. I would think that in view of the original consultations and assurances Maldon should have at least the same services as Braintree. The Maldon project has obviously been allowed to drag and the redevelopment of the site appears to be a way of raising capital receipts at the expense of services. .... It would be very easy to become political on the topic but I fear we have moved passed that point. I have no doubt however that this matter will feature heavily in any upcoming election..."*

*" The whole corrupt and failing system needs to be sorted out and updated and funds to be given to the local NHS and schools and roads instead of piling tax payers money into war and politicians pockets and bankers and the higher powers that be. T... and not trying to squeeze everyone and everything making people choose between food and heating and causing massive divides. We need to go back to basics and learn about love, peace, sharing, nurturing and giving. How to grow our own food at home and free energy etc."*

*"Has it been considered the economic impact in the area to the local shops and cafes bars ect. A good example of this is the closure of Rochford Hospital."*

*"There used to be a MIND service at St Peter's, I don't think it is there any more and was sorry to hear it had gone."*

*" Incompetent ICB should be dismissed. They draw huge salary and make a mess of everything, they don't seem to have any commonsense."*

*"If the St Peter's site is sold then I fail to see how any Contract for Sale can't provide for the purchaser, with no wriggle room (need to substantially build the new building, or secure another existing building, before allowed to break ground to build on the St Peter's site) to build/provide another 'Hospital Hub' within the area. Want the site, which will be lucrative for them, then make them build a Hospital Hub to replace St. Peter's."*

*"Currently we have ambulances visiting from areas on the other side of the mid Essex area to support current demand this then deprives other areas of services. Should Bradwell B be developed in the future this could be part of the Magnox/NRS development funding as the area will need lots of both infrastructure and local economic development. The housing and employments benefits would attract lots of new business and generate a revival of the level 1 area that is overlooked by Essex County council as they do not deem it a Level 1 area."*

*"Other comments are that the place is like a workhouse and it's not important to me that they have to stay in one place. Maternity and stroke services don't need to be together for example A lot of rehab is provided by."*

*" I have voted conservative all my life but I'm struggling to know what to do these days.*

*With so much money being sucked up by so few leaving many many people unable to afford their rent let alone own their own homes . And with scandal after scandal like dear conservative Baroness Moan potentially making 60 million out of a 210 million pound deal is just to depressing for words.*

*That and many other greedy scandals over the years suggest that integrity has left the room and the same applies to labour as well . We should not be cutting tax or Ni , if there is any spare cash it should go back to public services .*

*Maldon district council are still operating a lot of staff from home , wrong . The customer service experience suffers.*

*When i left school in 1983 their was over 3 million unemployed and Good old Maggy was doing her best to modernise the uk economy . Mostly for the best but not all ,but she believed in hard work and good house keeping. Which is the philosophy i have followed.*

*I worked hard and got ahead of the game and with good money management and lots of luck i have come out right way up and with a pension. Most people can't keep up with me at work and play and are not going to get where they need to be when it's time to retire .*

*The boss of Persimmon's homes wanted*

*100 million for his golden hand shake . It got reduced to 70 something million by the share holders . That hundred million could have built alot of reduced price houses !!*

*No one individual is worth 100 million . We must start to reverse this trend of excessive greed . The 2 things that come out in conversation when I'm mixing with people is how are our kids ever going to leave home and what happens about our healthcare.*

*The back bone of this country the solid working men and women should not be treated as a commodity by the wealthy few to make them even wealthier.*

*I see that the 2% Ni cut is going ahead so so wrong .*

*Regards a very wavering Conservative voter , I think the only hope the conservatives have is Starmer is short of personality and any decent ideas , my Son and his friends feel the same way."*

*"...too many targets set, too many levels of management-simplify the expenditure and put it towards prioritising patient treatment & paying the Junior Doctors a proper wage.*

*Anecdotaly I pay me cleaner £15 per hour-more that a 7 year fully trained doctor. No wonder so many doctors are leaving the UK for higher salaries abroad."*

*"There needs to be more joined up work between health, education, housing, transport and highways. Currently the district's infrastructure is overwhelmed by the demands of an increasing and ageing population. Public and community transport is insufficient for the needs of the population. Roads are terrible. Once they planned closures on the 2 main routes from Maldon to the Dengie at the same time! Not enough schools or primary care services. Yet housing continues to be built. I carried out an asset map of the district's voluntary services against the area's demographics to identify gaps and develop an action*



<p><i>plan to address them.. I think they need to do the same for the statutory sector. They might be surprised at the results."</i></p>
<p><i>"My experience in the Civil Service where items have to be purchased through 'an approved source' when it could be purchased much cheaper and better quality locally fills me with dread for this project. All new plans should be fully costed and a comparison between converting the current site against buying/renting/converting other site(s) and not until this is done can any decision be made . An assessment of the costs to patients and staff involved must be included."</i></p>
<p><i>"There are buildings that may be suitable for clinics and blood testing in Maldon and South Woodham Ferrers, including a clinic and school that were closed a few years ago but are not in dia disrepair.</i></p> <p><i>Mobile X-Ray units could be an option as well."</i></p>
<p><i>"... The Health Authority should now suspend the consultation process until they have published detailed information about exactly where all the various services will be moved to - and exactly when they propose to move them.Finally the Health Authority must, at the same time, also publicly demonstrate they have looked to the future with any new arrangements and addressed in detail the issue of how the new arrangements will meet the inevitable and unavoidable significant increase in demand for health services from the ever growning and ever growing older population of the greater Maldon district."</i></p>
<p><i>"...I worked in phlebotomy for years,sat through countless meetings to discuss the "New St Peters" which never happened,we don't even have the promised Health Hubs up and running.When St Michaels Braintree closed it was replaced by an excellent Community Hospital."</i></p>
<p><i>"... have no issues travelling to larger hospitals for specialist care / operations but strongly object to the way the facility and services are being provided. The staff are all amazing but the support around them has and is letting them down.</i></p>
<p><i>'...More UK patients than ever are waiting for medical treatment. Nationally, over 7 million people in November 2023 were waiting. This is an increase from 4 million in 2007. It will take years to clear the backlog. Is this the time to close St. Peter's? [Source- British Medical Association] ...Your local MP Rt. Hon John Wittingdale OBE MP says he was assured recent reductions in services provided at St. Peter's were temporary changes only to be told they are to be permanent. Can you trust what NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board say? Why did the NHS not arrange a local consultation in Maldon? Members of our family have all used St. Peter's for maternity issues, blood tests, X-rays diagnostics. The service offered is second to none. The staff are charming, highly efficient. They always put the patient's interests first. St. Peter's provides good quality employment for our local people. This is a team of dedicated people here for our common good – Why get rid of them? Dispersing the St. Peter's team and their services will deny us something about the NHS that actually works!"</i></p>
<p><i>"Therefore, could some parts of the site be preserved and continue to be used as a functioning hospital whilst some parts could possibly be sold off to raise revenue to help</i></p>

overhaul the remaining buildings? Also, how about introducing a fixed parking charge to help with revenue? A fixed fee of say £1.00 per vehicle (except disabled badge holders) could well be acceptable to people if they knew the money was going to be spent on the hospital buildings and its services.”

“Please look after our town, it needs investment, even our beloved Nat West has gone - make it a town - facility for everyone again. Thank you.”

“It would seem that you maybe making progress in improving health services for the people of Maldon but that no improvement in the health services for the people of Burnham can be expected and in fact may be withdrawn completely when the proposals for the closure off Burnhams present surgery in the town is implemented and the surgery is moved to a site which is two or three miles outside the Town boundary, depending where you live in Burnham and two miles from Burnham Station, which currently serves patients who rely on the train to visit the surgery. The closures of Burnham’s surgery in its present location in Burnham to a site which is two miles away from its present location and outside the present boundary of Burnham limit of would be a very retrograde development for for the people of Burnham who are able walk to the Surgery in its present location, and patients who live outside Burnham would also be able to talk to the Surgery from Burnham Railway Station. (There is no railway access for patients anywhere near the proposed new surgery site at Burnham Waters, which is 2 mile outside Burnham). The medical facilities at Burnham do need to be improved. However they should not be relocated to a site which is more than two miles outside the Burnham town boundary and the Burnham Burnham Railway Station. In my view, consideration should instead be given to modernising Burnham’s medical facilities on the present site for the benefit of the residents of Burnham and the inhabitants of the surrounding area who would continued have access to the facility via Burnham Railway Station.?

“ It is imperative Government make a commitment to rebuilding our crumbling NHS, it is simply not acceptable to talk how much money they have provided, what is need is a task force (not more consultants) of fully qualified clinicians who are hands on led by a group made up of patients and highly experienced business leaders who can provide a project plan (bought into by the whole of Government so no changes/cuts can made to its brief and power) encompassing all aspects of the recovery from attracting and retaining dedicated staff, infrastructure and maintenance programmes matched to our current and future needs, immediate improvements to stop current deterioration and effective methods of charging non-resident overseas patients.”

“have built a good rapport with the excellent qualified nursing staff at St.Peters and understand that some of them are anxious that the move is now imminent and where would they be asked to work.

Something like Springfield or Danbury medical centres would be an asset to the community, or consider re-building in the grounds of St Peters.

What about Maldon District Council offices?”

“I feel the "Care" of he NHS should now be preceded by "Don't", for from my experience the compassion and needs of the patient has become irrelevant. Thank you for your e-mail concerning the closure proposals of St Peters Hospital. Whilst I am not within your



<i>constituency I have on many occasions received treatment at St Peters under the NHS UK Referral Service.”</i>
<i>“I understand that Broomfield Hospital are currently using demountable accommodation, which suggests that expansion on that site will be very difficult.”</i>
<i>“ St Peters Chapel is already used for many services why cannot this be utilised as one of the proposed buildings.”</i>
<i>“use the £5m you have received in cultural investment and seek other investment to build a replacement hospital in Maldon.”</i>
<i>“Just to let you know that the front of the St Peter's has been taped off. Rumour has it there is a broken window upstairs and risk of something falling. Please could you find out when this will be repaired so patients can once again use the front doors. Dare I suggest that the tape gives the NHS Trust a rather good photo opportunity? They might not want to hurry to make, whatever the problem is, safe! Just thought you should be kept in touch.”</i>
<i>“A medical. Center should be your priority as Maldon people vote you in and expect you to take notice of their needs, and maybe in the future your family or yourself will need them. However I imagine you enjoy private healthcare when needed.”</i>
<i>“Whatever changes are introduced they should not just be about subdividing what we have which seems to be the health authority view, but look for scope on how some services can be improved or reintroduced. A primary example is given in 3 above for a machine that can generate blood results locally. Provision should cater for those services that have become largely privatised by stealth, such as physio. Provision should enable consultants to have local clinics. I trust these comments help.”</i>
<i>“I live with the chronic illness [REDACTED] and am a wheelchair user. Due to the condition I was unable to attend the meeting at The Plume Academy on February 9th, cannot tune in to the round table meetings being streamed (planned within ridiculously close succession I might add), will struggle to complete the consultation document, if at all, and will be unable to attend the March 19th Town Hall ICB hearing. I will not be alone in this. I feel under represented, in fact unrepresented...Where is the part of the ICB consultation specifically aimed at and about accessibility? Apart from a phone number to request an alternative versions of the survey. Where are the invitations to the disabled, chronic illness, neurodivergent and special needs community, their carers and groups, ensuring their many complex needs are considered and met? Part of the community who already struggle to regularly access healthcare of any kind, including dentistry and opticians. I have raised the issue of accessibility more than once in my emails. But feel this continues to be overlooked in replies or not addressed or replied to at all. There are many people in the district with long term conditions which severely impact their day to day capacity and function. There will be unpaid carers who will be faced with more complex and longer journey arrangements should facilities be relocated to several centres. Followed by longer periods of providing extra care whilst their relative or friend recovers. Putting more pressure on them. Many of whom already work, thus having two jobs. Add parenting and elderly relative care and responsibilities, that makes four. My husband has done all of them. His health is now suffering. There will be people who simply cannot make the journey to visit a relative outside of the district. Why make the</i>

situation worse? I couldn't visit my husband at all when he had surgery at Broomfield a few years ago. I have been a patient with Neurology since the early 2000s. I have 99% of the time been seen by the Consultant at St Peter's (always assisted by my husband) because my GP acknowledges the challenges I face with travel, as does the Consultant. Along with the impact on my husband. I have been seen by other consultant areas of specialism at St Peter's over the past 20 years, and spent my post-natal recovery there for my first child. Of course, many matters must be attended to at Broomfield Hospital. But not all. I rarely leave the Maldon District or Heybridge/Maldon itself. And rarely see it either, apart from via the windows of my home. I repeat the message. The presumption that any person can travel any distance by any means at any time, is simply not the case and is blatantly ableist and ageist. If, as the M&B reported recently, you are 'angry' about the St Peter's situation. Please convey this message to the ICB and M&SEICS. They are ignoring yet another red flag. We do not want replacement sites scattered across the length and breadth of Essex. We want suitable and adequate provision to continue to be provided here."

"Thank you for very prompt and considerate reply. And for all you are doing on behalf of the Maldon District. I politely urge you to please convey to the ICB that not only must their consultation be inclusive and accessible, but that their proposals to move services out of area simply are not. As detailed in my initial email on the subject of accessibility to you. It is unreasonable that such a large percentage of the population are not being heard. Purely because many are incapacitated, invisible, live in the shadows or are simply too busy with their caring roles. Thank you. It is vital that this part of society is heard and fully, thoughtfully and appropriately accommodated."

"Newspaper [sic] article (mentioned in Section 3: 'We're pulling plug on health hub resources')

District council won't commit more time to project citing lack of progress

By Ellis Whitehouse

MALDON District Council is withdrawing resources from the health hub project.

Following a behind-closed-doors meeting, members voted to not waste any more resources or officer time on the plans until the Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group make progress on the health hub.

Past proposals have included refurbishing or replacing St Peter's Hospital, a new hospital somewhere else, a health hub with beds and a downgraded hub with no beds but none have come to fruition.

A council spokesman said: "At the meeting, members expressed their frustration at the apparent lack of progress in delivering this much needed community facility.

"In recent years, the council has fully supported and worked hard to facilitate the provision of a new health care facility for the district.

"Despite seemingly making some progress in the last two years, the location and facilities in the new health hub are yet to be confirmed." Until the Clinical Commissioning Group has chosen a location or facilities it has been decided there is nothing more the council can do as it has "little or no influence over these fundamental points".

*The spokesman continued: "While the council fully supports the need Dan Doherty said: "We're very for a new heath hub, it feels it has grateful to Maldon District Council done all it can at this time.*

*"With the considerable financial constraints facing the authority, it can no longer commit further resources or officer time to the project at this stage."*

*In response the Clinical Commissioning Group ignored the concerns raised about a lack of location, confirmed facilities or progress.*

*Instead director of transformation Dan Doherty said "We're very grateful to Maldon District Council for its long standing commitment to the health hub's development and all the work they have put into the process to date.*

*"With many demands on the time of both councillors and staff, we do appreciate they have to prioritise their time and resources to best serve the district's residents.*

*"We have dedicated a great deal of time and effort to the project, so we can deliver a healthcare facility that properly serves the needs of people living in and around Maldon.*

*He added: "We have listened to what patients and our hospital colleagues have told us and as a result expect the outline business case to include flexible inpatient and maternity beds." The outline business case is still to be completed."*

***"NO INDEPENDENT QUESTIONS. NO MENTION OF RETENTION. POLITICAL GAIN DOCUMENT. MALDON WILL NOT BE FOOLED!"***

*"The people of Maldon have been getting an unbelievably poor service from our elected officials, councils and government departments for over a decade now and the impact on the environment, the infrastructure, the services, quality of life and well-being in Maldon is suffering. It's as if after forcing Maldon residents to be the 'Guinea pig' in the turning off of streetlight episode, we are now earmarked as anything goes and no-one can do anything about it. I have presented my responses to your questions further down, but I also suggest this is viewed in the overall context of what's been done, and is still being done, to Maldon in the last decade or so is regard to the infrastructure, the facilities and services (particularly NHS facilities). When politicians bang on about how we should adopt a 'greener future' and change our need to using vehicles etc. and even impose taxes us based on these principles, then it is frankly ridiculous to then propose or support decisions to remove local facilities that adhere to these green policies in favour of people having to drive more just to interact with those facilities."*

*"Something is clearly being overlooked and that is the criminal waste of time and money that has been expended over the years with NOTHING TO SHOW FOR. Another factor that nobody seems to want to take onboard is the total dereliction of duty by those responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of NHS property. These people are still presumably fulfilling that role within the various health authorities throughout the country doing how much damage to the service and at what cost. ...After the St Peter's debacle has been resolved, it will be time to sort out the admin situation that allowed ST Peter's Hospital building to get into the state it is in. Somebody or bodies made a decision to let*

*things slide, these people should be brought to account and barred from holding any such roles in the future.”*

*“The coverage on the news shows the hospital in a bad state. They seemed to view the worst rooms where the repairs were not carried out, so resulting in further damage. There are many rooms which are in good condition.”*

### Appendix 3 – Responses moved to Q7

During the analysis some comments were moved from the question they were found to the more appropriate question (Q7). Below are the comments received per question that we moved.

Question 1.2 - Awareness
<i>“...more convenient for certain tests etc than Broomfield NHS Hospital.”</i>
<i>“...having elderly parents, closing the stroke unit will be a huge loss, my dad had a stroke last year &amp; heart attack previously, he doesn't drive so Maldon was much easier for him to get to. My whole family have used the outpatients facilities at some point. I had to get a scan in Braintree last week 1hr to get there, ridiculous.”</i>
<i>“...Although some of these changes have already taken place so it cannot be considered as a ‘consultation’... We were clearly ‘misled’ and these arrangements for Maternity services and Stroke rehab are permanent and totally unsuitable. The journey time for both, even for those who can drive, is unreasonable long. Those who cannot drive face several changes of buses and train rides. Imagine that for an elderly person, wanting to visit their spouse in Brentwood Hospital – two buses to get to Chelmsford station, then a train, then another bus to get to the hospital. Then the return journey in the dark and not forgetting that some local bus routes terminate in the early evening! This has been a particularly CRUEL, INSENSITIVE and INHUMANE move.</i>
<i>“It appeared to me, by the huge number of people who attended the consultation meeting, that St Peter’s is dear to all their hearts and they wished to have their views aired. For those of us who could not attend, your survey is an excellent way for us to express our concerns and experiences and get our voices heard. Thank you.</i>  <i>Keeping resources local for the Patients using these services would enable them to feel safe within their own community knowing that their family can pop in to see them without having to travel too far and this regular contact might also enable them to recover quicker.”</i>
<i>“This is not a proposal it is a given fact that this has already happened and these facilities have already been closed and transferred elsewhere in Essex. The consequences of which are already being felt. Pregnant mothers now having to contemplate up to an extra hours journey to reach their new designated birthing unit due to the increase in distance required to travel.</i>

## Question 1.2 - Awareness

*Regarding the Stroke Rehabilitation unit - for myself and many others of my age suffering with heart conditions making us more liable to have a stroke find the move of the stroke unit out of Maldon very worrying. It is important that those recovering from a stroke need inspiration and support from close family as well as the professional care. Staff at St Peter's have provided outstanding care in the past and I have seen how this has led to brilliant recovery. Due to the current transport services serving the district it is virtually impossible to reach the new destinations without several different connections. If you are fortunate enough to drive there is the added complication of finding somewhere to park especially at Broomfield Hospital. On a recent visit for a cardiology appointment I allowed myself an extra half hour for finding a parking space. On arrival it was chaos at the car park as people were queuing to get in but couldn't because people were queuing up to get out of the car park and having to pay an attendant at the barrier as the ticket machines were out of order. The cost of using a Taxi to reach these destinations is very costly and is often beyond the means of a lot of patients."*

*"...unhappy regarding this"*

*"...I think it will be devastating to the area and could result in lives being lost."*

*"...Disgraceful."*

*"...and I'm not happy about it."*

*"...we are very concerned"*

*"...and concerned about this closure."*

*"...WE, were two of those who could not get entry into your meeting, which I think demonstrates the feeling of the residents of the District."*

*"we are aware of the "proposal" which appears to be a 'de facto' decision as key facilities at the hospital have already been closed! We tried to attend the public meeting at the Plume Academy but were turned away without setting foot on school grounds; I suggest that your figure of 100 prevented in attending was in fact much larger."*

*"Sadly yes I am aware. I have to take my 93 year old father to St Peter's regularly for Outpatient appointments and have gradually noticed over the last 20 years the deterioration of the buildings and the lack of maintenance."*

*"I think it will be a disaster for the people of this area if we lose St Peter's..."*

*"We were actually made aware whilst I was pregnant with my second child in 2022. As there were major concerns about what services would be available due to staff being redirected to Broomfield."*

*"...hope this can be avoided"*



### Question 1.2 - Awareness

*"Maternity/ Intermediate Care / blood tests/ x-ray/ All these services are vital to a town that is increasing in population Broomfield does not have sufficient parking for the services that are already there !"*

*"...The wait for the resultant prescription was 90 minutes (about normal) meaning our parking space could not be used by others and increased the cost to us. We have in the past been forced to use Braintree Hospital which is on the wrong side of town to Maldon as is Basildon. I have no idea where the other hospitals are located."*

### Question 3.2 - Which services should continue to be provided in Maldon? Do you have any comment on the reason for your answer.

*"Unfortunately I think the site doglike be used for local Council homes to be built for the local community and youngsters trying to get a home maybe a block of flats and 2/3 bedroom house only not 4 bedroom homes."*

*"St Peter's could be relocated to a more modern facility in town but local diverse medical services are essential to local people- we live in Burnham and to get to Braintree is over ... The French model of diverse medical centres scattered across towns works well for us and it's about time someone recognised that the NHS is just not working in its current format and set about correcting this."*

*"Maldon needs a new hospital see attached newspaper cutting from the Maldon & Burnham Standard - Feb 15th, 2018."*

*"Having used the available services at Broomfield Hospital, Colchester and Braintree I would have thought that in terms of servicing the community then a facility similar to Braintree would be appropriate."*

*"...a health hub the size of maldon/heybridge etc should have a nhs hub or keep st.peters and add services"*

*"Having attended meetings of the swf health and social care group, and learned about the "integrated care service" and plans to "get more local , get more responsive" this is what is needed rather than consolidating things back to the larger cities, which is what usually happens. these hospitals are already under immense pressure and it only gets harder for an increasingly older population to access them. i believe our current healthcare alliance covers, the dengie, swf, maldon, chelmsford , braintree and more. i believe that all the house building in these areas and consequential increase in population warrants more satellite clinics in swf, danbury, maldon, to reduce strain on southend, basildon and broomfield hospitals."*

*"...They have recently reroofed the rear of the hospital and upgraded the Outpatient facilities at the rear of the main building and all this cost would be wasted if the closure proceeds. The 300 out patient appointments is likely to rise to nearer 500 a day once all the development in the area is completed. To this figure you can add the visits made to existing patients..."*

Question 3.2 - Which services should continue to be provided in Maldon? Do you have any comment on the reason for your answer.
<i>"ALL. But the buildings must be fully checked for safety."</i>
<i>"*Maternity and antenatal care. Quite simply this is a woman's issue and men cannot appreciate the necessity of being able to get to hospital quickly when in labour. The Dengie peninsular is served by this hospital and women should be able to choose, and have the security of, knowing maternity services are nearby. Broomfield often gets women and babies out within 6 hours of giving birth- it is not long enough for many women. A woman should have the option of support and monitoring and proper health care after what is a hugely physical event. * scans, x Ray and blood tests. These need to be offered at some clinic, if not the St Peters site, on a permanent basis."</i>
<i>"...feel it would be a catastrophic loss to the community if the maternity (and other) services there are lost."</i>
<i>"We are also very distrustful of the term temporary relocation of the Maternity facility and feel this may turn out to be permanent which would be very unsatisfactory."</i>
<i>"A good example of this is the Crouch Vale Medical centre in south Woodham Ferrers (SWF) where a large facility was formed with a combination of GP services and NHS/Provide services as above."</i>
<i>"Maternity services and stroke rehabilitation are of the utmost importance. New mothers need all the support they can get, the networks and friendships that are made in a local maternity hospital are crucial, it's ridiculous to consider moving these out of town. My Grandmother received rehabilitation post stroke at St Peter's. Had she been moved out of area it would have been devastating for us as a family &amp; would have had a hugely detrimental effect on her mental health &amp; recovery. At such a stressful time, having the addition of travel worries would have made things so much harder."</i>
<i>"I was also extremely concerned to hear the NHS' approach to expanding services now falls to developers to build the building with no care or attention to architectural design, but doing these in the cheapest way possible. Not only do these carbuncles blot the landscape the exorbitant rents the NHS have to pay the developers is not a wise use of public funds and only results in very wealthy developers. The building of new NHS buildings should be taken in house (by the Government) so the noose of future rent payments is removed. I have seen the figure £18m bandied about as the cost it would take to bring St Peters up to standard. This is a small price to pay for ensuring the growing town of Maldon and the surrounding villages have a local hospital to accommodate their health needs.."</i>
<i>"...If the move outpatients to Broomfield there should be a free regular bus service for those over 65 or that can't afford it."</i>
<i>"...transport issues are common, finding public or even charitable transport to meet appointments offered in Chelmsford can be stressful, expensive and sometimes impossible. Facilities at St Peter's Hospital, Maldon reduces the stress and the carbon footprint of accessing so many essential services for both patients and their families. It</i>

Question 3.2 - Which services should continue to be provided in Maldon? Do you have any comment on the reason for your answer.
would feel ridiculous to travel all the way to Chelmsford for what are efficient 5-15 minute appointments.”
“Voluntary drivers may not be keen on further distances. I am one who drives regularly to large units. It is a whole day.”
<p>“The building is structurally sound, there are many older buildings in this country that are still in use. There are many maintenance problems at all hospitals because when the NHS has to cut back on spending it is maintenance that gets cut the most - this has been a false economy and is bad management on the governments part. Broomfield has problems with leaks and sewage, Brentwood has legionella's - there are problems in all NHS properties. You can't close them all and shouldn't close any unless a new one has been built in its place, the population is increasing so how can the government allow the reduction of hospitals, there should be more not less!</p> <p>St Peters is owned by the NHS so there is no rent to pay - unlike Brentwood and Braintree which are PFI buildings. As tenants what the NHS can do is limited and this will make it harder to make Brentwood into the centre of excellence for stroke, Bayman Ward does not have enough space for the rehab equipment needed, it only has one sluice room for 25 patients, St Peters Ward had two and a dedicated equipment room. St Peters Ward had two nurses stations Bayman only has one.</p> <p>The BBC has put out several times that the flooring meant the bed numbers were reduced at St Peters. This is incorrect. Once the flooring was reinforced the ward continued to operate as 26 beds - half IMC and half stroke rehab. it was only because of covid that the bed numbers went down to 16 - to allow for social distancing. The senior staff have then used this to push to close st Peters. St Peters ward could have operated with increased patient numbers. And as the ICB won't acknowledge this they also haven't acknowledged that during covid Maldon lost its ICB beds, meaning patients and there relatives have to travel further. As Dr Sweeting said at the plume school meeting - Maldon is an ageing population and care should be delivered close to home - his own points back the need for inpatient beds in Maldon.”</p>
“You say the plan is to have local services - but there are no planned sites? and they would have to be bought and built. Why not use St Peters? - its already there.”
“Any replacement phlebotomy service provided in Maldon must have adequate parking for outpatient visitors, not just for staff, and will need some form of parking control to prevent abuse by drivers unconnected with the service.”
“THIS IS VITALY IMPORTANT ASK THE QUESTION how many beds does Braintree maternity unit have compared to maldon and the distance say from bradwell on sea to Braintree ( not half way to broomfield...ITS AN HOUR...same distance as Broomfield!!”
“all services should remain at St Peters. None should have been shipped elsewhere as this directly contravenes the NHS directions regarding fair and legitimate consultations.”
“I work at a Crouch Vale Medical Centre and call patients to have routine blood tests. There is usually a full diary for bloods for at least two weeks, tests have to be done by



**Question 3.2 - Which services should continue to be provided in Maldon? Do you have any comment on the reason for your answer.**

*1.15 to allow them to be ready to be collected by the courier. We advise that you can book on line for St Peter's/Broomfield if you'd prefer and you also have appointments into the afternoon. This also frees up appointments for patients who can't travel. The Bloods Department at Maldon is second to none, an absolute necessity locally...Both my daughter and daughter in law were under the care of the maternity unit, they have nothing but praise for the staff. My daughter in law had complications but was blue lighted to Broomfield, her second son was a water birth at St Peter's, my daughter had her specialist led appointments at St Peter's and her post natal care. Recently she was cared for by the amazing midwives prior to a miscarriage."*

*"Or, if the services are moved to other areas such as Broomfield hospital it would be a good idea for there to be assistance and help with transport for those who need it who would normally access these services at St Peter's."*

*"I accept that the hospital has suffered under investment but this has been the fault of the NHS. The present thinking is surely to provide local services without people travelling miles especially for the elderly."*

*"The harkenwell clinic on wantz chase is underused and would be ideal for outpatient appointments. Also frequently used services such as blood tests, x-rays, scans and ultrasound. They could be offered (and some already do e.g. Longfields and Trinity) at GP surgeries and the outreach clinic at the Bentalls Centre in Heybridge. Or at mobile units across the District, especially for people on the Dengie as can take over a hour to get to Broomfield."*

*"I addition to this, there are many many excellent clinicians & services based at St peters which sadly cannot be accommodated elsewhere in the town. The town is already overcrowded with estate agents and not providing sufficient opportunities/provision of jobs to our young (&more mature) workers....why would we want to cut off another opportunity for employment? Working in the NHS should feel like a privilege (it does to me)....what better way to promote our industry than to have wonderful local source of professionals to look up to and inspire our community and be part of our town. As you know we do not go into healthcare for top whack salaries, we care for our patients....should local employment however be so disparate, any increments we are in receipt if will merely be taken up on transport to and from work. Increasing the need fir more vehicles on the already conjested roads. The lack of public transport links makes this ever less sustainable."*

*"The NHS is already in a dreadful state in particular services such as physiotherapy where many practitioners fail to use their hands to assess and treat conditions and have resorted to issuing leaflets for treatment regimes which do not treat patients effectively! This is leading to a catastrophic failure in service and decline in the skills of clinicians. Much of this has come about through outsourcing but also through the inability of management and the CQC to recognise how to evaluate services."*

**Question 4 - If you or a member of your family needed maternity services, would you wish to use a midwife-led unit in Maldon? Other comments received**

*"The consultation talks about staffing issues. Firstly, if there are difficulties finding staff to man community beds/provide services including midwifery, then that is a political choice related to real terms cuts in NHS funding from central government. Poor pay and working conditions, exodus of staff, difficulty in recruiting are all symptoms of a government whose priorities are not aligned with serving public purpose and has led to shortages of health professionals. Citizens are being asked to pay the price for those political choices. The people of Maldon should have access to that information."*

*"...Generally it would appear that your overall consultation process has been flawed and decisions made many months ago re Stroke rehabilitation that could now no longer be reversed by consulting now about it. Staff moved, wards put out of action/dismantled and redundancies. The proposed changes re the birthing unit would have negatively affected our daughter who convalesced[sic] in St Peters after giving birth to her babies in Broomfield."*

*My main issue is with "all other patient services" where on page 33 you differentiate between "alternative short term solutions" and long term plans regarding new build facilities [sic] that "will not be built for some years".*

*I cannot see that you continue that differentiation between "short term alternatives" and "long term new build" on page 69 regarding X ray services. I am astounded that you appear to "have started to indentify [sic] some potential new homes" only recently for the alternative short term solutions. I have heard it suggested via local MP's and polititions [sic] that these might include Carmelite House, White Horse Ln, Maldon CM9 5FW and other locations where car parking is tricky especially after the White Horse car park had all its short term parking bays removed on the 31st March 2024. Your left hand does not appear to know what its right hand is doing?*

*Both my wife and I will be negatively impacted by the move of ambulatory services for blood testing and x rays from St Peters to a less than ideal "temporary? alternative". We have used those services every year for many years."*

*"I did use midwife led services at Maldon to give birth to my daughter, been in a car, stuck in traffic, in labour is terrible. No women should have to go through that. Braintree and Broomfield could be dangerously to far for some women. Also the advice when you have a baby is to not have a newborn in a car seat for more than 30 minutes. This means all women need to have access to a birthing unit within 30 minutes of their home - this is now impossible for women living on the dengie."*

*"Maternity/ Intermediate Care / blood tests/ x-ray/ All these services are vital to a town that is increasing in population. Broomfield does not have sufficient parking for the services that are already there!"*

**Question 5.2 - If you or a family member needed intermediate care or stroke rehabilitation, would you want this to be provided in Maldon?? Other comments received**

*"Why cannot the proposed joint branch of Blackwater & Longfield surgeries in Heybridge be ""sized up"" to also provide some of the ambulatory out patients services at St Peters? Or is this too logical joined up thinking?"*

*You state in your consultation document that you have considered changes and modifications to the existing St Peters site but that if it were to be sold the on site nursing home would not be affected and would remain on site. I do not believe that you have spent more than cursory attention to potential evolutionary changes on site and that there is already a mindset to ""sell the family silver"" to prop up other areas of underfunded services outside Maldon that you are responsible for."*

*"I understand that the ICB during their consultation meeting in Brentwood assured the residents there, that they would be prioritised over any patients coming from Maldon. This has never been mentioned to any of the residents in the Maldon district as well as not holding a consultation meeting themselves for the Maldon residents. If not for yourself and our council we would still be in the dark about this whole closure proposal."*

*"I know the site is in disrepair but surely all round money would be well spent retaining and renovating the site!! Community needs to be protected, encouraged and promoted wherever possible for the good of our ever more disparate peoples."*

*"There were proposals put in place years ago to use the St. Peters site and renovate - what happened to those? If a suitable site was found within easy access then I wouldn't be against it, but where is the space for one? The St. Peters site is ideal. It would have to be on the outskirts of town now. A good site would have been near Morrisons where the new drive through Costa, Toolstation, etc. are located. Why on earth wasn't that site proposed rather than more retail units. There appears to be no forward planning at all. A condition for the thousands of new houses should have been a community hospital first and foremost with good transport links."*

#### **Question 6.2 - Should outpatient services continue to be made available on the St Peter's site or could they be relocated to another repurposed site in the town?**

*"The Government is throwing money at building new hospitals and improving estates in the NHS so why can't they find funding for this? It's in a perfect position to treat all those across the Dengie where investment in the site could help ease pressures at Broomfield which is completely overcrowded with patients."*

*"At about the turn of the century, I, (think as a Councillor Maldon Town), and others, attended several meetings, some public, for a replacement Hospital outside the Maldon Town on the southern ring road, Limebrook Way. It was X shaped and initially had the Mental Health Unit as well. The first patients, should have been using this facility in 2004/5. This group was led by Shelia Bremner, (later became a former Chief Executive Officer – NHS Mid Essex PCT I believe). These meetings took place at local venues including the Bewick Suit and the Football Club hall Park Drive, for Public meetings. Details of the Building progressing through the NHS, remember, NHS only had responsibility for the Bricks and Mortar, the contents of the building, beds, equipment, nurses, surgeons, Dr's. were all under a company called Provide and, from memory updates were given by Dougherty, forgot his first name. Regular updates of the finances*

<p><i>for the building, about £14 Million, was, regularly given in presentations by [name removed], at these events. Meetings suddenly stopped!!!”</i></p>
<p><i>“I would have thought that outpatient services should be an integrated part of the service of the local NHS. To relocate and separate would surely be inefficient and not integrated using other services on sit”</i></p>
<p><i>“When will work start on the promised new purpose built facility? Where will it be located? The lack of detail coming from the ICB is frustrating people and causing a lot of mistrust. Hard to comment on impact when we don't actually know what they are suggesting other than closing St Peter's.”</i></p>
<p><i>“Yes it certainly appears as if things like hospitals get sold off to developers, creating homes for more people, more people require more services that don't seem to be being replaced. I'm sure you'd agree the NHS is struggling, schools are rammed, the roads are awful, everywhere seems to be jammed with traffic, the waste water systems are overloaded i could go on and on... Where is the forward thinking? Sorry for the negative feedback, keep up your good work.”</i></p>