



# South Tyneside Council

Save South Tyneside Hospital Campaign

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FAO Roger Nettleship

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019

## Petition – Save South Tyneside Hospital

Dear Mr. Nettleship,

I am writing with regards to the petition submitted to the Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July and apologies for the delay in responding. The petition requested that the Council did not provide any loan funding to the NHS as part of any “downgrading” to South Tyneside Hospital as part of the Path to Excellence programme.

The Council recognises that the NHS must respond to changing patient needs, workforce challenges, new technology and financial pressures. However, we remain fully committed to South Tyneside hospital providing the best care for patients ensuring that services are both accessible and safe especially for some of the most vulnerable groups in our community.

The Council has not received to date any formal request from health partners for loan funding. Any request would itself require the Council to source the funding from for example the Public Works Loan Board, the Government agency responsible for lending to local authorities. A loan to health partners would require to be fully repaid.

Such funding would only be considered if it were to lead to the development of new facilities and services at South Tyneside Hospital and any funding would have to be used exclusively for that site. This would have to include a new multi-storey car park to fulfil the commitment to improving and expanding local health services in the

Borough. A motion was passed to that effect at the recent Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October.

The Council will continue to support the Save South Tyneside Hospital Campaign, Trade Unions, and other key stakeholders in their work to protect and improve local access to NHS services in the borough.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Reid', written in a cursive style.

Stuart Reid

Corporate Director Business & Resources