

## **Appendix 2 – Invitation to proposers of alternative options**

To:

Liz Walke, Chairman, Save the DGH Campaign and  
Margaret Williams, Chairman, Hands off the Conquest – ‘Option 5’ Group  
Dr Keith Brent, Consultant Paediatrician  
Richard Hallett, Co-Chair, East Sussex Maternity Services Liaison Committee  
Mr David Chui, Consultant Obstetrician and Dr Roger Elias, Hastings &  
Rother GP  
Dr Geoff Leece

*Message from Councillor Sylvia Tidy*

**East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**3.30pm Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008**  
**Council Chamber, East Sussex County Council, St Anne’s Crescent,**  
**Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1SW**

Dear Colleague

HOSC is meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> January to consider the East Sussex PCTs’ decision on the Fit for the Future proposals (for single consultant-led maternity, special baby care and inpatient gynaecology units in Hastings and a midwife-led maternity unit in Eastbourne) and the response to HOSC’s recommendations published in October 2007.

The process to be followed at the meeting will be set out in the agenda to be published on 18 January but one of the key tasks for HOSC at the meeting will be to decide whether the PCTs have adequately assessed the alternative options, in line with HOSC’s recommendation that a full assessment of all proposals should be carried out prior to PCT decision making.

As one of the proposers of an alternative option, HOSC would like to give you the opportunity to provide a summary of your views on the PCTs’ assessment of your proposed option, specifically addressing the following points:

- Whether you agree that the PCTs have undertaken an adequate assessment (in comparison to their own options) of your proposal(s) and your specific reasons/evidence for this opinion.
- If you do not believe the assessment was adequate, the specific aspects of your proposals where you believe the assessment is inaccurate or incomplete.
- Whether you had opportunities to provide input to the assessment process (for example, clarifying the nature of your proposal) and the opportunity to comment on the final assessment of it.

Due to the volume of evidence HOSC has to consider, please limit your response to a maximum of 2 sides of A4 addressing the specific points above which HOSC will be considering on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

I would also like to invite you to attend HOSC on the 28<sup>th</sup> to give HOSC members the opportunity to ask questions to clarify the points you make in your paper. If you would like to take up this opportunity, please contact Sam White on 01273 481581 or [sam.white@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:sam.white@eastsussex.gov.uk)

Please could you let us have your 2 sides summary by **12 noon on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008** so that the paper can be included in the agenda pack sent out to HOSC members and witnesses within the statutory deadline. It would also be helpful to know if you do not intend to submit a response.

Regards

Councillor Sylvia Tidy  
Chairman  
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee