

Councillor Ben Coleman, Hammersmith & Fulham's Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, said:

“Healthwatch is to be commended on this thorough report. It confirms that residents value Charing Cross Hospital and its A&E, feel marginalised by health bosses and are suspicious about talk of replacing Charing Cross with a 'local hospital'.

“Residents are right to be sceptical. The plan to bulldoze the current hospital and replace it with a small clinic remains as it has since 2013, when the Secretary of State signed off the Shaping a Healthier Future (SaHF) plan.

“SaHF would replace our hospital with a series of clinics on a site only 13% of the size now, rebrand these a 'local hospital', replace the A&E with an urgent care clinic, and lose most if not all of the acute care beds.

“When health chiefs call this ‘transforming’ Charing Cross, that’s playing with language. It means the closure of the hospital as we know it.

“I hope residents will come to a town hall meeting which the council is holding on 28 February at 7.30pm to hear the latest on the planned cuts and support the campaign to save Charing Cross Hospital.

“I also hope health chiefs will learn from Healthwatch's report and finally begin to act democratically by listening to residents and rejecting the SaHF plan.”