Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS
7th December 2011

TITLE	**Register of the Council of Governors:**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	To report changes to the membership of the Council. Neelam Bains, public Governor for Spelthorne, has resigned to due to work commitments effective from 16th October. If the Epsom transaction proceeds there will need to be a review of the membership of the Council of Governors and it is therefore recommended that an election should be put on hold , with a further review of the position in February 2012. .
The Council is asked to:	The Council is invited to consider the recommendation and make a decision on deferring an election. .
Submitted by:	Jane Gear Head of Corporate Affairs
Date:	13th November 2011
Decision:	For decision

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Membership of the Council of Governors

BACKGROUND

Neelam Bains, Public Governor for Spelthorne, has resigned effective from 15 October 2011 due to pressure of her work commitments.

Neelam Bains was one of the three Public Governors for Spelthorne, the other two Governors being Simon Bhadye and Linda Abbott.

CONSTITUTION

The Constitution allows that where a vacancy occurs amongst the elected Governors the Council of Governors may offer a reserved candidate (being the person who secured the second highest number of votes in the last election for the constituency) the opportunity to fill the office for the remaining six months of the appointment.

However as Neelam Bains has resigned after nine months, the situation does not occur and therefore the only constitutional alternative would be to hold a further election.

EPSOM TRANSACTION

As the Council of Governors is aware, the Trust is currently considering a transaction involving Epsom Hospital. If this proceeds, there will need to be changes to the Trust's Constitution, including the construct of the Council of Governors, in order that the extended catchment population can be appropriately incorporated.

Initial discussions have taken place with representatives of the Council of Governors, putting forward some suggested principles which could be considered when the Constitution is formally reviewed. In order to maintain some flexibility in being able to respond to a review of the Constitution it is therefore suggested that as there are two elected Public Governors and one appointed Governor representing Spelthorne, that for the time being the election is put on hold.

The position should be further reviewed in three months.

It is also important to note that maintaining the vacancy still means that the Public Governors are more than half the total membership of the Council of Governors.

RECOMMENDATION

The Council of Governors are asked to note the resignation of Neelam Bains and agree that the seat should be held vacant and reviewed in February 2012. The register will need to be updated to reflect the position