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FIRST WITH THE NEWS EVERY WEEK



Linda says 'au revoir' to group

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It's all yours

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'WE WON'T STAND FOR HOSPITAL SELL-OFF'

CAMPAIGNERS say they will not allow the birthplace of the NHS to be 'sold off to the highest bidder.'

Fears that Trafford General could be privatised have sparked a campaign to ensure it stays under NHS control.

And today we can reveal a public meeting will be held over the future of healthcare in the borough.

The campaign is being led by Labour politicians - new Urmston councillor Jo Harding and MP Kate Green. They say local people should be listened to and they are determined to keep Trafford's three hospitals out of private hands.

Coun Harding said: "We have already lost key services at Trafford, with wards being

by Katherine Vine

closed and jobs lost. We will not stand by and allow the birthplace of our NHS to be sold off to the highest bidder."

Ms Green added: "We want to give people a chance to talk about what is happening in the NHS, nationally and locally."

Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust, which run the borough's hospitals, is looking to merge with another trust due to its financial problems.

Three trusts have expressed an interest, but bosses have admitted that if a merger cannot be achieved Trafford Healthcare, which carries an £8m historical debt, will go on the open market - which could see it fall into private hands.

Trust bosses say the merger is vital to ensure the future

of healthcare in Trafford.

Ron Calvert, outgoing chief executive of Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust, says that it is too small to remain viable as an independent organisation. He added: "The campaigners say they want to see Trafford General thrive as a local hospital. That is what we want too. It is the whole reason we are seeking acquisition by one of our neighbouring NHS foundation trusts."

The trust says that even if it went on the open market and a private bidder was selected, Trafford General would remain an NHS hospital and continue to provide care free at the point of delivery. The deadline for bids is Friday, June 24.

The meeting is on June 30 at 2pm, at St Clement's Parish Hall, Stretford Road, Urmston.



Pooches prove pedigree

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