

ENFIELD INDEPENDENT

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David Cameron speak to reporter Dominic Gover

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Tory supremo cuts to Chase

By **DOMINIC GOVER**

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DAVID Cameron made a flying visit to Chase Farm Hospital on Thursday and vowed that any future Conservative government would abolish plans to axe its services.

Flanked by grass roots activists and MPs, the Tory leader laid out a vision for the NHS, where decisions about medical services are delegated away from Whitehall bureaucrats, to medical professionals.

Mr Cameron said: "The cutbacks and closures at this hospital are completely unjustified.

"I think the idea that you cannot keep a maternity unit that's got 3,000 babies born in it a year is completely wrong.

"The idea we should be shutting Accident and Emergency (A&E) and asking people to travel further is also wrong."

Mr Cameron claimed plans to cut the A&E department and maternity services "will put lives at risk", and aligned his party with residents fighting to retain them on site.

He said: "We are right behind you. There is no justification for what is happening here. Hospitals like Chase Farm are valued by people and we want to keep them."

Mr Cameron's visit to the hospital, in The Ridgeway, came about after Nick De Bois, who has fought the Enfield

North seat in recent elections and will do so again at the next poll, approached him at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool last week.

And following on from his well-received Blackpool speech, Mr Cameron used the example of Chase Farm to heap scorn on the Government's policy on hospitals.

He said: "The changes have been imposed from above, are based on faulty analysis and are not welcomed by residents.

"What we need is not a system of top-down cuts, endless re-organisations, and endless re-configurations, which is what we keep getting from this Government.

"What we need is to give more power and control to general practitioners, give them their budgets, and actually let hospital services develop in response to that, rather than some blueprint imposed from Whitehall."

David Burrowes, Conservative MP for Enfield Southgate, also attended the event, along with Nick De Bois and Broxbourne Tory MP Charles Walker.

Activists unfurled a party political banner opposing changes to Chase Farm's services.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

Pick up a copy of the Chase Farm consultation documents in our office



The Conservatives unveil a Hands Off Our Chase Farm



David Cameron arrives at Chase Farm



David Burrowes, Conservative MP for Enfield to the public



Nick De Bois, the Conservative Party's chosen to fight the Enfield North election against current MP Joan Ryan, speaks to reporters

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