

**Princess Alexandra Hospital (Harlow) update and
Joint Working with Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee**

Reference Number: HOPSC/12/20

Report title: Princess Alexandra Hospital (Harlow) update and Joint Working with Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee	
Report to: Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 13 May 2020	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
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County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Committee has previously been updated by Princess Alexandra Hospital (Harlow) (hereinafter “PAH”) on its preferred option to seek capital funding for a rebuild of the hospital at a new greenfield site near the M11 motorway.

The Committee is asked to note the update below and consider approving the suggested actions to establish a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Hertfordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee (hereinafter “Hertfordshire”).

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider:

- 2.1 The notes of an informal discussion between members of the Committee and representatives of PAH and West Essex CCG held on 1st April 2020 (attached as Appendix 1);
- 2.2 That one of the actions to be progressed arising from that discussion was to investigate the feasibility of joint working with Hertfordshire.

The Committee is asked to consider and agree:

- 2.3 The establishment of a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Hertfordshire;
- 2.4 The Committee’s representation on the proposed Joint Health Scrutiny Committee be County Councillors Jill Reeves, Beverley Egan and Ricki Gadsby and that Harlow District Councillor Tony Edwards be invited to attend as an observer and, at the discretion of the Chairman of the Joint Committee, to participate in discussion so as to provide local input into the deliberations.
- 2.5 The proposed Terms of Reference (attached as a draft in Appendix 2) to be adopted at the first meeting of the proposed Joint Health Scrutiny Committee;

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- 2.6 The non-application of political proportionality rules as set out in the Joint Committee's Terms of Reference;
- 2.7 That the proposed Joint Committee be the formal statutory consultee for the purposes of considering the PAH proposals for relocation and rebuild of the hospital and proposed public engagement strategy.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee has previously been updated by PAH on its preferred option to seek capital funding for a rebuild of the hospital at a new greenfield site near the M11 motorway.

There is a challenging and ambitious timetable for the capital funding application set by Government. Certain conditions have to be met as part of that application for full funding to be granted for the preferred option. Those conditions include obtaining the support of local health scrutiny committees. The funding application is to be considered by NHS England in June 2020.

PAH have been keen to consult both Essex and Hertfordshire health scrutiny committees. Due to the current Corona 19 pandemic it was not possible to hold a formal meeting of the Committee last month (April). Instead, an informal discussion was held with health representatives so that they could take some initial informal 'soundings' from committee members on the business and clinical case for their preferred option for relocation and rebuild and their proposals for public engagement. As a result of those deliberations, consultation with the Committee Chairman and Lead Members and further discussions with PAH and Hertfordshire, it is now proposed that a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee be established to formally consider and respond to the proposals.

4. Update and Next Steps

The update is incorporated into the Introduction above. Next steps are as proposed under Action Required.

5 List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Notes of an informal discussion on 1st April 2020 between members of the Committee and representatives of PAH and West Essex CCG;

Appendix 2 - The proposed Terms of Reference of a proposed Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.