

<b>Report title:</b> Princess Alexandra Hospital – new hospital update	
<b>Report to:</b> Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
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<b>Date:</b> 8 May 2024	<b>For:</b> Discussion
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<b>County Divisions affected:</b> Not applicable	

## 1. Introduction

1.1 HOSC members will be aware that the Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust (PAHT) continues to seek to secure funding to deliver a new hospital. The current facilities are not fit for purpose, provide a sub-optimal environment for patients and inhibit the delivery of safe, high quality and responsive care both now and in the future. Investment to improve the estate and support the delivery of a best practice clinical care model is urgently required.

1.2 Our objectives have not changed, the delivery of the new hospital PAHT plans to:

- work in partnership with primary, community, social care and voluntary sector colleagues to create joined up models of care that work across organisational boundaries
- provide sufficient capacity for future needs, taking into account population growth and new service models and building in flexibility for the future.
- strengthen team-working and learning opportunities by grouping together linked clinical services
- harness the latest technology and be among the most digitally advanced hospitals in the UK
- provide more streamlined ‘one stop’ clinics that save patients time and support faster diagnosis
- offer staff a far better experience than is possible from the current site
- use the latest design to reduce environmental impact and contribute towards meeting the NHS net zero carbon target
- work with partners to improve public transport access to the hospital
- create new facilities in areas of urban regeneration and play a big part in strengthening local economies through employment opportunities

1.3 This paper provides an update on progress with local plans, in the context of the national New Hospital Programme.

## 2. Action required

2.1 HOSC members are asked to note this update and to continue to support PAHT with the development of its plans for a much-needed new hospital.

### **3. Background**

3.1 Unfortunately, as at our previous updates to meetings of the HOSC, PAHT delays and uncertainty within the New Hospital Programme at a national level is leading to delays with the delivery of the new hospital.

3.2 However, PAHT remained fully committed to pushing forward with its redevelopment plan as rapidly as possible, ensuring that the Trust is in the best possible position to make progress as soon as the national issues begin to unlock.

### **4. New Hospital Update**

4.1 The New Hospital Programme (NHP) has submitted their Programme Business case to the Investment Committee. This case contains all the proposed new hospitals that form the programme. Our understanding is that this will be approved at the end of May at which time we are expecting that the new hospital in Harlow will be able to proceed to the next stage.

4.2 PAHT has continued to prepare itself for the release of this approval so that it is able to proceed meaningfully to produce an addendum to the Strategic Outline Case, previously approved and then the Outline Business Case.

4.3 We are currently finalising the appointment of the team of consultants to support this important work in readiness for an announcement from NHS England.

4.4 Recruitment of key members of the PAHT's delivery team is well underway with 3 key appointments made in March/April 2024. Recruitment of 'Clinical Champions' within PAHT's internal team will commence in May so that the redesign of our clinical models can begin.

4.5 We continue to negotiate with the landowner at Junction 7a of the M11 to purchase a site for the new hospital, however, this is proving challenging to conclude.

4.6 At present it is not possible to give a firmer indication of the timeline for the opening of the new hospital. PAHT is continuing to work in line with the Government's commitment to have all current New Hospital Programme schemes operational by 2030, however, realistically we believe that 2032 is more achievable.

4.7 We received a small amount of development funding which facilitates the land negotiation and the ability to continue refinement of the new models of care.

4.8 PAHT has remained actively involved in the centralised approach, working with NHP so that the new PAHT hospital will fully benefit from the programmatic approach being driven by central Government and the national NHP team. These benefits are to include a reduction in the overall time taken to build the

hospital and will provide better value for money for the taxpayer.

## **5. Designs for the new hospital**

- 5.1 As previously mentioned, one element of the centralised approach currently being developed by NHP is a set of standard designs, 'Hospital 1.0' has now become 'Hospital 2.0' and is due to be released to PAH and others in the programme at the end of May. We await this information as it will be key to taking forward our own plans.
- 5.2 The timeline to submit a planning application is both dependant on the volume of changes required to our own designs to meet the requirements of Hospital 2.0 and the acquisition of a site. Therefore, based on what is currently understood it is likely that a planning application will be made in 2025.

## **6. Next Steps**

- 6.1 PAHT will continue to work closely with NHP on the standard design and procurement strategy.
- 6.2 It is proposed a further update is presented to the HOSC early in 2026.