

Update from Princess Alexandra Hospital (Harlow) and health commissioners on proposed relocation and rebuild of hospital

Reference Number: JHOSC/02/20

Report title: Update from Princess Alexandra Hospital (Harlow) and health commissioners on proposed relocation and rebuild of hospital	
Report to: Princess Alexandra Hospital - Hertfordshire and West Essex Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 13 May 2020	For: Consideration and evaluation of proposal as outlined below and identifying follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk.	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The health scrutiny committees at Essex County Council and Hertfordshire County Council have each periodically been updated on options and proposals to rebuild Princess Alexandra Hospital (Harlow) (hereinafter “PAH”). The Board of PAH now has agreed a preferred option to seek capital funding for a rebuild of the hospital at a new greenfield site near the M11 motorway.
- 1.2 The Princess Alexandra Hospital - Hertfordshire and West Essex Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been established to be the formal local authority health scrutiny statutory consultee to consider the proposal for the rebuild and the proposed public engagement strategy (hereinafter “the Joint Committee”) and to provide feedback as deemed appropriate.

2. Action required

The Joint Committee is asked to consider:

- 2.1 The attached update from PAH and health commissioners recapping on the limitations of the existing site and rationale for a rebuild, the evaluation of options and reaching the preferred option, the process for progressing a capital bid with NHS England and the proposed public engagement strategy for the relocation and rebuild should it proceed (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 A briefing note from the Democratic Service Officers at Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils who are supporting the Joint Committee which outlines the statutory basis for consultation with health scrutiny committees and suggested considerations in evaluating the significance and materiality of proposed changes by the NHS, including the impact on current and future service users. (Appendix 2).

Update from Princess Alexandra Hospital (Harlow) and health commissioners on proposed relocation and rebuild of hospital

The Joint Committee is then asked to consider:

- 2.3 Whether it can support the broad proposal and rationale for relocation and rebuild of PAH on a greenfield site.
- 2.4 Whether it considers the proposal constitutes a substantial variation of service requiring full public consultation.
- 2.5 The adequacy of the current proposal for an enhanced public engagement exercise and any further actions and re-assurances that are required to support such an approach.
- 2.6 Future health scrutiny governance arrangements during the course of the development of the Outline Business Case, Full Business Case and development of the new site should the capital funding bid be successful.
- 2.7 Any future role for the Joint Committee on this issue and/or future joint working between the health scrutiny committees at Essex and Hertfordshire either formal or informal.

3. Background

- 3.1 The PAH preferred option is to seek capital funding for a rebuild 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 to facilitate full funding being 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. As a result of discussions between PAH and officers at Essex and Hertfordshire, the Joint Committee has been established to formally consider and respond to the proposals on behalf of health scrutiny committees at Essex and Hertfordshire.

Essex HOSC held an informal discussion with health representatives in April 2020 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. Notes of that discussion are attached as a background document to this report.

4. Update and Next Steps

The update from PAH and health commissioners is attached. Next steps are as proposed under Action Required.

Cont...

Update from Princess Alexandra Hospital (Harlow) and health commissioners on proposed relocation and rebuild of hospital

5 List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Update from PAH and health commissioners.

Appendix 2 - A briefing note from the Democratic Service Officers at Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils who are supporting the Joint Committee (as referenced in 2.2 above)

Appendix 3 - Notes of an informal discussion on 1st April 2020 between members of the Essex Health Overview, Policy and Scrutiny Committee and representatives of PAH and West Essex CCG (background document);