
Motion on Royal Berkshire Hospital Redevelopment

Committee considering report:	Council
Date of Committee:	19 July 2022
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Graham Bridgman
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	Sent 1 July 2022
Report Author:	Gordon Oliver
Forward Plan Ref:	C4246

1 Purpose of the Report

To consider the motion originally submitted in the name of Councillor Alan Macro at the Council meeting on 17 March 2022 following discussion on the matter at the Health Scrutiny Committee on 23 May 2022. The Motion:

“Council notes that:

- The Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust has been consulting on various options to re-develop the hospital. Several options involve various levels of redevelopment of the existing site and one option is the building of a new hospital on a new site.*
- The existing site is very cramped and contains a mixture of new, old and very old buildings, some of which are pre-fabricated. Many have very poor insulation leading to uncomfortable conditions for patients in hot or cold weather and also to poor energy efficiency.*
- Re-development of the existing site is difficult because of its cramped and dense layout.*
- It is very difficult for residents of some parts of West Berkshire to reach the hospital using public transport.*
- Car parking in and around the hospital is restricted and expensive.*
- It can be time consuming to travel to the hospital by any means, including ambulance, at peak times.*

Council therefore resolves that its preferred option is the building of a new hospital on a new site that is readily accessed by West Berkshire residents by both private and public transport, and that this preference be conveyed to the Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust.”

2 Recommendation

Following consideration at Health Scrutiny Committee, it is recommended that Council approves the motion.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary			
Financial:	There are no financial implications associated with this report.			
Human Resource:	There are no HR implications associated with this report.			
Legal:	The recommendation is consistent with relevant legislation including The Health and Care Act 2012 and The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013			
Risk Management:	There are no additional risks associated with this report.			
Property:	There are no property implications arising from this report.			
Policy:	The recommendation will support the Council Strategy priority 'Support everyone to reach their full potential' and in particular 'Improve the health and wellbeing of our residents'.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		There are no equality impacts arising directly from this report.

Motion on Royal Berkshire Hospital Redevelopment

B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		There are no impacts for people with protected characteristics arising directly from this report.
Environmental Impact:		X		There are no environmental impacts arising directly from this report.
Health Impact:	X			The recommendation will help to help to ensure that the needs of West Berkshire residents are considered when the options for the redevelopment of the Royal Berkshire Hospital are developed and assessed.
ICT Impact:		X		There are no ICT impacts arising directly from this report.
Digital Services Impact:		X		There are no Digital Services impacts arising directly from this report.
Council Strategy Priorities:	X			The recommendation will support the priority 'Support everyone to reach their full potential' and in particular 'Improve the health and wellbeing of our residents'.
Core Business:	X			The recommendation supports the following core business areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the wellbeing of older people and vulnerable adults
Data Impact:		X		Not applicable
Consultation and Engagement:				

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 Councillor Alan Macro tabled a motion to Council on 17 March 2022, which proposed that Council should resolve that its preferred option was the building of a new hospital on a new site. Council resolved to refer the matter to the Health Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.2 The report to the Health Scrutiny Committee proposed that the motion be rejected on the basis that where a responsible person consults more than one local authority, those local authorities have a statutory duty under the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 to appoint a joint overview and scrutiny committee for the purposes of the consultation, and only that joint overview and scrutiny committee (JHOSC) may (so far as those local authorities are concerned):
- make comments on the proposal consulted on;
 - require the provision of information about the proposal; or
 - require a member or employee of a responsible person to attend before it to answer questions in connection with the consultation.

(The redevelopment of the Royal Berkshire Hospital would affect patient flows from several different local authorities and so the above duty would apply.)

- 4.3 However, the Health Scrutiny Committee rejected the officers' recommendation on the basis that the process was only at the Strategic Outline Business Case stage and a JHOSC had not yet been formed, so the Council was free to indicate an opinion on the proposals as they stand at this stage in the process. The Committee therefore resolved to refer the matter back to Council and to recommend that the motion be approved, with the acknowledgement that this would be dependent on funding and the proposal delivering the appropriate value for money.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

- 5.1 On 17 March 2022, Councillor Alan Macro tabled a motion to Council, which highlighted that the Royal Berkshire Hospital Trust had consulted on various options to re-develop its main hospital site. Options set out in the Strategic Outline Business Case included various levels of redevelopment of the existing hospital site in central Reading, with the final option being the building of a new hospital on a new site.
- 5.2 Councillor Macro highlighted a number of weaknesses with the existing hospital, including: the cramped nature of the site; a mix of older and prefabricated buildings with poor insulation; a lack of parking; difficulties residents face when travelling to the hospital; and challenges facing ambulances in getting to the site due to traffic conditions. The motion proposed that Council should resolve that its preferred option is the building of a new hospital on a new site.

Background

- 5.3 The Department of Health & Social Care set out in its Health Infrastructure Plan (HIP), funding for 40 new hospital building projects over the next 10 years. The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust was chosen as one of the NHS Trusts to receive seed funding to prepare a Strategic Outline Case for the future development of a new hospital. This could be a completely new hospital, or a combination of new building and refurbishment. It could be on the present hospital site in Reading or on a new site elsewhere.
- 5.4 The Strategic Outline Business case identified four options as main redevelopment possibilities along with two further scenarios – the so-called ‘Do Nothing’ and ‘Do Minimum’ options – which were included simply as baseline options against which the other options could be compared. Three of the four core options involved various levels of redevelopment of the existing hospital site, while the final option involved building a completely new hospital on a greenfield site, which has not yet been identified.
- 5.5 The Trust is now seeking permission from the Department of Health and Social Care, and HM Treasury, to proceed to conduct further work on three options – two of which would involve redevelopment of the existing site and the new-build option on a Greenfield site. This will involve development of a more detailed Outline Business Case.
- 5.6 It is understood that the HIP programme is currently on hold pending the outcome of discussions between the NHS and the Treasury over funding. However, the Trust is continuing with its programme of public engagement pending an announcement from Government.

Legislation

- 5.7 The role of the Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) is to undertake scrutiny of the planning, development and operation of Public Health and NHS services for citizens of West Berkshire, in accordance with the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012) and the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.
- 5.8 Its functions include considering and responding to consultations by relevant NHS bodies or health service providers, on proposals that both parties agree constitute a substantial development or substantial variation in the provision of health services for citizens of West Berkshire.
- 5.9 The legislation stipulates that where a ‘responsible person’ (i.e. a body involved in the commissioning or provision of health services) consults more than one local authority, those local authorities have a statutory duty to appoint a joint overview and scrutiny committee (JHOSC) for the purposes of the consultation, and only that JHOSC may (so far as those local authorities are concerned):
- (a) make comments on the proposal consulted on;
 - (b) require the provision of information about the proposal; or
 - (c) require a member or employee of a responsible person to attend before it to answer questions in connection with the consultation.

Motion on Royal Berkshire Hospital Redevelopment

5.10 The redevelopment of the Royal Berkshire Hospital would affect patient flows from several different local authorities and so the above duty would apply. The health body must call for JHOSC to be set up once a preferred option has been identified. This would happen once the Outline Business has been completed, which is the next stage of the process.

5.11 Until the point at which a preferred option has been identified and / or a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been established, individual local authorities are free to comment on options.

Proposals

5.12 The Health Scrutiny Committee proposes that the motion as originally put by Councillor Macro be approved:

“Council notes that:

- The Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust has been consulting on various options to re-develop the hospital. Several options involve various levels of redevelopment of the existing site and one option is the building of a new hospital on a new site.*
- The existing site is very cramped and contains a mixture of new, old and very old buildings, some of which are pre-fabricated. Many have very poor insulation leading to uncomfortable conditions for patients in hot or cold weather and also to poor energy efficiency.*
- Re-development of the existing site is difficult because of its cramped and dense layout.*
- It is very difficult for residents of some parts of West Berkshire to reach the hospital using public transport.*
- Car parking in and around the hospital is restricted and expensive.*
- It can be time consuming to travel to the hospital by any means, including ambulance, at peak times.*

Council therefore resolves that its preferred option is the building of a new hospital on a new site that is readily accessed by West Berkshire residents by both private and public transport, and that this preference be conveyed to the Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust.”

5.13 It should be noted that the recommendation does not specify a preferred site. Also, the Health Scrutiny Committee noted that redevelopment on a new site would be likely to be more costly to deliver and would therefore be reliant on funding availability and the proposal meeting the necessary value for money requirements.

6 Other options considered

6.1 Council could resolve to reject the motion and to refrain from setting out a preferred position on the Royal Berkshire Hospital at this stage.

6.2 Council also has the option to amend the recommendation as Members see fit.

7 Conclusion

The recommendation would be compliant with relevant legislation and would set out the Council's preferred position for a new hospital to be constructed on a new site (to be determined) rather than redeveloping the existing site in Central Reading.

8 Appendices

None

Background Papers:

- Council Minutes (17 March 2023)
- Health Scrutiny Committee Minutes (23 May 2022)

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>

Wards affected: All

Officer details:

Name: Gordon Oliver
Job Title: Principal Policy Officer
Tel No: 01635 519486
E-mail: gordon.oliver1@westberks.gov.uk
