

Building Berkshire Together – New Hospital Programme



Update for Health & Wellbeing Board, West Berkshire Council
Alison Foster, Programme Director
December 2021

1. Introduction

1.1 The Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust (RBFT) is one of 40 Trusts on the Hospital Infrastructure Programme (HIP) 2 which is now called the New Hospital Programme (NHP). There is a 3 stage process to secure funding for the new development, in line with the HM Treasury Green Book for Business Cases.

1.1.1 The Strategic Outline Case (SOC) which makes the case for change and was submitted on 21st December 2020.

1.1.2 The Outline Business Case (OBC) stage which explores in depth the case for a number of options and works with stakeholders to agree a preferred option which demonstrates value for money for the population.

1.1.3 The Full Business Case (FBC) which goes out to procure the resources required to build the new development

2. Business Case Progress

2.1 The SOC proposed taking 3 options forward. Options 4 and 5 are redevelopment on site and option 6 is a new build off site. Land being explored include Thames Valley Science Park and Green Park but the OBC process may explore further options.

2.2 The SOC has not yet been formally reviewed although we have received informal positive feedback on this in January 2021.

2.3 We have not yet received an indication of likely timeline or a scheduled

date for us to submit our Outline Business Case (OBC); however, we have received confirmation from the Senior Responsible Officer of the New Hospital Programme that we continue in the NHP and could commence construction as early as January 2025. We are progressing our work on the next stage towards this, the Outline Business Case (OBC).

2.4 A Programme Director, Alison Foster, has been substantively appointed and commenced 28 July 2021.

3. Enabling work

3.1 Work is progressing on key areas of dependencies, such

3.1.1 Space optimisation

- 3.1.1.1 The development of the Harborne building at the University of Reading. The Trust has leased this building to provide additional off site pathology space and administration space. This will facilitate enabling decanting and moving staff from buildings which are not fit for purpose.
- 3.1.1.2 A feasibility proposal for phase 2 demolition (following the phase 1 demolition of Buildings W3 and W4 on West Drive) has now been received as a starting point to support both funding applications and planning for this enabling work.
- 3.1.1.3 Application of hybrid working, refurbishment, virtual clinical support and increased use of satellite sites.
- 3.1.1.4 Establishing confirmation of budget and timeline from the NHP team.

3.2 Recruiting patient, community and staff leader(s) to work in partnership with programme clinical and operational leadership.

3.3 Drafting a Programme Implementation Document (PID), which takes into account the production of the OBC in tandem with current developments taking place on site.

3.4 Progressing the development of the RBFT Green Plan which will go to the Trust board for approval in December.

3.5 Reviewing the SOC and evaluating what has changed since December 2020 when the SOC was submitted and evaluating the impact on options going forward.

4. Communications and Engagement

4.1 We have been

- 4.1.1 building a network of stakeholders interested in playing a role
- 4.1.2 holding open engagement events
- 4.1.3 developing a framework for co-production
- 4.1.4 engaging with Healthwatch
- 4.1.5 recruiting to a full time post to support this work
- 4.1.6 reporting progress to health and wellbeing boards

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Developing the detail of the clinical model from the new strategy
- 5.2 Gaining security on funding from the New Hospital Programme
- 5.3 Building the OBC team, aligned to allocated resources
- 5.4 Commencing the OBC process
- 5.5 Progressing enabling works outlined above

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