

Executive

Bicester Hospital Re-provision

3 October 2011

Report of Strategic Director Environment and Community

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the latest position regarding the procurement by Oxfordshire PCT of the re-provision of Bicester Hospital.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To note the PCT's decision through its bidder shortlisting process to re-provide the new community hospital on the existing hospital site.
- (2) To continue to offer the full support of the District Council to the PCT in providing a new Bicester Community Hospital as a fundamental part of the town's infrastructure.
- (3) To urge the PCT to ensure service continuity throughout the redevelopment and to maximise the scope for future expansion possibilities in their design.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 The PCT has for some considerable period been planning the re-provision of Bicester Hospital and is now at a point where potential bidders have been short-listed using a Pre-Qualifying Questionnaire, following which a smaller number of them will be invited to submit outline solutions.

Proposals

NHS Oxfordshire has shortlisted five bidders from a list of 11 for the redevelopment of Bicester Community Hospital. The PCT has undertaken a Pre- Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) process to enable it to create a shortlist of organisations that have the potential to deliver the new hospital facilities. The PQQ process evaluates an organisation's economic and financial standing, technical/professional ability and capacity and legal status.

- 1.2 With regard to the option of re-providing the hospital facilities on an alternative site in Bicester the PCT has consulted the shortlisted bidders and none of them have secured suitable alternative sites which would allow for the completion of the development, within the timetable required of the PCT. The PCT has asked the shortlisted bidders to explore solutions on the basis of the current hospital site only and taking into account the One Shared Vision EcoBicester requirements plus the growing population.
- 1.3 From this position, the PCT will invite the five bidders to participate in dialogue to develop outline solutions from which the PCT will reduce the shortlist further to invite formal tenders.

Conclusion

- 1.4 The decision to shortlist to five bidders represents a significant step forward in the procurement process for the re-provision of Bicester Community Hospital. It's disappointing that the District Council's preferred site at SW Bicester will not feature in the next procurement stage but the provision of a new hospital to replace the current sub-standard facility is the most important aspect of this, not the site.

Background Information

- 2.1 The Oxfordshire PCT has been for sometime pursuing the re-provision of Bicester Community Hospital. The procurement process in 2009 and 2010 was for three options for bidders to pursue. The first was for provision of bedded services, the second provision of the facilities for the ambulatory care centre in order to house the out patient services currently provided at Bicester Hospital, and the third option is a combination of both of these.
- 2.2 Due to the complexity of the service and facility options arising from this process and the difficulty in evaluating bids on an equitable basis, the PCT agreed to simplify the process in 2011 to focus on the provision of facilities only with the contracts for services from those facilities subject to separate negotiation, commercial structure and procurement.

2.3 Proposed Hospital Re-provision

Its intended that the new premises will provide the following significant benefits for local residents:

- Up to date and modern facilities, capable of delivering 21st Century healthcare in line with national and local priorities
- Integrated care pathways that provide ambulatory care and step up and step down inpatient services through partnership and shared care arrangements with secondary care providers
- Flexibility to cope with demographic and demand changes
- Improved local access to consultation, diagnosis and treatment

- Reduced travelling time for a growing population, avoiding the need for patients to travel to Oxford
 - Reduced pressure on acute hospital services
- 2.4 The PCT's objectives for this procurement are to provide
- The facilities for the level of bedded care currently provided within Bicester, with the expectation that this will be co-located alongside the ambulatory care facility
 - Ambulatory care facilities suitable for providing healthcare to the people of Bicester and surrounding areas for at least 50 years
 - A flexible infrastructure service platform, preferably co-located with other health or care facilities that will be responsive in meeting growth and changing needs of the locality
 - The facilities required at an affordable cost to the PCT
- 2.5 The range of services currently provided at the Bicester Community Hospital site and which will continue to be provided, include sub-acute bedded care in 12 beds, diagnostics, First Aid Unit, Out of Hours, Out-Patients, Therapies and X-ray facilities.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

- 3.1 The Council has for many years expressed a strong preference for the new Bicester Community Hospital to be located on the health village site within the SW Bicester development. It has argued that such a relatively large green field site provides greater opportunity for a high quality development and setting, the site due to its size offers the best opportunity for future expansion of healthcare services for a growing town, the health village concept has the potential to provide complementary adjacent health care services and service continuity during construction would be unaffected.
- 3.2 The PCT short listing decision effectively rules out this site option as the shortlisted bidding process, will now be concentrating only on the current hospital site.
- 3.3 With the major reforms and changes taking place in the health sector at present, particularly with the commissioning of services, there is the potential for a change of commissioning body part way through the procurement process. If this were to be the case then that would have to be managed at that time. In the meantime, both the process and the financial envelope for this procurement have been approved by the PCT and the Strategic Health Authority.
- 3.4 Arising from this position is the question over the future uses of the health village site at SW Bicester. The Section 106 Planning Agreement for that site in summary stipulates that the health village can be used for a community hospital, a GP Surgery and for the provision of other medical facility uses including that of an extra care elderly nursing home. It also requires the marketing of the site for these uses. As the first two of these health care uses

are no longer required by the PCT, it can be expected that the marketing of the site will concentrate on other medical/health care uses. The S106 Agreement has a five year limit from implementation of the development or until the occupation of 1,000 dwellings which ever is later.

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward

- Option One** To continue to support the PCT in its procurement of the re-provision if a new hospital.
- Option Two** Not to support the PCT in its procurement of the re-provision if a new hospital.

Consultations

None

Implications

Financial: There are no specific financial implications arising from this report or this particular project, based on the procurement process of the PCT to date. Officer and Member time in supporting the PCT in this exercise is regarded as normal activity.

Comments checked by Denise Taylor, Service Accountant 01295 221982.

Legal: There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Comments checked by Nigel Bell, Team Leader – Planning and Litigation, 01295 221687

Risk Management: There are no notable risks to the Council associated with this project as this project is the PCT's responsibility.

Comments checked by Claire Taylor, Community and Corporate Planning Manager, 01295 221563.

Wards Affected

All Bicester and southern District wards

Corporate Plan Themes

A Safe and Healthy District

Executive Lead Member

**Councillor James Macnamara
Lead Member for the Environment**

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
None	
Background Papers	
None	
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