

# Executive

## A New Banbury GP Led Health Centre

12 January 2009

### Report of Strategic Director Environment & Community

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust's (PCT) Proposals For A New GP Led Health Centre in Banbury

This report is public
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#### Recommendations

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The Executive is recommended to:

- (1) To receive a presentation on the proposal from the Oxfordshire PCT.
- (2) To determine the Council's position regarding the new GP led Health Centre in Banbury.

#### Executive Summary

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##### Introduction

- 1.1 Following the Government's announcement of its intentions to open 150 new health centres (led by GPs), one in each PCT area, Oxfordshire PCT took the decision to locate this in Banbury. Since this time, an extensive public engagement programme, a site search and procurement have been underway with the intention to appoint a preferred bidder early in 2009 to have the Centre operational by the summer of 2009.

##### Proposals

- 1.2 The District Council welcomes any initiative which improves healthcare provision in the Cherwell District. In this respect, it welcomes and indeed supports the Oxfordshire PCT's decision to invest further in Banbury. It recognises that the rationale used associated with the degree of difficulty with some current GP practices to get an appointment, the levels of deprivation and the increasing population mean that Banbury is an appropriate location to consider improvements to healthcare provision. It is also encouraging to note that the intended medical services contain an emphasis on ill-health

prevention as well as improved access to services. This approach is again supported by the District Council.

1.3 However, in supporting this proposal the Council must be convinced that:

- There is no impingement or detriment to the long term sustainability of all current services at the Horton General Hospital. Given the District Council's vociferous objection to the past Oxfordshire Radcliffe NHS Trust's proposals for the Horton, it is imperative therefore that this initiative is implemented in such a way that it focuses on primary care GP services only and not any services provided by the Horton General Hospital;
- Any new GP led health services for the town and its surrounding catchment should take into account the strengths of the current and well regarded GP practices and if possible include an enhancement of these where improvements such as capacity are required. This is particularly relevant if current practices are well located in terms of accessibility and health care need;
- The District Council and local people will want to be sure that the additional funding for this development is permanent and will not replace current funding streams.
- This proposal represents a major opportunity to look at the town as a whole in terms of its current GP based services and, through the impact assessment, examine all options of different and better GP based service delivery.

### **Conclusion**

1.4 Further investment in the healthcare services in Banbury is to be welcomed and supported by the Council assuming the key concerns as outlined above are addressed. A presentation will be given by PCT representatives of the latest position.

## Background Information

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- 2.1 Following the Government's announcement of this national proposal, the PCT then considered in which part of the county to locate it. The key criteria for this option appraisal focussed on:
- How easy it is to register with a GP and to get an appointment at a convenient time;
  - Levels of deprivation and health inequalities;
  - Demographic features including population growth (particularly over 75's) and hard to engage with groups & communities
- 2.2 In summary, Banbury was chosen because:
- It is more difficult to register with a GP and to get an appointment at a convenient time in some practices in Banbury than elsewhere in the county;
  - There is a relatively high level of deprivation in Banbury;
  - The population is growing.
- 2.3 Anyone will be able to use the new GP-led Health Centre. The Centre will be open from 8am to 8pm every day including weekends and bank holidays. Local people will be able to register with the Health Centre as the catchment area will be a five mile radius from Banbury Cross. It is important to have a catchment area for every GP practice so that the area that needs to be covered for home visits is reasonable. Anyone else will also be able to attend the centre on a 'walk-in' basis, for example, tourists and people who work, but do not live in the town. This will enable patients to access services even if they are not registered with a GP, such as people who regularly move from place to place.
- 2.4 Examples of primary medical services which will be available to registered patients are:
- Services for people with long term conditions such as diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and coronary heart disease;
  - Blood testing and monitoring services;
  - Cervical screening;
  - Child Health surveillance;
  - Minor surgery;
  - Maternity medical services;
  - Flu jabs;
  - Contraceptive services;
  - Childhood immunisations and pre-school boosters;
  - Vaccinations and immunisations;
  - Treatment of minor illnesses;
  - Stop smoking services;
  - Drugs misuse services.
- 2.5 Oxfordshire PCT is proposing that the premises solution for the new health centre could also provide some extra services. These should be services that will be particularly focussed on the health needs of the local population. In considering the local health needs of the population, the following are offered as possible extra services:

- Primary care mental health, drug and alcohol services including psychological services not currently available from primary care in Banbury;
- NHS dental services in the same building;
- Health checks (MOTs) and other health promotion services focussed on keeping people healthy.

2.6 Some other issues which might be important to local people have also been suggested:

- Ensuring people living in rural communities are considered in the way services are delivered;
- Sharing space with other related services (eg. Citizen's Advice) so they can be co-located in the same building;
- Ensuring information about services at the Health Centre is widely available to people living and working in Banbury and the surrounding areas;
- Ensuring all practice staff are trained in customer care skills;
- Ensuring patients and public are involved in the way services are developed, eg. by establishing a Patient Participation Group.
- Ensuring patients are involved in the design and layout of the Health Centre before it is opened.
- The walk-in services should be located in the same place as other services in the Health Centre.

When deciding what extra services should be available, the PCT will want to understand, and take into account, any impact there might be on other local services from the perspective of the patient.

### **Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options**

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- 3.1 The District Council believes very firmly that any new services in primary healthcare should be targeted both geographical and otherwise to the area of the greatest health need and therefore benefit. In this respect, the PCT's decision to undertake an impact assessment is welcomed and it is hoped that the PCT will do this in a way that all our aspects will be considered. This is particularly relevant to the location(s) and nature of how the initiative is implemented.
- 3.2 The Council will object in the strongest possible way to any service development which actually or potentially impinges upon the long term sustainability of all current services at the Horton General Hospital. The PCT will be well aware of the District Council's vociferous objection to the past Oxfordshire Radcliffe NHS Trust's proposals and it is imperative therefore that this initiative is implemented in such a way that it focuses on primary care GP services only and not any services provided by the Horton General Hospital.
- 3.3 It is critical not to replace or destabilise the current GP practice network. This is particularly relevant to the out of hours service. The PCT claims that some of the town's GP practices do have capacity issues and that the process of improvement through change does frequently generate significant community concerns. This initiative should be an opportunity to build on the strengths of

the existing GP practices network in and around the town and to do so in the most effective and beneficial way possible.

- 3.4 The key concern is over the prescriptive nature of this Government driven initiative which is insufficiently flexible in timing and nature to apply to all local circumstances. It will therefore be necessary to consider all options through its impact assessment and to clearly evidence the strengths of the existing GP service provision as the basis for any service enhancement.

The following options have been identified.

<b>Option One</b>	To establish a new stand alone Health Centre
<b>Option Two</b>	To extend and improve the existing GP practices assuming the investment conditions permit this
<b>Option Three</b>	A combination of Options 1 and 2

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**Consultations:** None by the Council although the PCT has undertaken a major public consultation and engagement exercise to help shape the proposal.

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**Implications:**

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**Financial:** There are no financial implications to the Council arising from this report. There will be separate consideration of the location of the new centre which may have some financial implications.

Comments checked by Karen Muir, Accountant 01295 221545

**Legal:** There are no legal issues arising from this report.

Comments checked by Liz Howlett, Head of Legal & Democratic Services 01295 221686

**Risk Management:** There are no notable risks arising from this report.

Comments checked by Rosemary Watts, Risk Management & Insurance Officer 01295 221566

**Wards Affected**

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**All Banbury and surrounding wards.**

**Corporate Plan Themes**

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The aim to help to deliver improved healthcare for Bicester and Banbury by supporting the PCT in delivering improved local and responsive healthcare services

to meet current and future needs of residents is one of the six key elements of the Council's Safe & Healthy Cherwell strategic priorities.

## **Executive Portfolio**

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**Councillor George Reynolds**  
**Portfolio Holder for Community, Health & Environment**

## **Document Information**

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<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix [X]	None
<b>Background Papers</b>	
None	
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