

# Executive

## Bicester Hospital Re - Provision

2 November 2009

### Report of Strategic Director Environment & Community

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the current position regarding the Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust's (PCT) proposals to re-provide Bicester Hospital.

This report is public

#### Recommendations

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The Executive is recommended to:

- (1) Note the current position regarding the PCT's procurement process; and
- (2) Support the PCT in local community involvement through the Community Engagement Forum

#### Executive Summary

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##### 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 and a number of them will shortly be invited to submit outline solutions.

##### Proposals

- 1.2 In undertaking this exercise, the PCT has recognised the importance of communication and engagement with local people and are therefore setting up a Community Engagement Forum of key individuals and interested groups across the town. It should be noted that this hospital re-provision will cover an area far greater than the town of Bicester and the catchment for using the hospital in future is expected to extend as far as Woodstock.

## **Background Information**

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- 2.1 The Executive will recall that this matter was discussed at the Council meeting on 20 July where Alan Webb, Director of Commissioning for the PCT addressed the Council and explained the PCT's position in procuring new facilities and services.
- 2.2 At that meeting concern was expressed about the site options the PCT were considering and that the Council's favoured site to allow for future expansion of healthcare services and facilities for a growing town would be best located on the land allocated for a Health Village in South West Bicester. As a consequence of this, the Council instructed the Leader to write to the Minister of State for Care Services to express the Council's views and concerns over this matter.
- 2.3 A response from the Minister, Phil Hope MP, states that the planning and development of health services is a matter for local primary care trusts in partnership with their strategic health authority. The Council's letter has therefore been forwarded to the Chair of South Central Strategic Health Authority. No contact has yet been made by them. The Council has however met with the Chair of the PCT to discuss this issue and to reinforce its message.
- 2.4 Members will also recall the decision for the Council to submit to the PCT an expression of interest and pre-qualification questionnaire. In this, the Council offered to build and lease back a primary care centre with beds and promoted the South West Bicester site as the best location for delivering future and immediate healthcare needs for the people of Bicester and surrounding areas. This was duly done, but regrettably the Council was unsuccessful in making it through to the next round of the procurement process. As a consequence of this, the Strategic Director Environment & Community has engaged with the PCT and is now a member of the project team managing the procurement process.

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

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- 3.1 Members are reminded that there are currently three options for bidders available through this process. The first is for provision of bedded services, the second is 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. The PCT have indicated that no decisions have been made about site possibilities, although information will be provided to all bidders about both the existing site and the South West Bicester Health Village site.
- 3.2 The PCT is largely on track in its procurement programme with the target date of contract signature in the Autumn of 2010. The current stage of the procurement process involves the preparation of documentation to invite outline solutions from a short listed number of potential bidders following which there will be a period of dialogue with those bidders during the early part of 2010. Running alongside this process are a range of activities to ensure that any bidders proposals are realistic in terms of delivery and that local people are adequately engaged and aware of what is happening.

- 3.3 As part of the process of involving the community, the PCT wishes to establish a Community Engagement Forum to ensure effective and real involvement of a cross-section of the people of Bicester in the process of redeveloping this Community Hospital. Tony Baldry MP has agreed to assist and an offer has been made that this Council will also provide support.
- 3.4 This idea has been tried in previous and earlier stages in the development of this project with limited success, as the messages to local people were largely about process rather than potential outputs. In the coming months it is expected that there will be specific proposals developed which will require some degree of consultation and possibly options on which local people can comment.
- 3.5 It is recommended that the Council engages very positively and supportively with this process by becoming an active member of the community forum and support the PCT in delivering its objectives.
- 3.6 Earlier this year, the Government announced that North West Bicester will be one of four first-wave eco towns for the country. This 5,000 home development will clearly impact on the infrastructure of the town of which the Bicester Hospital re-provision is a key component. This point was also made to the Minister in the Council's letter to him and is subsequently being considered by the PCT as part of its procurement process. As a consequence, the PCT are reviewing the population projections which underpin the services being procured and are considering how this project can contribute to the eco town concept.

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

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|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Option One</b>   | To agree the recommendations.     |
| <b>Option Two</b>   | To amend the recommendations.     |
| <b>Option Three</b> | Not to agree the recommendations. |

## **Consultations**

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**None**

## **Implications**

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**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 Joanne Kaye, Service Accountant  
01295 221545

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

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

**Risk Management:**

There are no notable risks associated with this project as this project is the PCT's responsibility. Public engagement is important in this respect and is currently being accommodated. Also future proofing is important to ensure that what is built is fit for purpose for many years.

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

**Wards Affected**

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All southern District wards.

**Corporate Plan Themes**

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Safe and Healthy Cherwell,

**Executive Portfolio**

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

**Document Information**

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<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
None	
<b>Background Papers</b>	
None	
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