

INFORMATION NOTE: ROYSTON HOSPITAL, HEALTH CENTRE AND THE CIVIC CENTRE SITE**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, HOUSING AND ENTERPRISE****1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report updates members on progress in relation to preparing a development brief for the Civic Centre site and the relationship between that development brief and the current consultation into intermediate health care facilities in the town.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Civic Centre site is identified as an opportunity site for development in the Royston Town Centre Strategy, adopted June 2008. The site covers the Town Hall and its annex, the health centre, the police station and the King James Way car park.
- 2.2 NHS Hertfordshire and the East and North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group are currently consulting upon changes to intermediate health care services, across the district, but with particular relevance to Royston and Hitchin due to the proposed closure of their existing intermediate care facilities, in this case Royston Hospital.

3. ISSUES***Intermediate Health Care consultation***

- 3.1 This consultation runs until 3 February 2012 and can be seen in full at: www.hertfordshire.nhs.uk/intermediatecare
- 3.2 A consultation event, entitled 'Conversation Café' is to be held at Royston Golf Club on 10 January 2012.
- 3.3 The consultation affects Royston insofar as it proposes that the in-patient care side of Royston Hospital is closed in Spring 2012, with a view to securing an independent care provider to redevelop the hospital site with a new facility. That new facility would be likely to comprise five or six intermediate care beds and 40 nursing / residential beds. The consultation anticipates that such a building could open in 2015.
- 3.4 For the out-patient clinics and other facilities currently housed at Royston Hospital, the consultation identifies three options:
- As part of the new facility at the hospital site;
 - In an extension to the Royston Health Centre (which may have implications for the preparation of a Planning Brief for the Health Centre and Civic Centre Site see paras 3.8 to 3.10); or
 - In an alternative local location.

- 3.5 During the planning and development of the new facility at the hospital site, the consultation envisages commissioning NHS-funded beds from local care home providers in the town and making local arrangements to accommodate the other services currently housed at the hospital. It is anticipated that those requiring intermediate care – predominantly older people recovering from surgery or trauma such as broken hips – will continue to be offered rehabilitation in small bed ‘cohorts’ i.e. a cluster of five or six beds block purchased in local care homes. This scheme is intended to:
- Reduce likelihood of patients’ becoming ‘institutionalised’
 - Reduce likelihood of re-admission with a more sustained, joint rehab programme providing greater support
 - Increase their ability to return home more quickly and regain independence
 - Provide care nearer to home, friends and spouse etc
- 3.6 Should members required additional detail on the health consultation, or any queries regarding the health proposals, then please contact Liz Green, contact details below.

Development Brief

- 3.7 The Action Plan accompanying the Royston Town Centre Strategy says that a development brief will be prepared for the Civic Centre site. Meetings have been held with the relevant landowners: Royston Town Council, North Hertfordshire District Council, NHS Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire Constabulary and Hertfordshire County Council. Work has also been carried out looking into the needs for and impacts of various forms of private sector development on the site.

Relationship between the health consultation and development brief

- 3.8 It is clear that there is a very real prospect that the out-patient and other services currently housed in the hospital might be transferred to the health centre, either as a temporary measure whilst a new facility is developed at the hospital site, or permanently. It is our understanding that the health centre building would not be large enough to accommodate all its existing services and those decanted from the hospital, and may therefore require extension.
- 3.9 The health centre is located in the centre of the wider Civic Centre site. If the existing building has to be retained then it limits the scope for achieving a more efficient disposition of uses on the site through the development brief. That said, in the event that the centre is to be retained it should still be possible to achieve some form of development working around the health centre.
- 3.10 Officers are therefore working on preparing two alternative scenarios, one working around the existing health centre and one which includes the site of the health centre. A workshop involving the affected landowners will be arranged, if possible whilst the health consultation is still open. The costs and benefits involved in pursuing either course of action can then be discussed and assessed. It is then proposed to report on progress at the Royston Committee in March 2012.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 That the report be noted.

5. APPENDICES

- 5.1 None

6. CONTACT OFFICERS

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7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 A Vision and Strategy for Intermediate Care Services in Hertfordshire (NHS Hertfordshire in partnership with East and North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group):
www.hertfordshire.nhs.uk/intermediatecare

7.2 Royston Town Centre Strategy:
http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/planning/planning_policy_and_projects/planning_for_town_centres/royston_town_centre_strategy.htm

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