

Supplementary questions submitted to the Trust Board meeting on 2 September 2021

The following questions were received from a member of the public and from the Leicester Mercury Patients' Panel in advance of the Trust Board meeting on 2 September 2021. As they were received after the deadline for submission of questions from the press and public (12noon on 31 August 2021), it was agreed to respond to the requesters outside the meeting and publish the questions and responses on the external website. The Trust's responses are provided following each question below:-

Question 1:

With reference to Minute 223/21/1 of the meeting on 1st July 2021 and the report of the Acting Chief Executive to this meeting, please may I ask:

- (a) Has the Reconfiguration and Transformation Committee met?**
- (b) if so when, and when will the Minutes be published?**
- (c) how are the views of patients and the public heard by the Committee?**

Response to question 1 by the Interim Director of Corporate and Legal Affairs:

- (a) The first meeting of the Reconfiguration and Transformation Committee (RTC) is provisionally scheduled to be held on Thursday 25 November 2021.
- (b) An escalation report highlighting the key issues discussed at the most recent RTC meeting will be presented to the subsequent Trust Board meeting. In addition, the Minutes of each RTC meeting will be submitted to the next available Trust Board meeting. Both the escalation reports and the Minutes will be published on the external website.
- (c) The Membership and Terms of Reference for the RTC are in the process of being agreed, but it is expected that the membership will include representatives from Healthwatch, the CCGs and LPT.

Question 2:

In July the Health Service Journal reported that UHL was among the NHS Trusts to receive a letter from The New Hospitals Programme asking Trusts to submit three sets of plans for evaluation.

- (a) An option costing no more than £400m;**
- (b) The trust's preferred option, at the cost they are currently expecting; and**
- (c) A "phased approach" to delivery of the preferred option.**

Was such a letter received by the Trust? If so, what response is the Trust making and what are the implications of the 'option costing no more than £400m' for the schemes in the Decision Making Business Case on which the LLR CCGs consulted the public?

Response to question 2 by the Director of Estates and Facilities:

As one of the 8 national New Hospital Programme (NHP) 'Pathfinder' schemes, we have been asked by the NHP team to look at a range of approaches to how we go about building new hospitals in Leicester. There are three scenarios that we have been asked to consider:

1. An option that fits the Trust's initial capital allocation of £450m in 2019.
2. The Trust's preferred option
3. A phased approach to delivery of the preferred option

The Leicester scheme has remained almost exactly as described three years ago at the time of the initial capital allocation. However, some of the parameters we are expected to meet when we build the new hospitals have changed significantly; for example the percentage of single rooms versus open wards, the amount of money expected to be set aside for contingency and the requirement to make the buildings 'net zero carbon'. We have therefore submitted plans which illustrate what can be achieved within the original allocation, our preferred option and a phased approach which would deliver the preferred option, albeit over a longer time scale.

We recognise that it is a necessary part of the process for colleagues in the New Hospital Programme to challenge each of the Pathfinder schemes on both deliverability and value for money. The content of the

submitted template is commercially sensitive and not in the public domain. Details of the way forward will be released once this has been agreed with the New Hospital programme.

Question 3:

Has the Decontamination Business Case referred to in the report to the May Board meeting been approved?

Response to question 3 by the Director of Estates and Facilities:

Yes, the Decontamination Business Case has been approved.

Question 4:

Will the Trust consider keeping the public and stakeholders informed by providing on its web site a regularly updated progress report on all the Reconfiguration and Transformation programmes?

Response to question 4 by the Interim Director of Corporate and Legal Affairs and the Director of Estates and Facilities:

Public and stakeholders will be informed on the business discussed at the RTC meetings via the escalation reports and Minutes of the meetings which will be published on the external website. We are committed to keeping our stakeholders informed on progress of the reconfiguration plans, and are in the process of developing a communication strategy which will include the use of UHL website. This work is still in progress.

Question 5:

As the Board now meets bi-monthly please can the responses to public questions asked at Board meetings be published on the Trust web site shortly after the meeting?

Response to question 5 by the Interim Director of Corporate and Legal Affairs:

The public questions and responses will be published on the external website as soon as possible after each meeting.

Question 6:

Please could you tell me why the request of the new hospitals programme team for details of variants of the Building Hospitals For the Future Scheme does not appear on the public board agenda. What are the elements of the Building Better Hospitals For the Future Scheme which were removed to accommodate the £400m version of the scheme requested by the new hospitals programme team? Further what would be the impact on the preferred proposal as consulted upon if a phased approach is required?

Response to question 6 by the Director of Estates and Facilities:

The content of the submitted template is commercially sensitive and not in the public domain. Details of the way forward will be released once it has been agreed with the New Hospital programme.

Question 7:

Two months ago, the Integrated Quality & Performance Report for month 2 was presented to the public board. This month, we have the report for month 4. What has happened to the report for month 3 and when will the public be able to see this? Would you agree that this is an example of the reduced number of public boards resulting in reduced transparency?

Response to question 7 by the Interim Director of Corporate and Legal Affairs:

The Integrated Quality and Performance (Q&P) report provides cumulative performance data, so much of the information from month 3 will be provided again in the month 4 report. To increase transparency, we will arrange to publish the Q&P reports for those months when the Trust Board does not meet publicly via our external website.

Question 8:

Remaining residents of Hospital Close are publicly complaining that their safety is at risk due to neglect of the area. What is the responsibility of UHL to these residents, will this responsibility be discharged and when will it be discharged?

Response to question 8 by the Director of Estates and Facilities:

The majority of the Trusts ownership of Hospital Close was sold to Leicester City Council on 1 April 2021. The only part excluded was number 4-6 Hospital Close, which the Trust leases to a brain injury charity called Headway. This means that there is a small portion of the overall site that remains within the Trust's ownership and for which responsibility is retained. Opposite and adjacent to the Headway premises are several privately owned properties, which neither the Trust or the City Council have control of.

Within the area retained by the Trust, there is one streetlight which has stopped working and arrangements have been made, in liaison with the City Council, to effect repairs to ensure that it works effectively again. A number of meetings have taken place with colleagues at the City Council to rectify any issues that may be the source of complaint which are in consequence of the Trust's land holding and (with the exception of the broken streetlight and desire to see the roadway at this point improved) no other complaints have been received for which the Trust would be responsible.

It is understood that the Council wish to resurface parts of the road that they have purchased and are taking steps to then progress adoption of the whole; in the interim, whilst the Council undertake resurfacing, the Trust has agreed in principle to have its retained portion of roadway resurfaced at the same time.

Question 9:

Any reduction in the exclusion of press and public while items of business are discussed in private is to be welcomed. Today I'm pleased to note that the press and members of the public are not excluded from items of business. For the sake of clarity could you confirm that items of business for today's board will not or have not been discussed in confidential session? Additionally can you confirm that since the last public board meeting, on 1st July, no items of business have been discussed at a private board meeting?

Response to question 9 by the Interim Director of Corporate and Legal Affairs:

The Trust Board continues to meet in private to consider any items of business which are considered to be commercially sensitive or include personal information. Since 1 July 2021, the Trust Board has met twice in private session, once on 15 July 2021 and once on 2 September 2021. In order to increase visibility, it is proposed to include a high level summary of any decisions taken at the private Trust Board meetings within the Chairman's report to the subsequent public Trust Board meeting.

Kate Rayns
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