

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

**Meeting of the Health Overview Panel
12th January 2005
and Full Council
31st January 2005**

Report from Director of Policy & Regeneration

For action

Wards affected: Northwick Park

Report Title: Scrutiny of the Rebuilding of Northwick Park Hospital

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report informs Members about the consultation process for the proposals to rebuild Northwick Park Hospital and recommends that a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee be established by Full Council.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members of the Health Overview Panel:

- 2.1.1 are recommended to note the implications of the proposals to rebuild Northwick Park Hospital.
- 2.1.2 recommend to full Council that a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee be established with such other authorities as are consulted by the NW London Hospitals NHS Trust in connection with the proposed rebuilding of Northwick Park Hospital.

2.2 Full Council agrees:

- 2.2.1 to establish a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee with such other authorities as are consulted by the NW London Hospitals NHS Trust in connection with the proposed rebuilding of Northwick Park Hospital.
- 2.2.2 to nominate two Members of the Health Overview Panel to sit on the Joint Committee.
- 2.2.3 the terms of reference for the Joint Committee as set out in Appendix One.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 NW London Hospitals NHS Trust are proposing to rebuild Northwick Park Hospital. A project board has been established and a project manager appointed.
- 3.2 The project manager has appeared before the Brent Health Overview Panel twice already to explain to Members the vision for the future of Northwick Park Hospital and the process for securing agreement from the government to the rebuild. In essence, the plan is to build a new hospital towards the rear of the site and make it operational before demolishing the existing building. There is the opportunity for a modernisation of services provided from a new, purpose-built 'attractive' hospital. The current hospital estate is wearing out and has a backlog of repairs and maintenance estimated at £50million.
- 3.3 The rebuilding of the hospital was dependent on funding being secured through PFI. This was secured in the autumn of 2004 and means that the project is able to progress to the next stage.
- 3.4 At the meeting of the Health Overview Panel on 20 October 2004, Members considered the project plan for the rebuild of Northwick Park Hospital, the critical dates for the process and the question of the need for a Joint Scrutiny Committee with Harrow Council. At that meeting, officers were asked to examine these issues in more detail with officers from the Hospitals Trust and Harrow Council.
- 3.5 The rebuilding proposals will provide an opportunity to reconfigure the services provided from the site in line with the NHS modernisation agenda and similar to BECaD at Central Middlesex Hospital. In essence, this means that the acute provision will become part of a complex model of provision encompassing many other services provided and procured by the Primary Care Trusts of Brent and Harrow as well as having implications for Social Services functions in both boroughs. One outcome of the proposed new service model will be a slight reduction in the number of beds from 649 currently to 598 by 2020.
- 3.6 The project plan will include a number of strands of stakeholder involvement including health impact assessments, regular reports and presentations to the health scrutiny functions for Brent and Harrow and a formal consultation period. The timescales for the formal consultation as set out in the project plan are from the end of January 2005 to the end of July 2005. Informal consultation will continue throughout the project's lifetime. The critical date for the project will be January 2006 when the Trust will need to go out to tender for the redevelopment.
- 3.7 In light of the proposals set out above, a Joint Committee consisting of membership from at least Brent and Harrow will be needed to comply with regulations, the Secretary of State's direction and guidance (see

section 5 – legal implications). Proposed draft terms of reference for the Joint Committee are included in Appendix I.

- 3.8 In order to undertake effective scrutiny within the known timescales for the project it is recommended that the joint committee be restricted in size to two members per participating authority.
- 3.9 Government guidance recommends that once the Joint Committee has completed its scrutiny review, it should produce one report on behalf of the committee. The report should reflect the views of all local authority committees involved in the joint committee, but it should aim to be a consensual report. The NW London Hospitals NHS Trust must respond in writing to any requests for responses to the report or recommendations, within 28 days of receipt of the request

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Under the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 NHS bodies have a duty to consult an overview and scrutiny committee on:

- Any proposals it may have under consideration for any substantial development of the health service in its area; or
- Any proposal to make a substantial variation in the provision of such services

- 5.2 The Secretary of State's direction issued on 17th July 2003 provides:

“where a local NHS body consults more than one overview and scrutiny committee pursuant to regulation 4 of the Regulations on any proposal it has under consideration for a substantial development of the health service or a substantial variation in the provision of such service, the local authorities of those overview and scrutiny committees shall appoint a joint overview and scrutiny committee for the purposes of the consultation and only that joint overview and scrutiny committee may:-

- (a) make comments of the proposal consulted on to the local NHS body under regulation 4(4) of the Regulations;
- (b) require the local NHS body to provide information about the proposal under Regulation 5 of the Regulations; or
- (c) require an officer or the local NHS body to attend before it under Regulation 6 of the Regulations to answer such questions as appear to it to be necessary for the discharge of its functions under the consultation.”

5.3 Under the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2002 full Council is responsible for setting up the Joint Committee and appointing members to it.

5.4 Where a joint committee is established, the political balance requirement applies for each participating local authority unless members of all authorities agree to waive the requirement.

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 A Joint Committee will need to ensure that matters of diversity and equality are examined as part of the scrutiny process. This is reflected in the draft terms of reference suggested for the committee.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 None arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

Presentations from the NWLH Project Manager
Outline project plan for the redevelopment of Northwick Park Hospital
Local Government Act 2000
Health and Social Care Act 2001
The Local Authority (overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002

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Appendix I. Scope of the Joint Committee.

1. To consider the adequacy of the consultation being carried out by the health bodies involved and to contribute to that process.
2. To consider the implications of the rebuilding proposals and proposed new model of service provision on service users and residents within the catchment of the hospital.