

Update note for Trowbridge Area Board – 15 November 2012
Proposed extension to Adcroft Surgery, Trowbridge

In July 2012, Dr Stephen Locke updated the Trowbridge Area Board regarding the Joint Surgery proposals for Bradford Road and Adcroft Surgery.

Although the outline planning permission is still extant, the delivery of the Primary Care Centre is currently delayed due to changes within the NHS and the formation of Clinical Commissioning Groups. Therefore it is considered necessary to secure a new, full planning permission solely for the extension to the surgery.

A pre-application submission was made to Wiltshire Council in August 2012. During our pre-application meetings to date, we have discussed with the Local Planning Authority the rationale for development, the consideration of alternative design options and alternative sites and have sought to demonstrate why an extension to Adcroft Surgery is considered the most viable solution.

The Primary Care Trust will be dissolved in March next year and therefore the PCT and both Adcroft surgery and Bradford Road Medical Centre are working to achieve planning approval and commence construction of the new centre in order to secure the funding for the project now. It is necessary to progress with this element of the site otherwise funding for the GP's will be lost.

The planning position remains consistent with the outline planning permission – the policy (R7) for delivering improved health care facilities is 'saved' within the Local Plan and Leisure & Recreation DPD and is being carried forward in the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy.

There are significant benefits to merging the surgeries which will result in a far wider range of primary health care services for patients in Trowbridge, which are currently not available. In addition to this, the new surgery will bring with it new services for patients. We therefore believe this development will bring a great community benefit and a vast improvement to the current surgeries. Other surgeries in Trowbridge will also be able to utilise these new facilities. The proposal also provides sufficient land for the Primary Care Centre to be built once the new NHS bodies have decided on the new services they want to run from Trowbridge.

We are hosting a **public exhibition on Wednesday 21 November, from 4pm to 8pm, at Trowbridge Civic Centre** to present the design proposals and invite Members, stakeholders and local residents to come and view the proposals and talk with the GP's and design team. The format will be a 'drop – in' event.

In summary, there are a number of key drivers for this project:

- The merged surgery will provide greatly improved health care facilities.
- The land is allocated in adopted policy for this use.
- There is an extant planning permission for this use which establishes the principle of development.
- The land is owned by the Health Authority and therefore will always represent the most viable solution for development - health care development must demonstrate 'value for money'.
- Trowbridge Hospital is not fit for purpose for modern clinical facilities and it is not possible to relocate the surgeries to this site.
- Funding for the proposal has been secured from the Primary Care Trust. The PCT will be dissolved in March 2013. All agreed funding will be lost if planning permission is not achieved prior to this.

We are intending to submit a full planning application to Wiltshire Council in December 2012.

Please contact Rebecca Collins (Planning Consultant) on 0117 988 5203 / rebecca.collins@gva.co.uk for further details.