

Southmead Hospital Redevelopment Project Transport and Access Improvements for the new Southmead Hospital

1. Introduction

This paper provides an update on progress with public transport and road infrastructure proposals to improve access to the new Southmead Hospital by the time of its opening in 2014.

2. Background

In 2007, the Trust signed a Section 106 agreement to provide funding to support improvements in road and public transport infrastructure as part of its outline planning application for a new hospital to be built at Southmead and a Joint Officers Transport Group with representatives from NBT, SGC and BCC was formed .

3. Progress

The West of England Partnership has updated the accessibility study which looked at provision of public transport in relation to where NBT patients and staff live and the development of the new hospital. It puts forward proposals about possible changes and additions to bus routes to improve transport to the new hospital, whilst reflecting recent changes to bus services across Bristol. The report will be reviewed and discussed at the Joint Officers Transport Group in order to develop the options in greater detail.

This September saw new bus services supported by BCC and SGC entering Southmead Hospital site. These provide 'door to door' services at 4 locations on site and are seen as the forerunner of more services to follow by 2014.

The proposals for road infrastructure improvements in Bristol are expected imminently. These will be subject to detailed review. Similar discussions will be held in relation to road infrastructure in South Gloucestershire. Groups including Neighbourhood Partnerships, NBT's User and Access and Transport and Access Groups will be engaged in the developing proposals.

NBT is keen to ensure that its sites are integrated with the cycle networks in Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Proposals to improve cycling opportunities in the wider cycle network are awaited.

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4. Timescales

The project plan sets out timescales for completion of key pieces of work. The clear aim is to ensure public transport and road improvements are in place by the time of the hospital opening in 2014 and ready for when most patients and staff will no longer travel to Frenchay Hospital.

5. Recommendations

Continuing active engagement of BCC, SGC and NBT is essential to progress effective transport and road infrastructure solutions and ongoing support to the work of this Group is required.

Prepared by: **Martin Warren**
Project Manager
North Bristol NHS Trust
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