

4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Councillor Lee,  
Democratic Services  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
DL7 8AD

Dear Councillor Lee

I wanted to provide you and committee members with an update on our journey towards a new hospital for Airedale as we are now coming to some significant milestones in our work.

As you know, 83% of our current hospital estate is constructed of Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete (RAAC), which means we need to replace the hospital by 2030 to ensure we can continue to provide services for our local communities. At the meeting we attended earlier this year, we outlined the key stages of work required to plan and build the hospital and we have been sharing information on this with patients and the public to explain the journey we are on and what is involved. A copy of the information leaflet we have produced is enclosed for your information.

The first stage of work to determine where on the site we should build the hospital is almost complete and we hope to be able to share the recommended areas for development shortly. We are moving into the next stage – getting the site ready for building – which includes two key elements we would like to make you aware of.

### **1. Building a new car park**

The first of these is planning and building a multi-storey car park. A new car park will vastly improve parking facilities for patients, visitors and staff and also ensure there is space for patients to park while the new hospital is being built. We will need to start construction next year to ensure it is completed in time to deliver the hospital by 2030. We are currently engaging with our communities to understand their views and help inform the car park design.

This includes asking staff, patients, visitors and local residents to let us know what they think about the proposal to build a new car park and for their thoughts on how we can make the car park accessible and convenient for all and as attractive as possible. We are also exploring if there is anything that would encourage people to consider alternative ways of travelling to the hospital, such as public transport or cycling. We are keen to reach as many people as possible and activities include a series of focus groups and a survey, which is available on our website.

All feedback will be fed into the design process and a report on the views shared will be published later this year. Once the design is complete, the Trust will submit a planning application to Bradford Council, which will give residents another chance to share their comments and feedback.

## **2. Moving services to alternative accommodation**

In order to build the new hospital, it is likely that we will have to move some services into alternative accommodation while the building work is carried out. This is because there is very limited space available on the current site that can be built on so we will have to take down some existing buildings to create sufficient space for the new hospital to be built. We are expecting the majority of these moves to be within the current site but will also need to consider external locations if we are not able to achieve this or if it might be of benefit to patients for a particular service to be provided from a different site. In line with statutory duties, we would consult patients and the public on any proposed moves, as well as yourselves, and share plans for doing this with the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

I hope this information is helpful in bringing you up to date with the progress towards developing our new hospital. Please let us know if you would like any further information or to discuss any of the areas of work outlined above.

With best wishes



Stuart Shaw  
Director of Strategy, Planning & Partnerships