

Plans for new hospital provision in Leeds - Update

Date: 11th February 2025

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

- The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust's Hospitals of the Future Project is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to design and build a new hospital on the site of Leeds General Infirmary (LGI) which will include a fit for purpose new home for Leeds Children's Hospital, a new adults' hospital and one of the largest centralised maternity centres in the UK.
- The Trust has made significant progress to deliver its Hospitals of the Future Project since 2019. This is one of the most advanced and developed schemes within the Government's New Hospitals Programme (NHP) and the Trust remains ready to progress to the next stage having secured key approvals back in June 2020 and confirmation that its scheme will be fully funded. However, following the 2024 General Election, the Government announced a review of the New Hospital Programme that would feed into the Spending Review process for the Autumn 2024 Budget. This aimed to provide a realistic and affordable timetable for delivery.
- During its meeting on 8th October 2024, the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board learned that the Leeds scheme had been included in the remit of the Government's review, resulting in a further delay for the Trust and its strategic partners in terms of awaiting national approvals to proceed. In sharing the concerns of the Scrutiny Board, the Executive Member for Equality, Health and Wellbeing highlighted that the Executive Board would also be raising this matter at its meeting on 16th October 2024 and seeking support for a 'Team Leeds' approach in making a submission to the Treasury to request that the Leeds scheme be permitted to go ahead without delay.
- The Government has now concluded its review and published its plan and timeline to deliver the new hospital schemes based around consecutive waves of investment. The Leeds scheme has been placed in Wave 2, meaning that the construction of a new hospital at Leeds General Infirmary will not start until at least 2030.
- At the request of the Chair, the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust will be providing a brief verbal update on the current position and the local implications of the new NWP delivery plan.

Recommendations

Members are requested to consider and provide any comment on the briefing provided by the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

What is this report about?

1. Following the 2024 General Election, the Government announced a review of the New Hospital Programme that would feed into the Spending Review process for the Autumn 2024 Budget. This aimed to provide a realistic and affordable timetable for delivery.
2. During its meeting on 8th October 2024, the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board learned that the Leeds scheme had been included in the remit of the Government's review, resulting in a further delay for Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and its strategic partners in terms of awaiting national approvals to proceed. At its meeting on 16th October 2024, the Executive Board also received a report setting out the importance of the Leeds scheme and seeking support for a 'Team Leeds' approach in making a submission to the Treasury to request that the Leeds scheme be permitted to go ahead without delay ([Link to Executive Board report](#)).
3. The review into the NHP has now concluded and on 20th January 2025, the Government published its plan and timeline to deliver the new hospital schemes ([New Hospital Programme: plan for implementation - GOV.UK](#)). The delivery plan will be based around consecutive waves of investment, with the Leeds scheme being placed in Wave 2. As such, the construction of a new hospital at Leeds General Infirmary will not start until at least 2030.
4. At the request of the Chair, the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust will be providing a brief verbal update on the current position and the local implications of the new NWP delivery plan.

What impact will this proposal have?

5. The Trust's plans will transform healthcare services delivering against national strategies as well as regional ICS and local priorities defined in the Healthy Leeds Plan. The Trust's plans focus upon an investment in specialist children's services, maternity services, and increased theatre, critical care and diagnostic capacity. The ambitious plans set out by the Trust and already previously approved at government level will deliver significant benefits for patients across West Yorkshire, modernising care pathways, improving clinical adjacencies, and ensuring appropriate high-quality care facilities to meet demand for tertiary services while supporting the shift from hospital to community and sickness to prevention through care redesign and the application of technology. The key role of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust in clinical and academic leadership in the region and nationally will also be enhanced by the opportunities presented by new facilities.
6. New hospital development plans for Leeds will also unlock land and estate to create the Leeds Innovation Village, delivering more than 4,000 new jobs, 1000 new homes, and £13bn of economic benefit as a go-to destination for research, healthtech and digital innovation being the centre piece for the West Yorkshire Investment Zone.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

7. The Trust's new hospital proposals, the Innovation Village and the wider Innovation Arc drive forwards regional and economic growth through the health and wellbeing agenda and also deliver a material contribution to the NHS and wider City net zero carbon agenda.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

8. The Trust has undertaken significant stakeholder engagement and consultation on all aspects of its proposals since 2018 including securing approval to the outcome of statutory public consultation surrounding the centralisation of maternity and neonatal services.

What are the resource implications?

9. Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust has been delayed in the delivery of its much-needed new hospital plans for more than four years resulting in an estimated £300m of delay related costs. During its meeting on 8th October 2024, the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board was also informed that the cost to rectify backlog maintenance and maintain services at the LGI site (location for the new hospitals) is estimated to be more than £630m and costs will continue to rise linked to ongoing delays.
10. An updated position on the resource implications of the new NWP delivery plan will be provided by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust as part of today's briefing.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

11. An updated position on key risks linked to the delivery of the Leeds scheme will be provided by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust as part of today's briefing.

What are the legal implications?

12. This report has no specific legal implications.

Background papers

- None.