

DECISION RECORD ¹

Subject: To agree allocated HCC Capital Fund for the refurbishment of the Hatfield Library building in Hatfield Town Centre to a Sexual Health Centre of Excellence.

Staff Contact: Jane Banbury

Executive Member: Tim Hutchings

Tel: 01438-843879

Portfolio: Public Health & Prevention

1. **Decision**

It has been agreed the allocated funding of £550k from the HCC Capital Fund and Public Health funding to be spent on refurbishing the Hatfield Library building in Hatfield Town Centre into a Sexual Health Centre of Excellence.

2. **Reasons for the decision**

The landlord, West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust, gave notice to the Provider of Sexual Health Services – Central London Community NHS Trust (CLCH) on the clinic space they lease at St Albans Hospital site in 2018. The notice period has been negotiated for the service to stay at St Albans until 7th March 2020 when the new centre in Hatfield will be ready to avoid disruption of service for service users.

CLCH has looked for alternative premises in St Albans, with support from HCC Property Services. However, availability of premises in St Albans is extremely limited across the public sector, including sufficient space for schools and GP practices. Available premises are too small to provide a sexual health service hub, and are cost prohibitive.

- Due to the change of model for the Sexual Health Service to 3 centres of Sexual Health Excellence across Hertfordshire alternative sites outside of the district were researched. Analysis and research has shown that a Centre is required in Hatfield and good travel links exist for St Albans, Hemel Hempstead, and Hertford residents to Hatfield. The centre requirements were for 4000sqft of premises with good transport links and based within the town centre, with similar number of clinic rooms to the 2 existing centres in Stevenage and Watford to maximise the number of service users to access the service.

Partnership working between Libraries, HCC Property Services and Public Health identified the opportunity for the library to move to a larger premises in White Lion Square and for Sexual Health service to move and refurbish the current library site within Hatfield Town Centre. A working group was established to ensure funding and governance for these 2 projects was progressed. The current work is ongoing at the new library site and is due to finish at the end of November 2019 when the new library will be open for the public.

The work on the new centre for sexual health will commence on 2nd December 2019 and will be overseen by CLCH, Ingleton Wood and HCC Building Management Team and will due to be open to the public on the 7th March 2020. The HCC Capital fund will pay for the refurbishment of the building only, the equipment and surveyor fees and any other additional monies by CLCH.

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An EqlA has been undertaken for the centre to move to Hatfield.

3. Alternative options considered and rejected ²

Public Health and CLCH considered several sites within Hatfield. These were all rejected due to either planning issues, prohibitive cost or were on short leases. The search was also widened to adjacent areas but the same issues arose. After two years looking for an alternate site the current arrangement is considered the only viable option.

4. Consultation

(a) Comments of Executive Member :

No Comment

(b) Comments of other consultees ³

5. Following consultation with, and the concurrence of the Executive Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.



Signed:

Title:Director of Public Health Date: ...8th October 2019.....

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6. Copies of agreed document to:

- All consultees
- Chairman, and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- hard & electronic copy (for public inspection both at County Hall and on Hertsdirect) Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.

¹ for guidance see Chief Legal Officer's note "Taking Decisions"

² details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer at the time the decision was made

³ If the matter has local significance, but no general significance for the Council and no controversial aspects, the officer shall consult or inform the local member in writing (or by e mail) and proceed. It is essential that all officers responsible for delivering services ensure that local members are kept well briefed on issues affecting their areas.

