

Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet

5 December 2005

University Hospital of Leicester NHS Trust Application for Foundation Trust Status

Report of the Corporate Director for Social Care and Health

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides Members with an outline of the proposals from the University Hospital of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL) to apply to the Department of Health for foundation trust status on 9th December 2005. A key component of the bid will be the views of the City Council, and UHL therefore need to seek a clear expression of interest of support from the Cabinet to assist their bid.

2. Summary

2.1 NHS Foundation Trusts are often referred to as "foundation hospitals". They are a new type of organisation, created under the Health and Social Care Community Health and Standards) Act 2003.

2.2 NHS Foundation Trusts remain part of the NHS but are no longer under central government control. They possess three key characteristics that distinguish them from NHS Trusts:

- Freedom to decide locally how to meet their obligations
- Accountable to local people, who can become members and Governors
- Authorised and monitored by Monitor - Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts.

2.3 As part of the process of developing their bid UHL undertook the mandatory three-month consultation with stakeholders and the public. A copy of the consultation document booklet that accompanies this report has been posted in the Members Library. Members may wish to support the UHL bid subject to the them:

- Clarifying the opportunity for ward Councillors community leadership role
- Committing to active engagement with our Area Committees

3. Recommendations

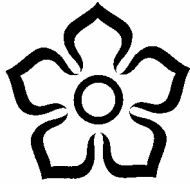
Members are invited to express their support for University Hospital of Leicester NHS Trust on the bid for Foundation Trust status.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report (Guy Goodman, Head of Community Services Law - ext 7054).

5. Report Author / Officer to contact:

Roy Roberts, Policy Officer
252 6778



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University Hospital of Leicester NHS Trust
Application for Foundation Trust Status

Report of the Chief Executive

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REPORT

- 1.1 NHS Foundation Trusts are often referred to as "foundation hospitals". They are a new type of organisation, created under the Health and Social Care Community Health and Standards) Act 2003.
- 1.2 NHS Foundation Trusts remain part of the NHS but are no longer under central government control. They possess three key characteristics that distinguish them from NHS Trusts:
- Freedom to decide locally how to meet their obligations
 - Accountable to local people, who can become members and Governors
 - Authorised and monitored by Monitor - Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts.
- 1.3 University Hospital of Leicester NHS Trust is about to submit their bid for Foundation Trust status on 9th December 2005 to the Department of Health (DoH). As part of the process of developing their bid the trust undertook the mandatory three-month consultation with stakeholders and the public. A copy of the consultation document booklet that accompanies this report has been posted in the Members Library. The consultation began on 15th August 2005 and ended on 14th November 2003.
- 1.4 **Views of the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Joint Health Committee**
- 1.5 UHL presented their proposal to the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 October 2005 and 9 November 2005 as part of their formal consultation. On considering the proposals the committee requested written submission by UHL to 17 questions that they had formulated through a half-day seminar with a consultant from IDeA. A copy of the questions and the response from UHL are attached (appendix A).

1.6 The final comments of the joint committee have now been drawn up and submitted to UHL. A copy of the report is attached (appendix B). The city's Health Scrutiny triumvirate Members who sit on the joint committee met on the 14th November 2005 following the meeting on 9th and agreed to support the overall thrust of the report. Three points in particular were raised by our Members:

1. Concerns regarding the timing of the application in view of the uncertainties as a result of national changes in the health agenda and the Trust's Pathway Project.
2. Concern regarding the level and scope of the consultation exercise undertaken by UHL, particularly whether sufficient engagement had been made with the residents of the city to seek their views on the proposals and begin the process of recruiting them as members.
3. There should be an increase in the number of seats on the Members Council to include a seat for Rutland in addition to the one seat each for the City and County Councils.

2. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

1. Financial implications

2. Legal implications NONE

3. Other implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	Yes/No	Paragraph references within supporting information
Equal Opportunities	NO	
Policy	NO	
Sustainable and Environmental	NO	
Crime and Disorder	NO	
Human Rights Act	NO	
Older People /People on Low Income	NO	

3. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

N/A

4. CONSULTATIONS

N/A

5. REPORT AUTHOR

Roy Roberts
Policy Officer
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