

## Generational opportunity meets population movement

### - *for West Herts Healthcare, the NHS and Government*

An exceptional set of circumstances and initiatives have coincided to create an opportunity to showcase NHS hospitals of the future and in rapid time (see the “**Time is right**” below). At the heart of what will be a landmark development, is the building of a flagship 21<sup>st</sup> century hospital for the 600,000 residents of West Hertfordshire, who, increasingly, will be housed north of Watford. \*Hertfordshire county council data 2019

Hospitals in and around West Herts



The planned location for the Herts Valleys Hospital & Health Campus is therefore in Chiswell Green, which is mid-way between the three key urban centres in West Herts; Watford, Hemel Hempstead and St Albans.

### **Seize the moment - opportunity for NHS & Government**

The immediate availability of a deliverable site for a real health campus in West Herts, together with extra funds, gives both the NHS and Government the opportunity to use West Herts as a rapidly delivered pilot scheme to showcase their vision and ambitions.

The pilot would be a flagship for several programmes, including;

- Hospital Infrastructure Programme
- Support for NHS staff
- Integrated Care Services
- Planning for the Future
- Build, Build, Build
- Creating a more effective central government

# A Giant Leap Forward

The concept layout plans illustrate some of the key features of the proposed Herts Valleys Hospital & Health Campus.



Ample space will enable WHHT to design a spacious hospital plus meeting additional critical needs such as key staff accommodation, intermediate or transitional care facilities, free ground level car parking and a green landscape and gardens. There is even more space for developing a major health cluster in West Herts.



The illustration of the hospital entrance helps convey how building a healing environment is an integral part of the design brief for a great 21<sup>st</sup> century hospital.

A basic comparison of the two options brings the differences into sharp relief.

Features	Watford	Chiswell Green
NHS Grade Hospital	Grade B	Grade A*
Green landscape surrounds and gardens	X	✓
Free parking for patients and visitors	X	✓
Free parking for staff	X	✓
Key staff accommodation	X	✓
Intermediate, transitional & social facilities	X	✓
Central West Herts location	X	✓
Government Public Dividend Capital	✓	✓
Space for future expansion	?	✓

More specifically, a totally new, purpose built, 21<sup>st</sup> century acute hospital, on a clear site, to include new social care accommodation, key staff accommodation, green landscaped surrounds and gardens, plus free and ground level parking for all patients, visitors and staff. The comprehensive healthcare campus, mid-way between West Herts' main towns of Watford, St Albans, and Hemel Hempstead, would also create opportunities for more 'closer to home' healthcare in local communities.

The plans for a new health campus, advanced by local community group Herts Valleys Hospital, are a giant leap forward compared with existing West Herts NHS Hospital Trust plans. In switching to the new plans, NHS England will release the local Trust from a straight-jacket that gives them no alternative other than to rebuild and refurbish a poor estate, on a poor site and in a poor location and with insufficient funds and time to finish the job: all whilst continuing to operate a very busy hospital on the same site.

And the Trust's management and staff definitely deserve to be set free. Decades of under investment in the hospital estate exacerbated by 10 years of austerity creates multiple daily challenges for everyone. Not surprisingly, CQC's overall rating for WHHT is "Requires improvement" but the Trust scores well on leadership and most other measures. A new hospital on a new site would also free the management and staff from enduring many years of working on a combined hospital and building site.

## A £1 billion Project

An important feature of the HVH project is the local group's early recognition that WHHT could only achieve its healthcare vision with substantially more capital finance than the NHS might provide. The Trust indicated a sum of £400 million would be required and this is the amount the HVH project raises.

This fresh approach to bringing major extra funding into healthcare springs largely from harnessing local social enterprise and support for the NHS.

Two basic principles underpin the approach.

1. The best way to help the NHS, and especially NHS staff, is to provide them with top class hospitals, equipment and facilities with sufficient capacity to meet demand.
2. There is considerable public and corporate support for the NHS: the HVH project facilitates the best, long lasting way for all stakeholders to demonstrate the depth of their support.



## Endorsement

HVH will arrange to have the project endorsed by inviting local and national professionals from all the essential disciplines, to join local NHS and community representatives in a high-powered Steering Group. As in the case of funding, there is a pent-up desire among senior professionals to support the NHS; in this case with their knowledge, experience and expertise. This will not be a lengthy process because the requirements are already known and just waiting for the necessary political will, funding and deliverable site.

## Genuine Community Consultation & Choice

For the first time since the creation of West Herts Hospital Trust, the people of West Herts now have an opportunity to support a genuinely great hospital service. In the final analysis the choice is between:

- A. A totally new, centrally located hospital service founded solely on the healthcare needs of West Hertfordshire
- B. The piece-meal rebuilding of Watford General Hospital largely justified by economic development of Watford & a government target of delivering by 2025

## The time is right!

Date	Event
May 2018	HVH starts plans for genuine new health campus
Oct 2018	Centrally located and deliverable site identified
May 2019	Landowner agrees to support HVH plans
July 2019	First meeting between trust & HVH
Oct 2019	PM announces new hospital for West Herts; one of the first six in Hospital Infrastructure Program HIP1
Feb 2020	HVH presents plans to Trust
June 2020	HVH publish plans to raise additional £398m
June 2020	DHSC indicate £400m available to trust plus further potential £190 million for new build option
June 2020	Trust independent consultants assess proposed site
Aug 2020	Government " <i>Planning for the Future</i> " launched, endorsing HVH concept
Aug 2020	HVH publish plans for NHS pilot scheme
Oct 2020	National launch of HVH

## It can be done – it has been done



The Royal Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, which opened in May 2019, is a fine example of a modern hospital having very recently moved from an old 1918 site to a new clear one. In October 2019, the hospital trust was rated as 'outstanding' by the health regulator, Care Quality Commission. It also became the first NHS trust ever to be awarded the top mark of 'outstanding' in each of the five key inspection domains. An exemplar for WHHT in several ways.