
Meeting: Council
Date: 14 April 2011
Subject: NHS Campus Closure Programme.
Report of: Portfolio Holder for Social Care Health and Housing and the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People
Summary: The report proposes that the Council approves the increase in the NHS Campus Closure Programme budget from £10.031m to £11.308m

Contact Officer: Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
John Unsworth, Assistant Director, Financial Services
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Priority 1 -Supporting and caring for an ageing population
Priority 5 - Promoting Healthier Lifestyles

Financial:

The total budget has increased from £10.031m to £11.308m and the programme will now run into 2011/12 and 2012/13. There are no direct capital financial implications associated with this proposal merely administration of National Health Service (NHS) Capital Grant.

Legal:

The authority has received capital grant under section 256 of the National Health Service Act 2006 in order to fund housing for a group of people moving from NHS Campuses. The Unitary Authorities have the statutory duty for housing as the Local Housing Authority where service users as individuals are eligible..

Risk Management:

There is a risk that not granting the monies will mean that current accommodation becomes unsuitable for the service users and renders them homeless.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

There are no Central Bedfordshire staff employed in the project.

Equalities/Human Rights:

The new housing will enable people with learning disabilities to have more choice and independence, enabling them to live within the broader community and bringing greater diversity to the area.

Community Safety:

The new properties will incorporate safety and security systems relevant to the service user group.

Sustainability:

The new properties will incorporate sustainable features where possible

RECOMMENDATION:

that the Council approves the Campus Closure Programme budget of £11.308m, noting that this is fully funded by capital grants from the NHS.

Re-provision of Learning Disability Housing

1. The NHS Campus Closure Programme is a Government initiative backed with NHS Capital funding in operation since 2007, to provide up to date and future proofed accommodation for people with severe learning disabilities who are currently living in a group of substandard care homes previously managed by the NHS. Central Bedfordshire Council manages the capital allocation on behalf of Bedford Borough and Luton Borough Councils as well as managing a large capital grant for the homes in Central Bedfordshire. The grant may only be used for the purpose of re-providing the accommodation for people with learning disabilities, with priority given to those in the existing care homes.
2. Approval was received from the Executive on 15 September 2009 for the programme. Individual projects have been approved by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People and the Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health under delegated powers since 2009/10.

Use of the capital

3. As the detail of the care homes residents' need have been identified they are matched with their new accommodation adaptations to the building specifications and further equipment that will enable better and more cost effective care to be delivered. The additional capital grant will be spent on additional items necessary to accommodate this very disabled group of people and will include special baths, wheelchair accessible showers, mobility equipment such as lifts or hoists and assistive technology.

Increases in capital availability

4. Two former Bedford care homes belonging to BPHA but fully funded by NHS capital have been sold since 2009, and recycled capital of £820,000 has been added into the programme on behalf of Bedford Borough Council.
5. Three further homes, two in Central Bedfordshire and one in Luton, will provide further recycled NHS capital as the existing care homes are re-provided and can be sold.
6. Approval was given on a total programme budget of £10.031m in 2009 but this has increased to £11.308m following the inclusion of £1.2m in received and expected recycled capital receipts in the capital transfer agreements made by NHS Bedfordshire under the 2010/11, s256 of the National Health Service Act 2006.
7. This programme is within the total Council capital programme of £68.3m for 2011-12 and £26.7m for 2012-13, before grants, which was approved by Council on 24 February 2011. This programme will accordingly increase by £1.277m gross.

Conclusion

8. There is no impact on Central Bedfordshire Council capital resources as a result of this change. The programme will now run for a further two years in order to allow the completion of a number of projects that are reliant on the sequential refurbishments and resident moves.

Background Papers:

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands