



meeting **HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE**

date **27 September 2005**

agenda item number

QMC/City Hospitals Merger

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of the proposals to merge the Nottingham City Hospital NHS Trust and Queen's Medical Centre University Hospital NHS Trust.

Background

2. The Nottingham City Hospital NHS Trust and Queen's Medical Centre University Hospital NHS Trust have submitted proposals to merge into a single NHS Trust by 1 April 2006.
3. The Trent Strategic Health Authority (SHA) launched a 12 week public consultation on 8 September 2005 on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health to consider three options for the hospital trusts:
 - Option 1 – independent futures.
 - Option 2 – deeper collaboration between the two hospitals.
 - Option 3 – create a new single NHS Trust.

The consultation closes on 1 December 2005. Responses will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Health who will make a decision on the proposals.

4. A series of consultation events are also being organised. The details of these are attached as an appendix to this report.

Issues

5. The two Hospital Trusts suggest that a merger would:
 - improve standards of care and range of specialisation
 - increase co-ordination and integration of care by removing organisational barriers, removing unnecessary duplication of effort and speeding up decision making

- respond to an increasing financial challenge, allowing the two Trusts to capture many cost efficiencies by eliminating duplication, for example around procurement
 - respond to a change in patient service requirements, driven by the NHS policy shift towards out-patient, day patient and community care instead of in-patient hospital care.
6. Trent SHA supports the proposal for a single hospital trust.
7. The proposed merger is being considered by the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee and if Members agree the Health Select Committee Work Programme then it will be considered as an item at the meeting on 8 November 2005.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

the contents of this report are noted.

Councillor James T Napier
Chair, Health Committee

Background papers available for inspection: nil

QMC/City Hospitals Merger**Public Consultation Events**

Tuesday 27 September 19.00 - 20.30	Concert Hall Rushcliffe Leisure Centre Boundary Road, West Bridgford
Thursday 6 October 18.00	Mechanics Institute 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham <i>(Hosted by the Patient and Public Involvement Forum)</i>
Monday 10 October 19.00 - 20.30	The Ballroom Newark Town Hall
Thursday 13 October 19.00 - 20.30	Albion Leisure Centre Ilkeston
Thursday 20 October 19.00 - 20.30	Maycliffe Hall Toton Lane, Stapleford
Monday 31 October 19.00 - 20.30	Richard Herrod Leisure Centre Carlton
Wednesday 16 November 19.00 - 20.30	Mechanics Institute 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham