

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH AND OVERVIEW SCRUTINY PANEL INTO THE PUBLIC AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PROVISION TO SOUTHAMPTON GENERAL HOSPITAL		
DATE OF DECISION:	20 AUGUST 2013		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Simon Bell	Tel: 023 8083 3814
	E-mail:	Simon.bell@southampton.gov.uk	
Director	Name:	John Tunney	Tel: 023 8083 7713
	E-mail:	John.tunney@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Not Applicable

BRIEF SUMMARY

To consider the proposed response of the Cabinet Member of Environment and Transport to the review by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel on Public and Sustainable Transport Provision to Southampton General Hospital.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the report and work programme be noted and that a further update is made in March 2014 updating the progress of the work further.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Health and Overview Scrutiny Panel produced a report into Public and Sustainable Transport Provision to Southampton General Hospital in March 2013. The review aimed to discover how easy it is for residents to get to the General Hospital using public and sustainable transport and requested that a review of progress against the approved recommendations occurs after six months and twelve months. This report forms the 6 month update.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. An option would be not to respond to the report which would not assist in achieving transport access improvements at the General Hospital.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. Following concerns raised with the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel by the former Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, other members, the Southampton Local Involvement Network (LINK) and the public, the Panel agreed to undertake a short review into public and sustainable transport provision to Southampton General Hospital.

4. The Objectives of the review were to:
 - Discover if there is suitable provision for residents to travel to/from hospital;
 - Discover what public or community transport is available, whether it is cost effective and at suitable times;
 - Discover which areas, if any, are affected by lack of public transport;
 - Consider any barriers to walking or cycling;
 - Consider any actions required to secure improvements.
5. The Review was undertaken over 4 formal bi monthly HOSP meetings from November 2012 to March 2013. In addition, the Chair of the Panel also attended a number of meetings including with Southampton LINK and visiting staff responsible for transport at the General Hospital. All Members were also contacted via the Members Bulletin to seek input from Councillors on particular issues that had been raised with them.
6. The Hospital has up to a total of 7500 staff, a number of these work shifts or are on call. In addition there are University employees and students who regularly have needed to visit the SGH site. By the size and nature of the Hospital and its activities, the Trust is one of the major employers in Southampton. In addition there are in the region of 600,000 patient visits per annum.
7. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel Final Report forms a background document to this report and the recommendations are set out in Appendix 1 with an update on the current status of each of the actions. The response from the University Hospital Southampton is included at Appendix 2.
8. Overall in the short time since the Scrutiny Report, information provision to the Hospital has improved, work is progressing on a multi-operator smart ticket (albeit as part of an unrelated project) and SCC and UHS are working together on potential bus hub as part of any development and a revised travel plan. First have produced a travel guide with a local map of the hospital site giving times and routes of all their services that serve the hospital.
9. Information provision at the site itself has been less successful with it not being possible to install freestanding Real Time bus Information unit so far. A location has now been identified and the installation of a unit is being progressed. Work has also been commissioned to replace all the bus stop information and signs around the hospital into the Legible Bus Network format
10. Of particular note is the need to review the UHS Travel Plan and allow ownership to the Hospital to develop their own transport plan rather than relying on the Local Authority to deliver solutions on a site which is not in the ownership of the City Council. Work will continue with the Hospital in this respect. The Southampton Sustainable Travel Choices Centre team are working with the Hospital on developing the travel plan initiative as highlighted as being developed in Appendix 1.

11. Where both the Hospital and Local Authority have less influence is over commercially operated bus routes and operators who operate in an unregulated and competitive market. That said the Council is using the Quality Bus Partnership (QBP) signed by Go South Coast (operators of Bluestar and UniLink), First and smaller operator representatives to deal with some of the issues raised which are not unique to the Hospital. Further, other projects being rolled out including Real Time Information, Legible Bus Networks and upgrading the existing Solent Travel card to a smart ticketing solution will also assist the quality of information available and ease of use overall. Appendix 3 gives details of the current bus provision to the hospital.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

12. Schemes delivered in partnership by SCC will be delivered within the budget allocations and appropriate approvals will be sought. Support for the Travel Plan is funded from within existing budgets.

Property/Other

13. These do not impact upon any property interests as all the works are contained within the existing public highway or land owned by the NHS Trust.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

14. Any projects developed will be delivered in accordance with a variety of Highways and Environmental legislation, including but not limited to the Highways Act 1980, Road traffic Regulation Act 1994 and the Traffic Management Act 2004.

Other Legal Implications:

15. The design and construction of any highway infrastructure changes, will be delivered in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010. Regard will also be had to s.17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998 when designing any physical schemes to ensure that, to the extent possible, opportunities for environmental crime and other forms of crime & disorder will be eliminated or minimised.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

16. The City Council is a Local Transport Authority as prescribed in the Transport Act 2000 and the Council's relevant Policy Framework is the City of Southampton Local Transport Plan (LTP3).
17. Initiatives developed as part of the project would be compatible with the objectives of the Community Strategy and Economic Development Strategy.

KEY DECISION? Yes/No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	ALL
------------------------------------	-----

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	OSMC Summary of Recommendations and Current Status
2.	Letter from UHS NHS Foundation Trust Interim Chief Executive dated 12 th July 2013.
3.	List of bus services to Southampton General Hospital

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
----	------

Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
--	----

Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
------------------------------	--

1.	Report of Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel: Public & Sustainable Transport Provision to Southampton General Hospital – Mini Review	
----	--	--