

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION**  
**9 JUNE 2011**

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**RESPONSES TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT: ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT  
OF A WORKING GROUP OF THE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL  
RELATING TO THE REVIEW OF THE BRACKNELL HEALTHSPACE**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report introduces the responses due to the addendum to the report of a working group of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel, relating to the review of the Bracknell Healthspace. These had not been received at the time this covering report was produced.

**2 SUGGESTED ACTION**

- 2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission considers the responses of the Executive and NHS Berkshire East to the addendum to the report of a working group of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel relating to the review of the Bracknell Healthspace.**

**3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 23 March 2011, the Overview and Scrutiny Commission adopted the addendum to the report of a working group of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel relating to the review of the Bracknell Healthspace, for publication after the local government elections on 5 May. The recommendations in the report are attached.
- 3.2 The report was sent to the Executive Member, also to the Chief Executive of NHS Berkshire East on 31 March, asking for responses by the end of May. Those responses are awaited. The addendum report, together with the earlier (previously unpublished) report on the review of the Healthspace, was published on 10 May.
- 3.3 The Health O&S Panel is due to consider the responses to the addendum to the report on the review of the Healthspace at its next meeting on 30 June.

Background Papers

Addendum to the Review of the Bracknell Healthspace by a working group of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel, March 2011.

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## **4. Recommendations**

### **It is recommended to the Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing that:**

- 4.1 The Council's Executive Member and Director of Adult Social Care and Health ensure that the Council as a whole continues to actively support the Healthspace and Brant's Bridge developments.
- 4.2 The Executive Member ensures that there is much more open and regular communication with all councillors on the progress of the project and the Council's actions on it (paragraph 3.8).

### **It is recommended to the Chief Executive of NHS Berkshire East that:**

- 4.3 NHS BE should give more attention to:
  - a) Providing more open, regular and comprehensive communication (paragraph 3.3a);
  - b) Providing more robust project planning information in the public domain (paragraph 3.3b);
  - c) Strengthening project direction (paragraphs 3.3 and 3.7);
  - d) Concluding negotiations with prospective service providers (paragraph 3.3 and 3.11);
  - e) Evidencing clearly and publicly how the NHS locally is to achieve substantial cost savings through re-configuring health services (paragraph 3.3f).
  - f) Explaining in more detail the service offering of, also the timetable for commissioning – the Urgent Care Centre (paragraph 3.12).
- 4.4 NHS BE should explain how the separation of the diagnostics facilities away from the Healthspace to the Brants Bridge site will not be allowed to cause operational inefficiency or undermine the concept of a 'seamless' healthspace, where a patient can move from reception, thorough to consultation, diagnosis and then treatment without leaving the same building. (paragraph 3.5).
- 4.5 NHS BE should explain how they will restore public confidence in the timetable for bringing the Healthspace into being, given the continual slippage in the timescale throughout the project (paragraph 3.6).
- 4.6 NHS BE should ensure that the terms for the sale or transfer of the land owned by the PCT at Skimped Hill to the developer are fully transparent and defensible, given the PCT's stance that it would not be making any financial contribution to the Healthspace project (paragraph 3.14).
- 4.7 NHS BE should explain how the management of the project will be kept on track during the transition period of the PCT being wound up, and clarify the future ownership of the Healthspace project after the PCT's abolition (paragraph 3.9).

### **It is recommended to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel that:**

- 4.8 The Panel continues to actively support and monitor the progress on the Healthspace and Bracknell Clinic developments through to their successful opening.

- 4.9 The Panel should recommend to the O&S Commission that the Working Group's report of January 2010, together with this addendum, should be published as soon as the Healthspace project has passed 'the point of no return' commercially, expected to be when planning permission has been granted.