

By: Tristan Godfrey, Research Officer to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 5 February 2010

Subject: Item 4: Dover Healthcare

In 2006, the NHS in East Kent carried out stakeholder and public consultations into possible models of health and social care delivery in Dover. The Dover Project, as it was called, was more focused on what services should be provided, rather than where, and so was not specifically concerned with the future of Buckland Hospital. The NHS OSC, as it was then called, received a number of updates on this issue in 2006 and 2007.

Work was then undertaken to develop specific service proposals. Estate issues, including the future of the Buckland Hospital site, formed part of this process.

The issue of healthcare provision in Dover was formally referred to the HOSC by the Eastern and Coastal Kent Patient and Public Involvement Forum (PPIF) in a letter dated 5 February 2008.

The HOSC considered this matter at its meeting of 9 May 2008. According to the Minutes of this meeting:

"12) Howard Jones, Director of Facilities for East Kent Hospitals Trust, explained that the Trust had come up with two options for the future of the Buckland Hospital site:

- a general upgrade of the site, at a cost of £8 million;
- the construction of a new building, at a cost of £11 million.

"13) The Trust was currently discussing with Dover District Council other possible estate options in the area. Late July/early August had been set as the deadline by which the options for consideration should be set."¹

At the end of this item, the Committee passed the following resolution:

"RESOLVED unanimously, on the motion of Dr Robinson, seconded by Mr Marsh, that:

"The Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee of KCC strongly recommend & support E K Hospitals Trust working closely with the ECK PCT & Dover District Council to locate a central in Dover for the Community Hospital Services for the population of Dover & the surrounding areas.

¹ Minutes, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 9 May 2008,
<http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MID=305>

“This proposal to be delivered to the EKHT by the end of August 2008. This third option to be considered & evaluated alongside options 1 & 2 concerning the Buckland Hospital site.”²

The HOSC returned to this subject at its meeting of 5 September 2008. At this meeting, the Committee was informed by NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent that:

- “12) The selection criteria had been applied to all options and the following three options had been shortlisted:
- (a) Mid Town Development;
 - (b) Whitfield (White Cliffs); and
 - (c) Rebuild on Buckland Hospital site.”³

At the end of the discussion on this item:

“(45) Mr R Tolputt moved, and Mr D Daley seconded:-

“that the Kent County Council’s Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee strongly recommends, supports and endorses Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust working closely with East Kent Hospitals Trust, Kent County Council, Dover District Council and the Consortium of Local General Practitioners (CLGP) to develop a central site for Dover for a modern Community Hospital for the population of Dover and the surrounding area by 2011.

“Carried:- 14 votes for, 0 against, 1 abstention.”⁴

The HOSC looked at the subject again at its meeting of 30 October 2009 “as the NHS were reconsidering the site of the proposed healthcare facility due to a flooding objection raised by the Environment Agency.”⁵

At the end of this item the Committee:

“(15) RESOLVED that the Committee support the PCT in moving forward with an affordable and rapidly deliverable option for a healthcare facility in Dover and that they be invited to attend to February meeting of the Committee to update Members on progress.”⁶

² Ibid.

³ Minutes, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 5 September 2008, <http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MIId=308>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Minutes, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 30 October 2009, <http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MIId=1850>

⁶ Ibid.