



SOUTH EAST COAST AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

Up-date to Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Kent County Council

1. Introduction

1.1 An up-date was previously to Kent County Council regarding South East Coast Ambulance Service's (SECAMB's) plans to move from three Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) to two. In addition, a new Trust Headquarters would be provided alongside one of the new EOCs.

1.2 The Committee is reminded that our plan is to move to the following model:

- A new "EOC West" - to be located in the Gatwick/Crawley area, co-located with the new HQ
- A new "EOC East" - to be located in Kent

The drivers for the change, as well as the benefits the new reconfiguration will bring, were also outlined to the Committee in the previous presentation. However, the Committee is also reminded that no definitive locations had been identified at that point.

2. Current position

2.1 Since September 2014, work has been on-going to identify specific locations for both of the new EOCs. However, given the specific pressures affecting the Sussex EOC (located in Lewes), the Trust Board has agreed to prioritise re-locating the EOC West as phase one of the project, to be followed by EOC East.

2.2 As explained in the earlier presentation, our preferred strategic location for the EOC West/new HQ is in the Gatwick/Crawley area.

2.3 A variety of commercial sites have been explored, however an opportunity has arisen during the past twelve months to locate the EOC West/new HQ on a site in Crawley owned by Surrey County Council (the former Thales site). Surrey CC is looking to establish a "campus" site, including other emergency and council services.

2.4 SECAMB's Trust Board gave approval in February 2015 for the "campus" option to be our preferred option for the EOC West/new HQ. If plans progress as hoped, the new site will be ready for occupation in early 2017.

2.5 Whilst phase one is progressed, EOC East will remain at its current location (Coxheath, near Maidstone).

2.6 Further up-dates will be provided to the Committee as required.

Janine Compton, Head of Communications

On behalf of South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust