

Summary of Presentation on Environmental Impact Assessment

Hospital Liaison Group meeting 22nd August 2011

Introduction

This document summarises the presentation on the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies given by Mark Elton of WSP to the Hospital Liaison Group. For more details relating to the environmental effects from the Proposed Development, during its construction and operation (following completion of the construction works) please refer to the presentation.

The assessment of likely significant environmental effects is a legal requirement for certain developments due to their size, scale and location. In these cases a report (known as an Environmental Statement) describing the effects on the development on the local environment is required.

The findings of the assessment undertaken by WSP for the redevelopment of the Royal Sussex County Hospital are presented in the Environmental Statement, appendices and Non-Technical Summary. These documents will be submitted with the planning application, together with other documents including the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and the Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP). These documents will be available for public viewing via Brighton and Hove City Council's (BHCC's) website as part of the consultation process for the planning application.

Key Assessment Findings

The findings of the landscape and visual impact assessment, cultural heritage and transport effects were not discussed in this presentation since they were covered in presentations given to the HLG in July. The key findings for other technical areas covered in WSP's studies are summarised below:

A) Construction Phase (to be completed over approximately 10 years):

- Noise levels of 70dB may be exceeded at some locations in the vicinity of the Site, including adjacent hospital buildings and residential properties, during activities which are particularly noisy (such as piling for excavation of the basement levels). Vibration effects will be minimal except when piling casings for the basement car park areas are inserted, which will take place over two periods of five weeks during construction of Stages 1 and 2. Noise and vibration effects will be temporary, intermittent and short-term and will be minimised through the use of appropriate construction methods and other control measures. These details will be set out in the CEMP which will be approved by BHCC and implemented by the contractor.
- Dust arising from the construction works will be greatest minimised during demolition and excavation and may cause a temporary, short to medium term nuisance to properties nearby, those within 200m are likely to be most affected (assessed to be a minor negative effect). Dust control measures will be implemented to protect the existing hospital buildings and to minimise any nuisance in the surrounding area. Dust control measures and monitoring will be undertaken during construction as set out in the CEMP.
- The majority of construction waste will be generated during demolition, site clearance and earthworks activities. It is estimated that the volume of excavated material from the two basement car parking levels will be approximately 171,500m³. Construction waste will be segregated to maximise opportunities for re-use and recycling material which is clean and suitable for re-use.
- The construction works will have a positive effect on employment opportunities (which will be locally sourced where possible) and result in increased spend by construction workers in local businesses.

B) Operation (once the development is completed):

- Noise from road traffic associated with the new hospital will not result in any significant changes at many locations with the exception of minor increases along Whitehawk Hill Road, Bristol Gate and Upper Abbey Road during the morning peak hours (8am – 9am).
- Air quality from road traffic associated with the new hospital and the new energy centre will result in some minor changes in concentrations of air pollutants (nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter) in the vicinity of the new hospital. As there is an existing air quality problem along main roads in Brighton the small change in concentrations will cause an exceedance of national air quality objectives at certain locations (including Eastern Road and Chesham Street).
- The new hospital buildings will change the local wind environment, some areas will improve compared to the existing conditions (such as near at the base of the Thomas Kemp Tower) whilst others will be worse (such as parts of Bristol Gate and Eastern Road). Landscape planting and hard landscape features will improve wind conditions in these areas.
- Following completion of the development the levels of daylight in windows of some properties overlooking the site will be reduced, including properties on the southern side of Eastern Road opposite the Stage 1 building and windows of other NHS Trust buildings nearby (such as the Audrey Emerton Building, Sussex Eye Hospital and the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital). Levels of sunlight will be slightly reduced in a small number of windows within Courtney King House which overlook the new hospital.
- The new hospital will use additional water due to the increase in floor area and patient capacity. This increase will be offset by the use of water efficient sanitary fixings and other water efficient devices. Water meters will be fitted in all departments and water usage in the new hospital will be monitored.
- A major positive impact on healthcare facilities in the county is predicted with an associated moderate positive impact associated with employment opportunities.
- Other topics which have been assessed but for which no significant effects have been identified during construction or operation include external lighting, ecology and nature conservation, archaeology and telecommunications.