

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS BETWEEN THE QMC TRAM STOP, MAIN QMC BUILDING AND THE TREATMENT CENTRE

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.2 The report updates the Committee on progress towards introducing direct access from the QMC tram stop into the main hospital building and the Treatment Centre.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that the Committee notes this report.

3 LINK INTO THE MAIN HOSPITAL

- 3.1 The tram stop at QMC opened to public service in August 2015. The stop is located on the viaduct between the main QMC building and the Treatment Centre, and is currently accessed by using stairs and a lift down to ground level adjacent to South Road, which is some distance from entrances into the main buildings.
- 3.2 The NHS Trust recognises this is a less than ideal arrangement, and had always proposed to introduce a dedicated entrance from the tram stop into the main hospital building. Developing a permanent solution has taken the Trust slightly longer than expected, and in the interim period, the Trust has employed ambassadors to help arriving passengers with directions and wayfinding, whether on foot or via the Medilink bus service, and provided much improved signing and information about hospital entrances on their website.
- 3.3 As the existing link bridge into the hospital is for operational and emergency use only (and cannot be converted for public use due to the internal layout of the hospital), the Trust has now developed its proposal for a new dedicated public entrance, and has recently received planning permission for a new link bridge from the tram stop into the corner of QMC south block. The link would be a partially enclosed pedestrian footbridge, approximately 90 metres in length, with a bespoke tubular design. A leaflet showing some images of the new bridge is appended to this report. The link will access the hospital at B

level and provide access directly into the main circulation routes and round to the main hospital entrance, which is also on B Level.

- 3.4 The link will significantly improve access between the new tram stop and main hospital building, and particularly for people with mobility difficulties. The design is now substantially complete and subject to some internal approvals being secured within the Trust, construction expected to start early in the new year, allowing the new link to open to the public in summer 2017.

4 LINK INTO THE TREATMENT CENTRE

- 4.1 Discussions are also taking place with the Trust and Circle Nottingham, who operate the Treatment Centre to the south of the tram viaduct, about allowing direct public access from the tram stop into the Treatment Centre via the existing link bridge. The bridge has been built to replace the previous direct link between the hospital and Treatment Centre, which was removed during the tram construction works, and, as indicated above, was previously used for operational and emergency purposes only. However, as the link opens into a public area in the Treatment Centre, only relatively small works would be required on the tram viaduct and link bridge to facilitate public use. It is anticipated that the link to the public is likely to open in the first part of 2017.

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