

# Answering your questions

## Answers to some of your FAQs

This operating franchise for Hinchingsbrooke is a first for the NHS and, understandably, patients, staff, carers and others have some questions about how it will work in practice.

The questions below are just some of those posed recently. To see more, visit at [www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects](http://www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects). You can ask the Strategic Projects Team a question at any time, just email [strategic.projects@eoe.nhs.uk](mailto:strategic.projects@eoe.nhs.uk) or free phone 0800 923 3001.

### **Why is Hinchingsbrooke not sustainable, longer term, in its current form?**

The level of funding that NHS Cambridgeshire will receive over the next five to seven years will effectively mean that there is no growth in real

terms. Therefore, there will be a need to achieve significant efficiencies and Hinchingsbrooke is not of a sufficient size to make these efficiencies on its own, in its current form.

### **Can you explain more about the purpose of the Trust comparator?**

Staff at Hinchingsbrooke are compiling a Trust comparator, which is the Trust's financial proposal for what they would do if we weren't to enter into a franchise arrangement. It is being independently evaluated, against the bidders' ITPD submissions (see page 3 for more about the ITPD process).

While the comparator will be a useful 'bar' against which to measure the bids received, it will not be providing the long term answer for Hinchingsbrooke's ongoing sustainability; it will not be a blueprint for the future.

### **What happens if the franchisee fails to deliver?**

The franchisee will enter into a contract with Hinchingsbrooke HCT that allows for robust performance management and an escalation regime with dispute resolution. It is anticipated that this regime will enable successful delivery; however there will also be termination provisions within the contract.

### **What are the bidders offering?**

Due to the confidential and commercial nature of the tender process, it is not possible at this time to relay what the bidders' proposals are for the hospital.

### **What happens at the end of the franchise period?**

On expiration of the franchise Hinchingsbrooke HCT will continue to operate as an NHS organisation.

### **Are services on the Hinchingsbrooke Hospital site provided by other organisations affected by this franchise?**

Services commissioned by NHS Cambridgeshire through contractual arrangements with other providers, such as Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust, are not affected by the franchise agreement.

### **How will the new board operate?**

There will still be a Trust Board which will retain its statutory obligations and be responsible for the performance governance of the franchisee. An Operations Board will operate as it currently does in terms of its meetings.

### **What will be the situation for staff under any new operating partner?**

Current and future staff will retain their NHS terms and conditions, under Retention of Employment guidelines.

