

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Two new ways in which public can have their say in Hinchingsbrooke hospital's future

Members of the public are being offered two additional ways of having their say in the future of Hinchingsbrooke hospital.

Hinchingsbrooke Health Care NHS Trust, NHS Cambridgeshire and NHS East of England's Strategic Projects Team are working together to find a new partner to operate Huntingdonshire's Hinchingsbrooke hospital, via a unique operating franchise.

The new ways in which people can get involved and have their say are:

1. Coming along to a public meeting in Cambourne, Thursday 4 March, 6pm, South Cambridgeshire District Council Offices, Cambourne Business Park.
2. Visiting the Q&A stall at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital's Treatment Centre on Tuesday 9 March.

Dr Stephen Dunn, Director of Strategy at NHS East of England, said: "Since the very outset of the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps Project we have been determined to involve patients, carers, staff and everyone with an interest to get involved in securing a sustainable for the hospital.

"These two latest public involvement opportunities are in addition to a whole range of engagement routes including the stakeholder panel, Next Steps News magazine, and a designated website".

This unique process proposes that the clinical and non-clinical services at Hinchingsbrooke hospital - other than where identified below - will be provided via an

operating franchise agreement with an experienced healthcare provider. This proposal will ensure that a full range of high quality acute hospital services - including accident and emergency and maternity services - will continue to be provided for local people at Hinchingbrooke, as agreed at the end of the public consultation process on Hinchingbrooke in 2007. Services on the Hinchingbrooke hospital site provided by other organisations, such as Cambridgeshire Community Services, through contractual arrangements with NHS Cambridgeshire, are unaffected by this franchise offer.

Ends

For more information please contact the NHS East of England Press Office

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Notes for editors

- The Hinchingbrooke Next Steps project is being managed by NHS East of England's Strategic Projects Team led by Andrew MacPherson, Director of Strategic Projects. This team of experts works in partnership to develop and deliver positive change for NHS services in the east of England. Working closely with the healthcare marketplace and the stakeholders, it develops, supports and delivers transactions that drive up the quality of patient experience, safety and care, clinical excellence, public service and value for money.
- Hinchingbrooke Next Steps Timeline:

Phase 4 – ITPD2 (invitation to participate in dialogue 2)	
ITPD2 issued	12/04/10
ITPD2 submission deadline	24/05/10
ITPD2 evaluation	25/05/10 – 21/06/10
Confirmation of bidders recommended to proceed to ITT	12/07/10
Phase 5 – ITT (invitation to tender)	
ITT issued	12/07/10
ITT submission deadline	26/07/10
ITT evaluation	27/07/10 – 31/08/10
Preferred franchisee appointed	30/09/10
Phase 6 – Approvals (subject to confirmation of approval & public involvement process)	
Full business case / approvals	30/09/10 – 30/11/10
Contract award & signature	01/12/10
Service commencement	01/04/11
Staff and public involvement	Ongoing

- Further information about the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps project can be found at www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects or by calling freephone 0800 923 3001
- Hinchingsbrooke hospital, which opened in 1983, is modern and purpose-built, with 369 beds providing quality up-to-date healthcare - including accident and emergency and maternity services - for approximately 161,000 people in Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire and the surrounding areas.

