



National Treatment Centre Grampian

PROJECT NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2 – JULY 2022

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second edition of the National Treatment Centre – Grampian newsletter.

The National Treatment Centre – Grampian (NTC-G) project is now one of eleven centres across Scotland being developed to increase capacity and efficiency of elective services.

In this newsletter you will find a project update, news about the MRI scanner at Dr Gray's Hospital, and the planned next steps.

PROJECT UPDATE

Since the last newsletter update, lots of work has been ongoing to review the scope and context of the preferred site for the NTC-G, considering:

- (a) the learning from the global pandemic
- (b) the learning from important central belt hospital building compliance and quality issues
- (c) our new obligations to achieve net zero carbon in new buildings from day one of use
- (d) the emerging NHS Grampian "Plan for the Future".

All of the above led to agreeing the need for a comprehensive clinically-led review, which has meant a considerable delay to the programme, but this has also given new opportunities and challenges that will form part of the solution that delivers sustainable planned health care services ahead.

Importantly, despite the delay due to the review, both the NHS Grampian Board and the Scottish Government **remain firmly committed to the capital investment and delivery of the NTC-G project.**

Site Location

Colleagues and stakeholders will be aware that our original case (the Reference Design Outline Business Case) identified a building located on 'daffodil hill' at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (ARI), linked to (and with services hosted within) the Phase 1 building.

As part of our review, a further five options across three sites - Foresterhill Health Campus, Summerfield House and Aberdeen City Centre (former John Lewis building) - were considered.

The John Lewis site option was considered worthy of inclusion due to (a) the additional space opportunity for health & care, education and public services, and (b) the clear synergy and links to "Plan for the Future".

All of these options were considered and ranked against agreed weighted benefits at a multi-stakeholder workshop in March 2022. The conclusion of this workshop was that the top options were (a) a **stand-alone new-build** on the Foresterhill Site and (b) a **stand-alone redeveloped** build in the City Centre (specifically John Lewis).



In person workshop at P&J Live
Image: Gary Mortimer, NHS Grampian

This conclusion allowed both top ranked options to have more detailed analysis of cost, economics, affordability, site conditions, technical surveys, technical assessment, etc.

This further process identified technical compliance challenges with the John Lewis building that could not be fully mitigated. Despite the opportunity afforded by this much larger building, a decision was taken that the technical derogations required were not acceptable, and this option was subsequently removed from further consideration.

CURRENT POSITION

All of the input from stakeholders, the outcome of the clinical and site location reviews, and the further work including refinement of site options, economic appraisal, and workforce considerations, was used to complete and confirm the strategic case for the NTC-G.

This was presented as a comprehensive report with recommendations to the NHS Grampian Board on 7 July 2022. The NHS Grampian Board supported the recommendations, specifically;

1. Endorsement of the final report: Clinical led scope review
2. Decision that the NTC-G is developed as a **new, stand-alone** purpose built facility, recognising the compliance risks associated with a refurbishment project and the benefits of separating elective and unscheduled care.

3. Decision to agree to support the further refinement of site options.

In addition, the Board asked the NTC-G Project to progress on the basis of;

- a. Exploration of physical sites **beyond Aberdeen city**, with consideration of inequalities, connectivity/transport, integration of pathways, and sustainability.
- b. For the NTC-G next stages to be developed as an Anchor institution exemplar.
- c. For recruitment risks to be mitigated and articulated in the next stages.

In relation to the beyond Aberdeen city options, we are currently exploring a limited number of sites that are practical from a transport and access perspective. For example, this includes proximity to public transport, Park & Ride, car parking, and roads access. One such site being considered is the Kingswells / Westhill zone.

NEXT STEPS

The expectation is that a further paper will be submitted to the NHS Grampian Board later this year setting out a **single-site, new-build, stand-alone** recommendation. Importantly, this will necessitate further stakeholder engagement to ensure that this recommendation is valid and robust.

Clearly, there is a need for further focus and pace. To support this, a number of 'task and finish' cells will be established to progress specific pieces of work. This will include a Sites Cell which will focus on finalising viable site options for consideration and identifying final preferred site for recommendation to the NHS Grampian Board.

DR GRAY'S

The NTC-G project also includes a new MRI scanner facility at Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin, which will be built adjacent to and will connect into the existing Radiology department at Dr Gray's.

The investment in Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin will support enhancement of the existing Radiology department and development and recruitment of existing and new team members.

At a wider level, this investment also represents improvement in the places where people live and tackles the issues that matter to them, with the expansion of specialist services available locally.

The project is at a stage of confirming the final design around the facility, and the new additional workforce required to deliver this new service.



Image shows location for new MRI facility on Dr Gray's Hospital site

This part of the programme is being progressed earlier than others, as a separate Business Case, and it is planned that the Business Case in support of the new facility will be submitted to NHS Grampian Board for review and approval in August 2022.

Following approval, a programme timeline will be agreed and further updates will be provided.

PROJECT GOVERNANCE

The Project Team and Core Review Group continue to coordinate activity and provide assurance to the Project Board.

The governance structure will be reviewed for future phases of the project.

Key Contacts

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KEEP IN TOUCH

Further newsletters will be issued to keep you up-to-date with the progress of all aspects of the project.

You can also visit the NHS Grampian website - <https://www.nhsgrampian.org/work-with-us/get-involved/projects--consultations/national-treatment-centre-grampian/>

Members of the Project Team have arranged briefing sessions for clinical and management leads for those services involved in the project. If your Team/service would like to arrange a separate session, or if you have any questions about the NTC-G project or you'd like to be added to our distribution list, please email gram.ntc@nhs.scot.



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