

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Ref: MT/NG

Chair & Chief Executive Office

Royal Preston Hospital

Sharoe Green Lane

Fulwood

PRESTON

PR2 9HT

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Central Lancashire Local Plan 2023-2041 Consultation

Response from Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LTHTr) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Local Plan and is committed to working collaboratively with the Councils to integrate health and wealth into the strategic planning for Central Lancashire. We are encouraged by the Plan's commitment to improved housing, creating a prosperous economy, developing a high-quality environment, sustainability and an improved infrastructure. We are aware of the detailed response to the consultation that has been developed by the ICB who have responsibility for commissioning health services in Central Lancashire and will not repeat the detail of that submission, but we wanted to take the opportunity to highlight some key health related opportunities that we believe are appropriate for inclusion in the plan.

We wish to highlight three key areas of alignment with the NHS Long Term Plan and our own strategic priorities, and we recommend that these are further embedded and actioned within the Local Plan as they relate to health:

1. Analogue to Digital: Advancing Digital Infrastructure for Health and Care

The NHS is undergoing a significant transformation from analogue to digital systems, and we believe it is essential that the Local Plan facilitates the digital enablement of healthcare services. This could include:

- Investment in high-speed broadband and 5G networks, especially in underserved and rural areas.
- Designating health-tech innovation hubs and encouraging smart infrastructure to support virtual care and remote monitoring.
- Planning for digital inclusion to ensure equitable access to technology for all populations.

Recommendation: We encourage the Local Plan to prioritise digital infrastructure as a foundational component of community development and to enable NHS partners to deliver virtual care models, real-time diagnostics, and digital-first primary and secondary care pathways.

2. Hospital to Community: Rebalancing Care Delivery Across Settings

The NHS is shifting from a hospital-centric model to a more integrated, community-based system of care. For Central Lancashire, this transition is an opportunity to:

- Co-locate health and social care services within new and existing housing and town centre developments.

- Support the creation of local hubs for health, wellbeing, and integrated care—particularly in areas with growing or aging populations.
- Promote sustainable transport, green spaces, and walkable neighbourhoods to increase access and reduce health inequalities.

Recommendation: Please embed health and care service accessibility into planning policy, ensuring the provision of infrastructure to support integrated community-based health delivery, with input from both the ICS and NHS providers during the planning of developments.

3. Treatment to Prevention: Designing for Population Health

Shifting the focus from reactive treatment to proactive prevention is a shared goal across NHS and public sector partners. The built environment has a critical influence on health outcomes. We welcome the focus on housing quality, active transport routes, green infrastructure, and the creation of healthy communities.

We believe the Local Plan should also include more detail on:

- Enabling collaboration with the NHS to identify and address the social determinants of health such as poor air quality, inadequate housing, and unemployment and outline our commitment to work collaboratively to improve these as well as improved access to healthcare.
- Support place-based partnerships that reduce demand for acute care by embedding health promotion and prevention into the fabric of communities.

Recommendation: Reference greater collaboration with local NHS organisations and the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) to embed health impact assessments and prevention strategies into development policies and decision-making processes.

LTHTR is now focussed on our strategic priorities to be aligned with the NHS long term plan (when published in June 2025). A key element of this will include the transition from hospital to community-based provisions, in order to enable an increased prevention-based approach.

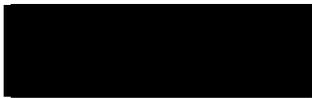
In support of this, the Trust has adopted a strategic and collaborative approach to working with partner organisations, including Local Authorities as well as other key stakeholders across the region, to enable the effective planning and transition of our provisions and services. We believe it is critical that the Local Plan reflects this ongoing work, and incorporates the following points within the pertinent section(s) of the current draft as they are specific to Central Lancashire:

- ***The identification and mobilisation of Health Hubs within Preston City Centre***, given the current as well as future locational, socio-economic, health demographic, chronological and financial considerations of the area.
- ***The setup and operation of other healthcare sites across the greater Preston area***, given the current as well as future locational, socio-economic, health demographic, chronological and financial considerations of the area, in alignment with the Health Hubs and the delayed New Hospital Programme.
- ***The requirement for the provision and setup of healthcare sites across the South Ribble area***, noting some of the current space limitations within the system, given the current as well as future locational, socio-economic, health demographic, chronological and financial considerations of the area, in alignment with the Health Hubs and the delayed New Hospital Programme.

- **The requirement for the provision and setup of healthcare sites across the Chorley area**, given the current as well as future locational, socio-economic, health demographic, chronological and financial considerations of the area, in alignment with Health Hub provisions, services at Chorley and South Ribble Hospital and the delayed New Hospital Programme.
- **The acquisition of land**, via the New Hospital Programme, proposed as the replacement site of the current Royal Preston Hospital site (which remains subject to further due diligence, including public consultations etc.).
- **The consideration of how the new land acquisitions may need to be prepared and/or utilised in advance** of the New Hospital Programme, such as with the provision of infrastructure and utility networks, subject to the necessary approvals being granted and/or supported.
- **The requirement for the development and provision of future additional health orientated sites to support future planning developments and population growth**, and the associated infrastructure needed for this (along with their associated authority approvals, capital funding, and support).

We would welcome an opportunity to discuss this submission further and look forward to collaborating with you as the plan is further developed and implemented.

Yours sincerely



Professor Mike Thomas
Chair
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



Sarah Morrison
Deputy Chief Executive
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust