

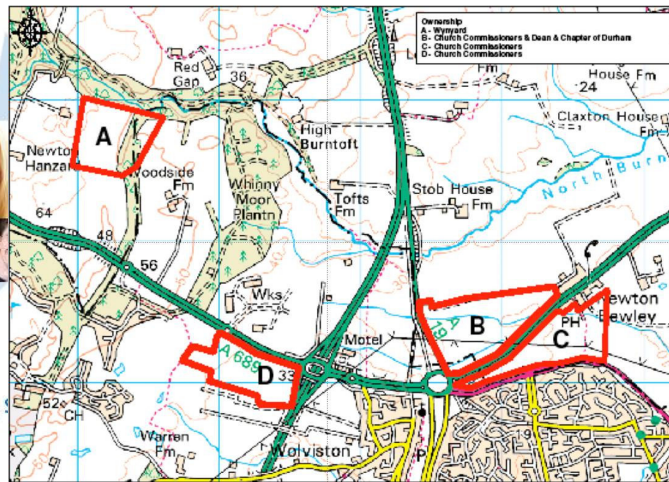


Making a difference where you live



Section 244 Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

Momentum: pathways to healthcare – Consultation Response



A new healthcare system for Hartlepool, and parts of Easington and Sedgfield

Formal public consultation - 2 June to 1 September 2008



2 September 2008

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Health Overview and Scrutiny
Committee
County Hall
Durham
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Scrutiny of Health Committee
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Health Select Committee
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
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SECTION 244 HEALTH SCRUTINY JOINT COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Brash (Joint Committee Chair) (Hartlepool Borough Council)
Councillor Mrs Cains (Joint Committee Vice-Chair) (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)

Organisation	Representatives
Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Durham County Council	Councillors Burnip; Chaplow; Crathorne
Health Scrutiny Forum- Hartlepool Borough Council	Councillors Barker; R W Cook; S Cook; A Lilley; Plant; Simmons; Sutheran; Young
Hartlepool Resident Representatives	Jean Kennedy; Linda Shields; Mike Ward
Scrutiny of Health Committee -North Yorkshire County Council	Councillors Blackie; Dadd; Heather
Health Select Committee - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	Councillors Baker; Beall; Mrs Cherrett; Cockerill; Faulks; Mrs Nesbitt; Sherris; Mrs Walmsley

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee thank the representatives from the following organisations that gave evidence during the consultation period:

Cleveland Local Medical Committee
 North Tees Primary Care Trust,
 Hartlepool Primary Care Trust,
 Hartlepool Borough Council
 Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
 North Tees and Hartlepool Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
 Grindon Parish Council
 DTZ
 Momentum Project team
 Unison

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1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Under Section 244 of the NHS Act 2006, local NHS bodies have a duty to consult local Overview and Scrutiny Committees on proposals for any substantial development of the health service or substantial variation in the provision in their areas.
- 1.2 In accordance with this requirement, as part of the Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare Programme, formal consultations commenced on 2 June 2008 in relation to recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) to Lord Darzi's proposals for the Acute Service Review. The IRP reintroduced the development of a single site hospital serving the population covered by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.
- 1.3 As part of the consultation Members of the scrutiny committees in County Durham, Hartlepool, North Yorkshire County, and Stockton Councils formed a joint committee to explore the proposals contained in the consultation document and, with the assistance of evidence from a variety of sources, formulated a view in relation to:
 - a. The service model proposed for the provision of health services in, or a near to, home as possible, with only things which need to be done in hospital taking place there;
 - b. The locations of Hartlepool and Stockton's community facilities;
 - c. The preferred location of a new hospital for Stockton, Hartlepool and parts of Sedgefield and Easington; and
 - d. How best to bring in all the changes needed to build this new healthcare system.
- 1.4 This report has been structured around the Momentum consultation questionnaire so that it can be shown that each of the councils have been involved in providing the NHS Joint Committee with the views it has requested.
- 1.5 Although this report is the joint submission of the four local authorities involved in this consultation it was developed from two separate reports which are appended. Appendix 1 is the report agreed by Hartlepool and Durham Councillors whilst at appendix 2 is the agreed report of Stockton and North Yorkshire Councillors.

2.0 Consultation Response

2.1 The Section 244 Health Scrutiny Joint Committee (hereinafter referred to as 'the Committee') formed by representatives from Durham County Council's Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Hartlepool Borough Council's Health Scrutiny Forum, North Yorkshire County Council's Scrutiny of Health Committee, and Stockton Council's Health Select Committee submit the following response to questions contained in the Momentum consultation questionnaire as its response under Section 244 of the NHS Act 2006. Not all questions were considered appropriate for a response from the Committee hence the numbering which relates to the Momentum questionnaire is not sequential.

2.2 **Q1. In principle, do you agree that we should be providing health services as near to your home as possible with only things which need to be done in hospital taking place there?**

2.3 The Committee does agree that clinically safe health services should, whenever possible, be located in local community settings. Such agreement is based on the appropriate integration of health and social care services including service provision delivered by the voluntary sector whilst ensuring protection against the fragmentation of service delivery.

2.4 Initial discussions centred on the perceived down-grading of services that were relocated in the community from their current hospital location as well as a possible reduction in the number of trained and skilled staff employed by the NHS Trusts. The Committee was pleased to receive reassurances that the current range of services would continue to be provided by fully qualified individuals, although these would not always be doctors or consultants. Members were also pleased to find that no reduction in staffing levels was envisaged and that staff are kept informed and continue to be involved in shaping the review. Indications were also welcomed from UNISON that its Staff Side Forum was working in partnership with the Trust on all aspects of Momentum.

2.5 The Committee, however, is not fully aware of how the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust, providing a range of services and facilities for people with mental health problems or learning disabilities, would be incorporated into the service reconfiguration under discussion and looks forward to receiving reassurances regarding this matter.

2.6 **Q3. Which services (if any) are currently most important to you?**

2.7 The Committee observed and was informed of the concerns of people attending public meetings engaging in the discussion about local health service provision. It is unable to come to any specific opinion as it deems all aspects being consulted upon as important and requires more definitive plans to be developed as to how services would be delivered. As a result the Committee takes a holding position whereby it wishes to be involved in future consultation of local health provision.

2.8 An issue of particular concern to Hartlepool residents participating in the Scrutiny process was the location of maternity services and the safety of mothers and babies. Members were reassured to receive evidence confirming that no child or mother had been put at risk as a result of new maternity arrangements in Hartlepool since the provision of consultant-led maternity services only at University Hospital North Tees.

- 2.9 **Q6-9. We believe a new, state of the art integrated health and care centre is needed in Hartlepool town centre, Stockton town centre, Billingham town centre and a new health facility in Yarm. Additional services would reflect local needs and may include services normally provided in hospital. In principle, do you support our proposal to develop the new health facilities?**
- 2.10 The Committee agrees, in principle, to the development of new health facilities throughout Hartlepool Borough and Stockton Borough (Stockton town centre, Billingham town centre and Yarm) each reflecting the local needs of the community in which it is placed subject to further consultation to determine what services will be located at the different facilities.
- 2.11 Members were aware of the shortage of GP's in Hartlepool and noted with interest the benefits of increased numbers of GP practices, and additional resources, in attracting GP's to the area. The Committee was reassured to find that there was no suggestion in the proposals that existing practices would diminish under the proposals.
- 2.12 It was indicated that GP's in Hartlepool and Stockton were committed to the Momentum proposals and keen to see services transferred to a primary care setting. Indeed, the Momentum proposals should provide greater choice for patients and the Committee supports the view that GP practices should see the proposals as an opportunity to examine how they deliver their services to encourage patient satisfaction and retention.
- 2.13 The Committee highlights the importance of providing facilities for all, in locations that are easy to access. Concern was expressed regarding the need to ensure that the future provision of facilities and services into communities are provided across all areas of Hartlepool and Stockton and also including the Easington and Sedgefield areas of County Durham, in particular to areas of need / deprivation, where the effective provision of the new model for health care provision will be vital in addressing health inequalities. Durham County Council's Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny representatives are keen that the plans for community based provision contained in the Momentum proposals should be complementary with County Durham Primary Care Trust's plans for community based provision, and that there should be evidence that the necessary planning and dialogue is taking place.
- 2.14 The Committee suggests that NHS should, in particular, undertake work to address concerns of Sedgefield and Easington residents regarding service provision at Peterlee Community Hospital and opportunities for community based provision from Sedgefield Community Hospital. Members voiced concerns over the fitness for purpose of Peterlee Community Hospital and the possible limitations in relation to the services that can be provided from it as a result. Members felt this was an urgent issue and believed that much more work needed to be done by the NHS to alleviate the concerns expressed. The Committee therefore wishes to see evidence, in the future, of work being undertaken to further explore the expansion of facilities in the north and south of Hartlepool.
- 2.15 Further concern was raised by Stockton Councillors about the service provision in the south of their borough. They found that the population size of Yarm is greater than the two town centre areas identified to receive integrated health and care centres. As a result, and accepting ward councillor

representation, Stockton Councillors believe further consideration should be given regarding the provision of healthcare at the Yarm health facility. Recognition should also be given to the high level of car ownership in the south of the borough which could mean that residents would continue to opt to use the James Cook Hospital due to its closer proximity. This might be especially so if the NHS expect them to use the new hospital north of the River Tees or do not provide the appropriate services in the planned Yarm health facility.

- 2.16 **Q10-11. We believe there is a need to provide a new hospital serving Hartlepool, Stockton and parts of Easington and Sedgefield. Following the selection process described in the consultation document, two possible locations have been identified. Which is your preferred option for the location of the new hospital? What other things should we consider when selecting option A or option B?**

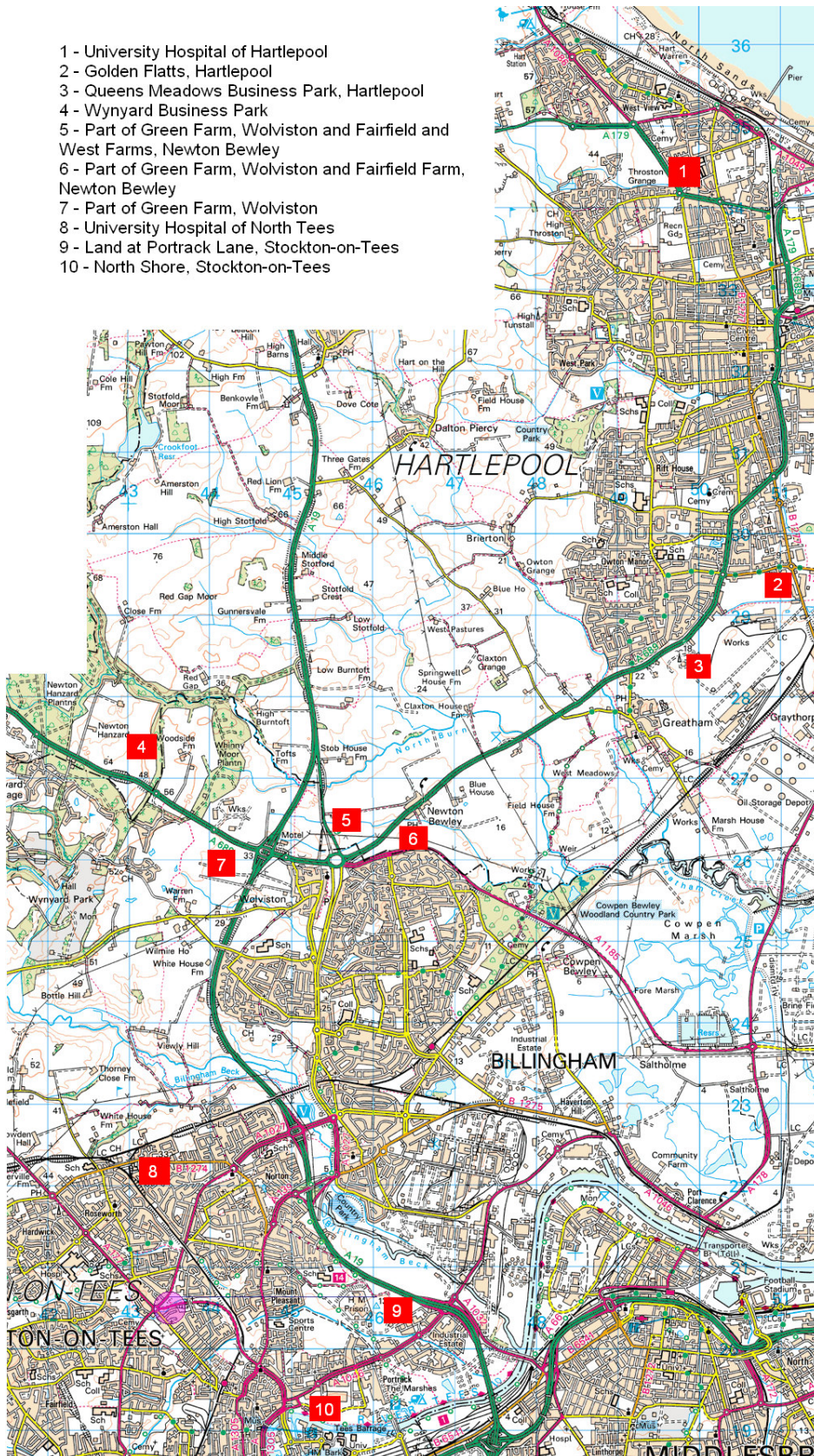


- **Location A - Wynyard Business Park**
- **Location B - Land at Green Farm, Wolviston**
- **No preference**

- 2.17 The endorsement, by the Secretary of State for Health, of the Independent Review Panel's recommendations following the earlier Acute Service Review brought an end to the uncertainty of a new hospital to replace University Hospital North Tees and University Hospital Hartlepool. The Panel's third recommendation was that "a modern hospital to replace the existing out of date hospital buildings should be provided on a new site in a well situated location accessible to the people of Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees, Easington and Sedgefield".
- 2.18 Throughout this consultation process two specific issues have been raised, that of where the hospital will be located, especially considering the proximity to houses at Wynyard, and accessibility with particular reference to public transport.

Site Selection and Location

- 1 - University Hospital of Hartlepool
- 2 - Golden Flatts, Hartlepool
- 3 - Queens Meadows Business Park, Hartlepool
- 4 - Wynyard Business Park
- 5 - Part of Green Farm, Wolviston and Fairfield and West Farms, Newton Bewley
- 6 - Part of Green Farm, Wolviston and Fairfield Farm, Newton Bewley
- 7 - Part of Green Farm, Wolviston
- 8 - University Hospital of North Tees
- 9 - Land at Portrack Lane, Stockton-on-Tees
- 10 - North Shore, Stockton-on-Tees



- 2.19 The Committee was pleased to have the opportunity to meet with representatives from DTZ who were commissioned by the Trust to assist in a site options appraisal leading to the development of preferred options. The preferred options formed an element of the information used during the consultation process.
- 2.20 DTZ provided ten sites for initial consideration which were subject to the following selection criteria in an attempt to determine the most suitable sites:

Potential Site	Criteria						Weighted Score
	Accessibility	Site Characteristics and Development Constraints	Opportunity for Expansion	Fit with Service Delivery Model	Socially Acceptable	Site Acquisition Cost	
Weighting (this is a multiplier for the criteria score of each location)	5	4	3	4	3	3	
University Hospital of Hartlepool	1	1	1	3	1	3	36
Golden Flatts, Hartlepool	1	7	5	3	1	7	84
Queens Meadows Business Park, Hartlepool	1	3	1	3	1	3	44
Wynyard Business Park	7	7	9	7	7	9	166
Part of Green Farm, Wolviston and Fairfield and West Farms, Newton Bewley	5	5	7	5	5	5	116
Part of Green Farm, Wolviston and Fairfield Farm, Newton Bewley	5	5	9	5	5	5	122
Part of Green Farm, Wolviston	7	7	7	7	5	7	148
University Hospital of North Tees	1	1	1	3	1	3	36
Land at Portrack Lane, Stockton-on-Tees	1	3	1	3	1	5	50
North Shore, Stockton-on-Tees	1	3	1	3	1	3	44

- 2.21 As a result the two highest scoring sites were put forward as the possible locations for the new hospital. The Committee did, however have concerns regarding the way in which this element of the consultation was undertaken.
- 2.22 The Committee believes that the weighting that has been applied when assessing the possible sites can be seen as being subjective, as was agreed by a representative from DTZ. Throughout the consultation process more information was requested regarding the way in which the selection and evaluation criteria have been determined. No further information was forthcoming making it difficult for the Committee to provide unequivocal support for the options preferred by the NHS as any opinion must be determined on the available evidence.
- 2.23 Whilst Stockton and North Yorkshire Councillors accept that there was likely to be a number of sites that would score more highly than others they believe that each of the sites scoring over 100 should have been consulted upon especially as they all have ease of accessibility for Stockton and Hartlepool residents.
- 2.24 Hartlepool and Durham councillors noted concerns regarding the criteria for the allocation of scores and the implications this had on the ability to select a preferred site. Members were, however, reassured that whilst some of the information used was sensitive, and as such could not be released; more

detailed information would be made available on the Momentum website before the end of the consultation process. In relation to the provision of 'financial information' concern was expressed that a financial comparison of advantages / disadvantages between the two proposed sites had not been provided to enable consultees to make an informed choice. In response to this, Members were advised that at this stage full financial information was commercially sensitive and as such was not available in the public domain

- 2.25 The Committee understands that to purchase either of the sites east of the A19 would have involved more land owners and there were issues regarding possible restrictions from the presence of high voltage cables and gas pipeline easements and constraints from environmental, ecological or archaeological factors. This, however, should not have precluded them from consideration and further investigation as to their suitability should have been undertaken thereby providing, if not real choice, the appearance of greater consultation than was applied.
- 2.26 At each of the public meetings the location issue always aroused the most debate with a number of people in opposition for various reasons. Stockton Councillors received representation from a number of Wynyard residents concerned and angry about what was being proposed in close proximity to their community. Members were initially concerned when they heard that little or no communication had been achieved with residents but were pleased with the efforts undertaken by NHS staff to rectify this apparent oversight. A specific meeting was organised at Wynyard Golf Club so that the views of residents could be included in the consultation process for which the Councillors applaud the Momentum Project Team. Further reference to the consultation process is given later in this report.

Transport

- 2.27 The Committee is pleased that the NHS recognised that both proposed sites currently have poor public transport services and that significant work is required to minimise any disruption to established transport patterns so that whichever site is selected is appropriate for use. Members learned that even before proposals for the hospital, both local authorities and the Highways agency had been looking at a package of phased highways improvements for the A19 / A689 junction. In addition, the Committee note that a funding and delivery package is being developed and look forward to receiving further details as the package is progressed especially regarding any public subsidy for transportation to and from the new hospital.
- 2.28 Whilst recognising that higher levels of care closer to home will reduce the number of journeys to hospital and that community facilities will be placed in areas accessible by public transport it must also be noted that good transport links will be essential to make the hospital accessible to the local population most directly served by the hospital trust especially as both Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees will each lose their 'centrally located' hospital.
- 2.29 Members supported the view that the provision of transport solutions should not be directed solely at people with cars as there was a need to attract car users away from their vehicles, giving transport initiatives a real environmental benefit.
- 2.30 The Committee was of the view that the provision of appropriate transport would be the single biggest barrier to the success of the new configuration of health services. Members drew particular attention to the importance of

providing services at out of hour times for patients discharged at night, for people with disabilities (whether that be the provision of a golf cart system to transfer patients or visitors from buses to the hospital, buses able to take mobility scooter or wheel chairs) and the provision of suitable crossing facilities at the point of departure and arrival to enable sight impaired residents / visitors to reach the hospital safely.

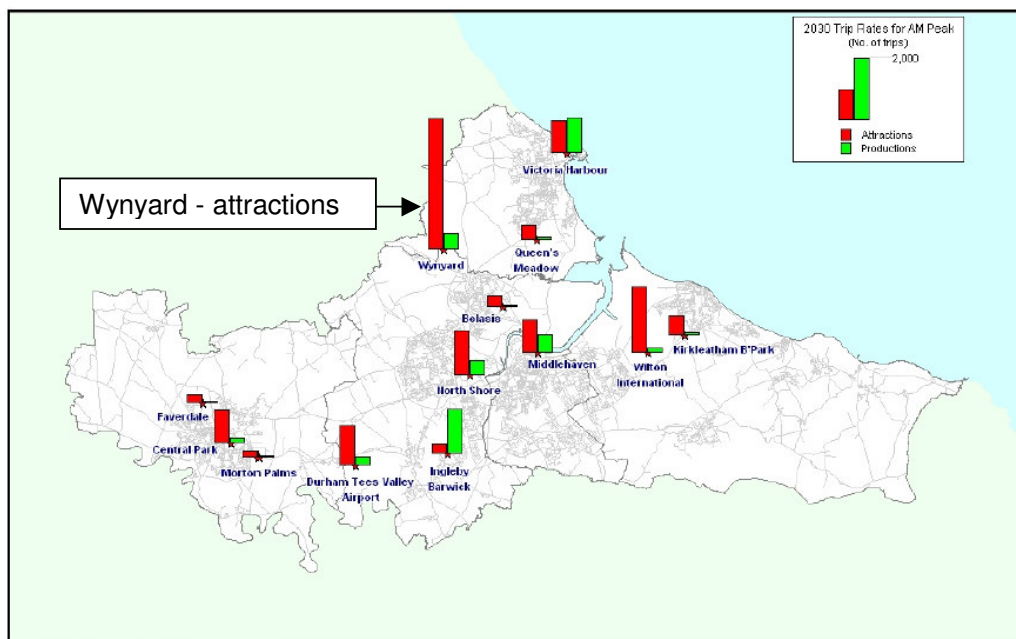
2.31 Although both sites are well served by A19 and A689 dual carriageways it is noted that the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (JSU), when undertaking work for the Tees Valley local authorities, in 2006 stated that they found:

“The existing Tees Valley sub-regional transport network currently does not deliver a reliable, high quality and cost effective transport system to support planned economic growth in the City Region. The particular problems faced are:

- Worsening highway congestion affecting key junctions and radial corridors, particularly through increasing car ownership levels;
- Conflicts between strategic and local traffic on the trunk road network;
- Current sub-regional rail services are not car-competitive, with limited potential to attract new passengers that would increase rail mode share;
- A continuing reduction in the extent of a commercially operated bus network;
- Several ‘pinch points’ within the sub-regional network, which add to bus service delays and reliability problems, potentially impacting on the ability to achieve the desired regeneration levels;
- Changing travel demand patterns (resulting from long term sustainable economic regeneration priorities) that no longer match the infrastructure or services provided.”

2.32 The JSU developed a diagram (reproduced below) showing an indicative level of future development traffic from some of the key sites identified in the Tees Valley Vision which suggests significant additional pressure on the existing transport network.

Trip Rates for morning peak travel (number of trips) in 2030



- 2.33 As can be seen by the future projections the number of trips to Wynyard (attractions (reason for travelling to a location) – red bar chart) would be significant if the projections shown above were to be realised. This pictorial representation illustrates the importance of a well-developed transport solution needing to be found.
- 2.34 Members were therefore pleased to find that the issue was being considered relatively early in the process, with a multi-agency Transport Group already formed involving the Tees PCTs, local authorities affected by the hospital developments and the Highways Agency. The purpose of this group would be to formulate a Transport Strategy to ensure the provision of good transport links to the new hospital for residents from all areas served by the new hospital. It will also be looking at the issue of transport provision to community-based facilities, an issue of great importance to the Committee.
- 2.35 The Committee welcomed indications that some funding had already been allocated for the provision of a high occupancy vehicle lane and lights at the A19 interchange, with funding already put forward by the owner of the Wynyard Business Park. Other issues to be resolved include providing adequate car parking for staff and visitors, tackling peak hour congestion at A19 / A689 Wolviston junction, creating links for cyclists and pedestrians to nearby existing and future developments, and exploring dedicated access routes for emergency services. Members were pleased to find that the Transport Strategy would need to be in place prior to planning application approval being sought.
- 2.36 As part of the Transport Strategy, Durham County Council's Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny representatives wished to see the difficulty of transport from the Sedgefield and Easington districts addressed within it. These areas have relatively fewer patients that would use the new hospital compared with residents of Hartlepool and Stockton boroughs. The Committee was of the view that the provision of transport for Durham County residents was essential to enable them to access health services in the new hospital, and their communities. As such, where routes are not commercially viable alternative approaches need to be explored.
- 2.37 Whilst it was brought to the attention of the Committee that hospital car parking fees were historically reinvested in the maintenance and security of car parks, the Committee felt strongly that car parking must be free if health services are truly to be free at the point of need.
- 2.38 During the course of discussions the Committee made particular reference to the free shuttle service currently in place between Hartlepool and the North Tees Hospitals. In considering the provision of a similar service to the new hospital, Members were encouraged to hear that this would be explored. The Committee, however, highlighted that the provision of an appropriate transport service would require a number of measures. A creative approach will need to be taken in terms of what is spent, the types of services provided, including consideration of community transport approaches. Members are aware that a Multi Area Agreement involving the five Tees Valley local authorities is exploring the development of a Tees Valley Metro rail system.
- 2.39 When highlighted in JSU reports it was shown that a metro system would probably provide passenger transport to the James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough. As any planned Tees Valley Metro route between Stockton and Hartlepool would operate to the east of the A19 and could have possibly

linked to the two sites at Newton Bewley it was considered by the Committee that their removal from this consultation appeared to be a lost opportunity for any integrated transport scheme.

- 2.40 The Committee stress the importance that affordability and sustainability are factors taken into consideration during the development of transport services to the new hospital and community services that are being considered. There was some concern expressed regarding the financing of sustainable bus services and the possible impact this could have on local authority budgets.
- 2.41 The Committee therefore support the aims of a Transport Group that has been set up to develop:
- Provision of a public transport service to the hospital
 - Implementation of a Park and Ride service
 - Promotion of car sharing and other green travel initiatives
 - Provision of sufficient car parking at the hospital
 - Supplementing the above with a shuttle bus service if necessary
 - Improvement in roads to minimise congestion
 - Explore the provision of a new or alternative junction or interchange from the A19 to access the new hospital
- 2.42 As the hospital development progresses the Committee look forward to having regular discussions/receiving information about the solutions to the transport to and from the new hospital.

Other Issues

- 2.43 Stockton and North Yorkshire Councillors are critical of the way in which Question 10 was framed as no opposing view can be expressed to the two shortlisted sites being proposed as likely development areas. Providing a 'no preference' response is not the same as being able to state that neither of the two sites are thought to be acceptable. Stockton and North Yorkshire Councillors would like to see the NHS, in future consultations, provide all respondents with questions that are constructed to more accurately reflect all opinions whether positive or negative.

Option Selection

- 2.44 As a result, the Committee, with the limited number of options made available in this consultation process, would select Option A as this:
- Has outline planning permission for a business park and raises fewer strategic planning issues, in that it falls within an area already allocated for development in two relevant local plans;
 - Has only one land owner (i.e. unlike Site B where the area of land is owned by three separate parties);
 - Provides the opportunity of establishing easier access routes and so presents fewer issues in terms of effective transport links;
 - Has fewer site restrictions including no ecological issues;
 - Provides the solution that has least impact on the residents at Wynyard who are the most vociferous regarding site selection; and
 - Offers pleasant surroundings for all staff, patients and visitors.

- 2.45 **Q15. Are there any improvements/comments we can make to this consultation process? (e.g. how we let you know, how you can respond, the issues covered etc)**
- 2.46 In addition to the formulation of its response, Hartlepool and Durham Councillors found it very useful to gain an understanding of the communication / consultation process implemented by the PCT and Foundation Trust.
- 2.47 Members were pleased to find that a large variety of communication / consultation mechanisms had been implemented as part of the Momentum process, including public meetings and road show events across Hartlepool, Stockton, Easington and Sedgefield. Other mediums had also been used to raise awareness and encourage participation in the process, including leaflets, the Website and radio advertising.
- 2.48 Based upon the evidence provided by the PCT / Foundation Trust, they were unanimous in their praise for the exemplary consultation undertaken by the Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare team. Members were hugely satisfied at the incredible lengths the local NHS bodies had gone to in ensuring that all stakeholders, and all members of the public, were given the opportunity to express their views as part of this process. They were confident that all individuals who had wanted to contribute to the consultation process had most certainly had the opportunity.
- 2.49 Hartlepool and Durham Councillors pay tribute to the Momentum team for their extraordinary efforts and in terms of the direct relationship with the overview and scrutiny process felt the process had worked extremely well. It was also felt that this had been the most informative, engaging and meaningful consultation in memory.
- 2.50 Stockton and North Yorkshire councillors had a number of comments to make regarding the consultation documentation both in its full and summarised versions.
- Good choices of languages other than English
 - Wide range of meetings for the public - already reflecting on comments made
 - Contrasting care plans very useful
 - It was not clear as to who was the intended readership of both documents.
 - Very small typeface
 - Printed on dark blue background
 - Very complicated diagram on Page 17
 - Front cover made no mention of a new hospital so the outside did not reflect the content
 - Q10 Use of "No preference" as an option
 - Misunderstandings by the public over the size of the new hospital. The media used the phrase "super hospital" but that does not mean very large but rather "state of the art".
 - The stories on pages 29 to 33 were far too long and hard to read
 - The documents didn't make reference to the additional provision of GP led Centres for Stockton and Hartlepool.
 - Confusing matrix for site selection with the weightings

- The Consultation document should have quoted recommendations 3 & 4 from the IRP report to Secretary of State for Health in full because these are a "given" and the public need to know that these are non-negotiable.
 - No glossary was provided to assist the understanding or meaning of terms.
- 2.51 An issue with this as with all other consultation exercises undertaken by the NHS that Health Scrutiny Committees take a keen interest in is the use of disseminating information via the local free papers. The Herald and Post claims on its website that not only is it the number one free weekly newspaper series in Tees Valley, but unlike some other free publications in its area, it has independently verified distribution - ensuring that it is delivered to more households than any other non-verified free publication in its distribution area.
- 2.52 Stockton and North Yorkshire Councillors therefore understand the rationale of using free papers to include the 6 page consultation document amongst other supplements and advertising but this does not guarantee that it will be seen, let alone read and responded to.
- 2.53 They were subsequently pleased that the NHS had incorporated solus distribution (a single promotional item to a target audience) as one of its methods to rectify the specific problem of reaching areas that do not receive the Herald and Post particularly the more rural parts of Stockton Borough.
- 2.54 They also thought that the dedicated consultation website is a very useful tool and a good repository for the variety of information that was available to give interested persons the opportunity to explore in whatever level of detail they required. Although the Internet now seems as though it is a part of everyday life it should be noted that there will be people disenfranchised by not having or wanting such access. The North East has the highest number of households without Internet access (48 per cent in 2007) and older age groups are less likely to have accessed the Internet. In 2007 the Internet activity of adults who have accessed the Internet shows that 46 per cent obtained information from public authorities' web sites, 31 per cent downloaded official forms and 27 per cent sought health-related information. It is important therefore not to place an over-reliance on the Internet to engage with the public.

2.55 **Q17. Any other comments specific to this consultation?**

Consultation Proposals

- 2.56 The Committee felt strongly that services must be in place before the closure of the two hospitals. Members were assured that the transfer would be in two stages beginning with the development of service provision within the community, followed by the opening of the new hospital.
- 2.57 The Committee recognised the importance of focusing activities to allay older people's concerns regarding the proposals and help them accept the benefits of changes as they are one of the largest sections of the community to utilise health services. Attention also needs to be paid to the needs of vulnerable families / individuals
- 2.58 The Committee agreed that the integration of health services with social services, as well other voluntary sector services, would be imperative to the effective provision of services under the new model. Members were keen to see that such integration incorporates all available best practice.

- 2.59 Members emphasised the importance of ensuring that links are explored, and where possible established, with other strategies and funding streams (i.e. education and housing) to assist in the creation of a holistic policy for improving health care and bringing services closer to people and communities.
- 2.60 The Committee was of the view that proposals for the provision of additional GP practices and GP led Health Centres or Momentum proposals could not, on their own, ensure the provision of the exceptional health services. Members believe that all initiatives / programmes need to work together to provide the best health service for residents in the areas affected by the various health provision proposals.
- 2.61 Mention is made in the consultation document of a single urgent care number that could operate alongside the emergency number 999. It will be of interest to learn how this will be developed and how patients will know which number to use.
- 2.62 The view of Stockton Councillors is that the integrated Health Care centre for Stockton should be located at either Tilery or North Shore.

Consultation Process

- 2.63 The Committee welcomed the acceleration in the timeline to enhance the chance of securing public monies for the funding of the new hospital. Stockton and North Yorkshire Councillors, however, felt that it was unfortunate that the consultation period coincided with the majority of peoples' main vacation of the year. They hope that this did not disenfranchise anyone as it may be expected that all affected residents had sufficient time within a 13-week period in which to submit views.
- 2.64 The two Summit meetings were an interesting idea to bring together people specifically interested or knowledgeable about the Momentum proposals and Committee members were pleased to have an opportunity to attend in order to improve their awareness of the issues under scrutiny. At the first meeting discussion about the hospital site was left until the end although it seemed obvious that this was creating the most interest. It is the opinion of Stockton and North Yorkshire Councillors that it would have been better to have included this discussion earlier in the proceedings so that representatives from the NHS fully heard from those attending the Summit meeting as a number had already left before the consultation questions were posed.
- 2.65 Having raised a number of issues regarding the consultation process all Members wish to congratulate the Momentum Project Team on its time and dedication which it has given to engage not only in the scrutiny process but throughout the communities it has attempted to reach. The following list is testimony to the efforts the Team went to in order to minimise any criticisms that could have been made.
- Stakeholder Distribution
 - Leaflet and Poster Distribution
 - TFM and Magic FM Advertising Campaign
 - Roadshow Events
 - Local Press and Council Magazines
 - Life Channel
 - Targeted Engagement Plan

- Additional Meetings

2.66 It is hoped that any criticisms regarding the process are seen as constructive and can be reflected upon for future engagement when health services are due to change.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 The Committee is pleased to have been involved in this consultation as it introduces the possibility of state of the art health provision for the communities affected by the proposed closure of the two existing hospitals. The location of the new hospital and discussions about the integrated care centres that will deliver health and social care services closer to the communities they will serve is welcomed.
- 3.2 Stockton and North Yorkshire Councillors however, still have reservations about this and the future consultation that will determine actual service provision at the new hospital and associated community infrastructure. A letter (dated 18th January 2008) sent to all the scrutiny committees likely to be interested in the Momentum consultation proposals stated that the neonatal service would be part of this consultation. Although aware that this was removed from this consultation exercise in February 2008 it is still of particular interest to North Yorkshire County Councillors who have continually asked for the timing of the consultation that will identify services at the new hospital, those that can be delivered in a community setting, and any transfer of services from the James Cook Hospital that could impact on the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton as well as affecting changes to regional specialisms. As this could not be specified at the time of writing this report those councillors wish to place on record their concern that this is not in place.
- 3.3 Concerns of a similar nature have been expressed by Durham County Council's Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny representatives in that plans for community based provision contained in the Momentum proposals should be consistent with County Durham Primary Care Trust's plans for community based provision, and that there should be evidence that the necessary planning and dialogue is taking place. In particular the potential impacts on Peterlee and Sedgfield Community Hospitals are highlighted.
- 3.4 As the NHS will continue to develop its capital planning and procurement programme ahead of building and commissioning the new hospital and associated facilities it is, the Committee believe, incumbent on the NHS to produce the consultation regarding service provision as soon as possible. Members were pleased that it was anticipated that the model used for funding would include a Guaranteed Maximum Price for a contractor to adhere, as well as there being a contingency fund for highway costs. In addition, the Committee supports the NHS in its pursuit of public capital investment for funding as opposed to a Private Finance Initiative model.
- 3.5 The Committee look forward to working with its local authority neighbours to scrutinise such proposals as part of the next Momentum consultation project.