

HERITAGE STATEMENT

For

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS

FoundationTrust

Blackpool Leisure Centre

Stanley Park

West Park Drive

Blackpool

FY3 9HQ

Proposed Temporary Modular Endoscopy Suite

Introduction

This document is in support of the application submitted for the proposed temporary modular endoscopy suite at Blackpool Leisure Centre, West Park Drive, Blackpool.

Site Context

The proposed site is 110 metres from numbers 66-78 West Park Drive and with car parking areas between and is adjacent to the Leisure Centre which is a 'modern' brick built building.



Proposal

In February, the Health Secretary, warned that total waiting list numbers for routine hospital treatment, then at around six million, would be unlikely to fall for at least two years. Current estimates put the waiting list at around 6.5 million.

From weekend clinics to dedicated surgery hubs and ensuring treatment transfers can happen, NHS staff are doing everything possible to bring down long waits for treatment for patients," said NHS England.

The government has also set an objective of eliminating any delays to procedures of 18 months or more by April next year, and over 65 weeks by March 2024, and reducing all waits to less than a year by 2025.

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are proposing to provide a fully outsourced Modular Endoscopy Unit, for endoscopy and bowel cancer screening, to augment existing Endoscopy services, and enable them to clear the patient waiting list as part of their restoration and recovery programme.

With limited space on the Victoria Hospital site, the Trust are collaborating with Blackpool Council to provide a location which is easily accessible for all patients and remains close to the hospital site for any emergency procedures.

The optimum site identified for this facility is at the North end of the present Leisure Centre on West Park Drive. The area is now currently used as an overflow car park extension and access to the High Ropes Course area and is only ever fully utilised during large events on the park. The selection of this area also avoids any potential conflicts with more sensitive heritage or conservation zones currently within the park.

The site is also adjacent to current car parking facilities within Stanley Park and accessible from the pedestrian/public transport routes already established. The site will be 'cordoned' off to provide the desired level of security and safety from the high ropes course but will not give a visually obstructive view of the facility from the adjacent park or neighbouring properties.

Planning Policy

Policy CS8

Heritage: Any new development will be required to protect and enhance the character, quality and setting of conservation areas and heritage assets. It is vital that these heritage assets are protected and enhanced to complement and strengthen the existing townscape character created by historic buildings.

Policy CS15

Health and Education: Improving the health and education of Blackpool's population is a major challenge, with the gap in health and education inequalities between Blackpool and the rest of the UK continuing to widen. Access to quality health and education facilities is integral to raising educational achievement and improving the health and well-being of communities. Achieving wider social, health and lifestyle goals is also closely linked to delivering major physical change and the regeneration of the built environment.

People's health and education is influenced by the settings of their everyday lives – where they live, learn, play and work. There is a strong relationship between social and economic factors such as low income and poor quality housing, with the state of health and levels of educational attainment in local communities. Improved provision and access to quality public services, which Policy CS15 aims to address, has a direct positive effect on the health and well-being of residents.

Development will be supported that encourages healthy and active lifestyles and addresses the Council's health priorities. This includes co-located, more integrated health and education facilities, increasing community access and participation, and reducing the need to travel.

In order to provide accessible healthcare to Blackpool's communities, proposals will be supported that complement existing health care facilities currently concentrated at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, the three supporting primary care centres in south, central and north Blackpool and smaller local delivery primary care units.

Conclusion

It is considered the proposals would not adversely affect the setting of the listed park or the Stanley Park conservation area given its location adjacent to the 'modern' sports centre, being a temporary facility required for between 12-18 months to clear the current waiting lists and most importantly improving the health of the local population.