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Dear Victoria

Following our meeting on 17 July at Westminster, we thought that it would be helpful to summarise our discussion together and in doing so to address your letters to Jennifer Howells of 22 and 27 June.

We enjoyed the meeting and the opportunity to understand better your perspective on the changes to services in Banbury was very welcome. We acknowledge your concern about how key messages are communicated to the public and that issues concerning patient safety, which underpin the proposed changes, need to be more clearly set out in a way that local people understand. We referenced the work of the clinical senate in this regard who, as an expert clinical group, have reviewed all the proposals in phase 1. It is the clinical senate who have also recently undertaken a post hoc review of the phase 1 proposals against the 5th test and their report will be made available ahead of the CCG Governing body meeting on 10 August. In assuring the 5th test the Senate have undertaken an in depth evaluation of available data regarding patient acuity and patient flow.

We also confirmed that the decision making business case will be made available as part of the papers for the governing body and will be put onto the transformation website. We confirmed that that you will therefore have an opportunity to see the case in early August ahead of the governing body meeting.

We talked about the strength of local public opinion and the responses to the consultation. All of these responses together with those of other stakeholders will be taken into account in developing the decision making business case.

We explained the rationale for the two phases of the consultation given the scale of the changes proposed for Oxfordshire and the need to prioritise some of the changes due to concerns about patient safety. In addressing the more urgent proposals in a first phase this prevents potentially delaying consultation until 2018/19. The proposed phasing of the consultation was agreed by the HOSC in November 2016.

You highlighted public concerns about the travel time between the Horton Hospital and John Radcliffe Hospital and that this was a key feature of public opposition to the proposed changes to Obstetrics and A&E at the Horton Hospital. We can confirm that there will be a comprehensive impact assessment undertaken by an independent company which will be included in the decision making business case.

We also discussed the retirement of David Smith, CEO Oxfordshire CCG at the end of 2017 and the departure of the clinical chair at the same time. We are in discussion with the CCG regarding the appointment of a clinical chair in October with a view to recruiting a new CEO ahead of David's departure. Dr McManners will stay in post until the CCG has an agreed handover to the new Clinical Chair

Stuart Bell, CEO Oxfordshire Healthcare NHS Trust is chair of the Oxfordshire Transformation Programme Board and will also continue to lead the work for Oxfordshire supported by the programme team.

We recognise the strength of public feeling on the proposed changes at the Horton Hospital and we agreed that decisions made by the CCG need to be clearly communicated and explained over the coming weeks. We understand that the CCG will be meeting with local MPs ahead of its public meeting and that you will have an opportunity to review the key documents.

Yours sincerely



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