

Supporting paper - new car park at Yeovil District Hospital

How the proposed new car park is vital for the hospital's future

The new car park and access road is an integral part of the Trust's Five Year Strategic Plan 2013-2018, which aims to ensure YDH will be financially, operationally and clinically sustainable by 2018. Our strategy is very clear – to create an integrated care organisation delivering health and care services to the local community.

The estates element, including the new car park, is critical, since without it the improvements in services won't be possible, as the current estate can't support all of the plans.

The Trust is committed to improving the health of the population and to finding innovative new ways of meeting people's needs and aspirations for health care. The way in which people want to access services is changing and as the population becomes older, it is more important for health and social care organisations to work together.

As well as exploring new methods of managing services to make them more co-ordinated and responsive, the Trust has also been looking at ways to physically co-locate care services – bringing all of the advice, support and treatment together into one place. The central location of our hospital makes it the perfect place and plans are underway for an exciting, new 'Health Campus'. Here, hospital care, community and primary care health services, social care support and therapies could be delivered in a single location. This innovative idea to create quality care does however rely on patients being able to access it easily and of course car parking and the road network around the hospital site is central and critical to this vision becoming a reality.

The construction of a new car park is an enabling project; until an accessibility and parking solution has been completed further improvements and developments cannot take place. Without it projects such as the Health Campus, as well as a Day Surgery Unit and a bespoke facility for a Career College, all currently in early development discussions, won't be able to progress.

Clinical drivers - The car park and link road will enable many future improvements and changes planned for the site. Currently the Trust has a number of drivers for change:	Critical project - A critical project for YDH is the creation of a health and social care campus, which it is hoped, will be a single location for hospital care, community health services, social care support and therapies, including:
Growing and aging population - pressure on service provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step-down care; • GP unit; • Health park with out-patient clinics, imaging and primary and secondary care; • Therapies, day services and private gym; • Education facilities; and • Patient and visitor accommodation. <p>As previously stated, this visionary project cannot go ahead until an access and parking solution has been completed, as the current provision will be unable to cope with the extra demand this would place on it.</p>
Existing operational issues - car parking, patient arrival, departmental location and space requirements	
Need to realise space/operational efficiencies	
Improve patient and visitor experience;	
Focus on co-ordinated and responsive service provision and management	
Income generation to support overall Trust strategy	
Opportunity to co-locate wider care services	

Case for change

Why change?

Currently the hospital doesn't have enough parking spaces for those wishing to access its services. Last year the Trust employed a team to analyse the current parking provision and it found that at peak times during the day/week the car park has an inadequate number of spaces to cope with the demand – and this will continue to worsen as more people try and access hospital services. The research also estimated that around 150 staff and visitors were parking on the nearby roads.

Current situation

At present the hospital provides some 530 on-site car parking spaces. If the new 650 space car park was to be permitted that would provide an additional 335 spaces for both staff and visitor to use.

Current provision		Future provision if car park goes ahead	
Main Visitor Car Park	143	MSCP	650
Badger Car Park (staff)	130	Badger Car Park (staff)	130
		Front of hospital	21
Bowling Green (staff)	82	Women's Hospital (staff)	64
West End (staff)	45		
Front of Hospital	21		
Cheverton (temporary)	45		
Total (on-site)	530	Total (on-site)	865

What difference will a new car park make?

More car parking spaces will improve the patient, visitor and staff experience and give enough capacity to not only accommodate the current demand but also for the future. This scheme will also free-up the space required to create a health campus to meet the requirements of our strategy.

The scheme also includes a new one-way road system and link road. Currently the hospital's location on Higher Kingston Road leads to wider accessibility and congestion problems in the area due to existing vehicles joining at a congested section, where drivers must travel for some distance to a roundabout to access the correct direction of travel. Staff and visitors then use the local residential streets as 'short cuts'. The proposed link road ensures vehicles can more easily access and exit the hospital site without causing an inconvenience to local residents.

Scheme objectives

To create a solution that will lead to the following benefits:

- Increased car parking capacity on site for patients visitors and staff
- Improved traffic management and accessibility across the entire hospital site
- Reduced inconvenience to local residents as a result of hospital users parking on nearby streets
- Provides a high quality parking solution that allows visitors, patients and staff access to a safe, welcoming, and easy to access provision that enhances their time while on the YDH site
- Provides capacity for future expansion of services provided from the site
- Be completed in such a way that causes as little disruption to the live hospital site as possible with minimum impact on the patient experience

Quality

Currently the parking provision isn't adequate enough to cover demand at peak times but, as well as increased capacity or provision, the quality needs to be raised i.e. making the parking safer (through design and CCTV) and easier to access. Higher quality parking will inevitably attract more people to use the hospital and park on site, which will increase income for the hospital which will in turn allow it to provide more services for the people of Yeovil.

The aim is also to adopt a barrier and ticket system (incl. ANPR technology) whereby everyone takes a ticket on entering the car park and pays on exit, ensuring payment is only for the time used rather than the current pay-and-display system. The new technology will enhance the efficiency and operation of the car parking.

Conclusion

The proposed car park is a vital project for the future of Yeovil District Hospital, without it a series of improvements in the estate to facilitate better healthcare services for the people of Yeovil could be put in jeopardy. Patients need to be able to access all services easily, which the new car park and access road will provide. In addition the land which currently acts as a patient/visitor car park is the only available area on the site on which to co-locate health and care services to build a new, visionary health campus.