

Flintshire Local Development Plan 2015-2030

Position Statement

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

March 2021

Flintshire Deposit LDP

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1. Introduction

1.1 This Position Statement has been prepared between Flintshire County council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) who are the responsible body for the planning and delivery of health care facilities and services in the County of Flintshire.

2. Purpose of this document

2.1 The purpose of this Position Statement is to set out an agreed position between the Local Planning Authority and BCUHB in respect of objections to the Deposit LDP, mainly from members of the public, which raise concerns about the effect of new development on health care provision in the County. This will provide a useful position statement for the Inspector by establishing what measures BCUHB intends to take to ensure that health care provision can accommodate the growth planned for in the Deposit LDP.

3. Overview of engagement

3.1 BCUHB is a 'specific consultation body' in the plan preparation process and as such the two parties have worked in close collaboration throughout the different stages of LDP preparation i.e. Key Messages document, Strategic Options, Preferred Strategy and the Deposit LDP. More specifically, from the outset of the earlier engagement stages of Plan preparation, the Council set up a Key Stakeholder Forum, of which BCUHB was a Member.

3.2 The public's objections have focussed on specific housing allocations in the Plan, but it is important to stress that the Plan as a whole will provide for housing growth over the whole County over the 15 year Plan period. In the first five years of the Plan period, housing completions have equated to 2,609 units or 38 % of the Plans housing requirement of 6,950 dwellings. A substantial part of the Plans overall housing requirement has therefore already been delivered.

3.3 In the period since Deposit consultation, several meetings have been held between FCC and BCUHB although this has been affected by the Covid-19 emergency and the need for BCUHB to focus time and resources on other work priorities.

4. BCUHB statutory duties and involvement in the planning process

4.1 The Deposit LDP was accompanied by an Infrastructure Plan (Background Paper LDP03) where the Health Board provided a commentary on health care provision in the County including their future strategy for meeting health care needs in a growing population. ([LDP-EBD-BP3](#)).

4.3 A large number of objections to the Deposit LDP housing allocations across the County have been received which express concern about the provision of health care and the impact of new development. Common concerns include loss of local surgeries, inability to register with a surgery, inability to get an appointment, length of time waiting

for non-urgent appointments. However frustrating or distressing, these issues are not specific to settlements in Flintshire and are being experienced widely across Wales. The sites include:

HN1.1 Well Street, Buckley 159 units
HN1.3 Highmere Drive, Connah's Quay 150 units
HN1.4 Northop Rd, Flint 170 units
HN1.6 Land Between Denbigh Rd and Gwernaffield Rd 246 units
HN1.7 Holywell Rd / Green Lane, Ewloe 298 units
HN1.8 Ash Lane, Hawarden 288 units
HN1.9 Wrexham Rd, Abermorddu, HCAC 80 units
HN1.10 Cae Isa, New Brighton 105 units
STR3B Warren Hall, Broughton 300 units

4.4 The planning system can assist with the provision of health facilities such as new buildings or the provision of land for new buildings in the form of planning obligations but cannot assist with the funding of staff.

4.5 It is important to note that BCUHB have made no representations on the Deposit LDP and therefore there is no formal objection neither to the level of growth to be provided over the Plan period, nor to particular allocations. It is the Council's understanding that this was an intended position given the degree of collaboration that has taken place, and the Health Board's overriding approach and strategy for future health care provision. The Health Board have provided an updated summary position below on how they intend to address the growth provision in the LDP and its implications both for existing communities and the future access to health care.

5. Addressing Concerns about Health Care Capacity – The Health Board's Position

5.1 The Health Board has a continual priority of ensuring health care capacity meets the demands from its' population. Flintshire, in common with the rest of Wales has a number of population pressures:

- Growth – through expanding households, residential developments and economic growth
- Aging population – our population is living longer – but there is a challenge between living longer and living longer in good health
- Number of residents living with long term conditions.

5.2 Currently, across Flintshire there are a number of challenges that, as a Health Board we aim to address in order to mitigate these pressures:

- Several GP premises in Flintshire are currently working at or near their patient list size with insufficient capacity within existing premises to accommodate the level and distribution of expected population growth. The Health Board will seek to

ensure that sites for new facilities reflect the spatial distribution of need, the importance of accessibility and create opportunities for different service providers to share facilities.

- Whilst, in some practices there is little scope for expansion within existing GP premises there are others that have potential for growth. Over the past few years, within Flintshire, a number of new primary care facilities have been developed over recent years, including, for example, Buckley, Connah's Quay, and the Flint Health and Well-being Centre (opened in 2018.)
- The sustainability of some practices requires direct Health Board intervention leading to the direct management of the running of some GP practices in the County. In some circumstances it may be necessary to continue to directly manage additional practices for an extended period.
- Where funded by public capital allocation the capital cost of Primary Care Facilities is subject to business case which forms part of the Health Board's capital submission to the Welsh Government under the programme for health service improvement. The capital programme is subject to limitation according to availability and prioritisation across the all Wales programme.

5.3 In mitigating the continual demand and the growth in population levels the Health Board continues to implement the strategic vision outlined in 'Healthy Wales'. Specifically this includes:

- Development of cluster based services creating economies of scale supporting the delivery enhanced services
- A focus on health and wellbeing – delivered in partnership with local authority and third sector colleagues aimed at reducing the 'burden' of health through supporting residents to lead healthier lifestyles
- Evidence based medicine – delivered through more efficient use of resources. Increased efficacy, higher quality and better resource application help expand capacity in health systems.
- Use of remote care and technology – even before Covid – 19 the Health Board was working towards a greater dialogue with the public via telephony and remote based consultations. These include e-consult where members of the public have a consultation with a clinician via the internet, phone first and 111 programmes that look to triage and divert to the right part of the health system reducing unnecessary footfall
- Estates footprint - where possible the Health Board works with practices on the development of new premises and the improvement of existing premises. Through clusters it encourages practices to work together (including taking the opportunity

to co-locate with other practices and other primary care services, for example, dentistry and optometry in new buildings). This will enable practices to offer an extended and more flexible range of services to their patients.

5.4 The Health Board already has a focus on areas of Flintshire which are consistent with the main service centre identified within the Flintshire LDP preferred strategy (including Flint, Holywell, Connah's Quay, Deeside, Shotton and Mold). The current analysis of demand relative to the existing estate, its age, condition and functional suitability indicates a need for development investment in a number of areas, including Queensferry and Shotton, which is being progressed.