

Cllr J Hanna OBE  
Chair  
Oxfordshire Health  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee

**Councillor Judy Roberts**  
Cabinet Member for Development and  
Infrastructure

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7 July 2022

Dear Councillor Hanna,

### **Woodlands Medical Practice Development**

Thank you for your letter of 23 June 2022 regarding the above medical practice development.

The Vale of White Horse District Council has been actively engaging with supporting the former Oxfordshire CCG (OCCG) (now BOB ICB) and Woodlands Medical Centre, to find a mutually acceptable way forward which will enable the delivery of a new branch surgery at Great Western Park. The new premises will also ease pressure on space at the existing surgery.

The original Great Western Park development S106 Agreement directed that the land be transferred to the Vale Council as at that time Oxfordshire CCG was unable to hold land. As the council is not a provider of healthcare facilities this has complicated matters and a significant amount of officer time has been spent trying to move this forward to the benefit of Didcot residents.

In April 2022, the OCCG confirmed in writing to the council that it has delegated powers from NHS England to be the commissioner of Primary Care Services in Oxfordshire and they are keen to ensure that primary medical services operate from the Great Western Park site to serve the local population. OCCG has also confirmed that the Woodlands Medical Centre is willing to expand in the locality and has written formally to the council confirming that Woodlands Medical Centre has nominated Assura as their preferred medical developer and requested that the council progresses a number of matters to enable this to happen. This is now underway.

The matter is complex but, by continuing to work together, we are hopeful that this will enable the ICB and Woodlands Medical Centre to deliver the health centre in a timely manner. I understand they hope that the new surgery building will open its door to patients by 2025 at the latest. I would encourage people registered with Didcot GP practices to get involved with their local patient groups so they can be part of the discussions about the future of this project, which is important to the growing population of the town and its surrounding areas.

Thank you for drawing to my attention Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's plan to review the capturing and implementing population health needs for new housing developments. I understand the ICB has the responsibility for identifying population level health needs for new housing developments. As the cabinet member responsible for development and infrastructure (including strategic sites) at Vale of White Horse District Council, I welcome this form of planning for future required health care provision by the ICB.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Judy Roberts**  
**Cabinet Member for Development and Infrastructure**

Copies to: Cllr Paul Barrow, HOSC member for Vale of White Horse District Council  
Cllr Emily Smith, Leader, Vale of White Horse District Council  
Cllr Nathan Boyd, Chair, Scrutiny Committee, Vale of White Horse District Council  
Mark Stone, Chief Executive, Vale of White Horse District Council