

Title:	<b>Torquay North Healthy Living Centre Development</b>		
Report to:	Torbay Council Health Scrutiny Committee		
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Directorate/Department:	Corporate Services		
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The purpose of this report is to brief Torbay Council Health Scrutiny Board with respect to the latest developments and significant changes concerning the proposed Torquay North Healthy Living Centre development.

## 1. Background

At the Health Scrutiny Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010 the Board considered an update with respect to the above project.

By way of reminder Torbay Care Trust has been working for some time with local GP's and other key stakeholders to try and identify a site on which to build the Torquay North Health Centre which would include space for the Brunel and Chilcote surgeries, the Trust's Health and Social Care Team and other services and facilities. The scheme proposal has been designed for a registered GP population of around 28,000 people.

The absence of a viable and affordable site for the scheme has been a fundamental obstacle to the project progressing satisfactorily for some time. Also since the scheme was envisaged the financial position for the public sector has become significantly more challenging and this is likely to remain so for sometime.

As reported in April after several abortive attempts to find land for the project via formal sites searches and working Torbay Council, the Trust & GP's decided to place a Contract Notice in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) earlier this year to see if that process would produce a viable site/land for the project.

Unfortunately a suitable site was not identified during OJEU. Several Developer candidates interviewed noted possible sites for the scheme, many of which were already known to the Care Trust, and others were identified as Council owned land. None of the candidates came forward at that juncture with ownership of a suitable or affordable site, this included sites mentioned in the local media in the past as possibilities.

## 2. Update since April 2010

In the absence of any land being found through a formal process the project was clearly facing difficulty progressing further. As a result additional discussions took

place with Torbay Council during May and June to revisit potential site options in the Local Authorities ownership; however none of the Council owned land alluded to above and often suggested in the past was found to be available as a site for the scheme to successfully proceed.

As a result of this impasse the GP's and the Trust held a meeting in late August to review the current state of play with respect to the scheme and agree the next stages for the project.

Regrettably this meeting reached the conclusion that collectively we had exhausted all possible avenues available to deliver the original scope and vision of the scheme. As a result of this outcome it has been agreed by the Trust and the GP's to close the OJEU notice and the project as a whole.

Whilst this is a disappointing and frustrating outcome it was acknowledged that the Care Trust and GP's in Torquay North are still committed to developing appropriate GP facilities in the area and as part of this we will look at ways in which Health and Social Care integration can still be taken forward.

Since the circulation of an update briefing to Health Scrutiny Board in early September the GP's at Brunel and Chilcote have held a meeting to review the state of play and to develop a consensus about the next stages in exploring and shaping alternative options for GP accommodation. Further discussions are taking place amongst the GP's and if an appropriate and affordable site emerges the GP's will consider this. In the meantime the surgeries will continue to look at ways of improving services for their patients.

The GP's and Trust wish to emphasise that although the original project has been closed, that we are still committed to working together in Torquay North to find a beneficial way forwards.