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Our Ref: AWBS / GB 001

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**Re: Planning Application Welsh Blood Service regarding for Pembroke House
ref P/2015/0247**

1.0 PURPOSE AND ACTION REQUIRED

1.1 Purpose

This paper follows a formal request made by the Wrexham Council Planning Department (via the WBS Design Team) regarding the All Wales Blood Service (AWBS). Wrexham Council are currently considering a planning application relating to the change of use of a specified site in the Wrexham area required to support an AWBS. As part of this process Wrexham Council require additional context to support the planning application which this report aims to provide.

1.2 Action Required

N/A

2.0 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Minister for Health and Social Services announced in June 2012 that there should be an All Wales Blood Service created by 2016 with substantial progress being made by 2014. Currently the Welsh Blood Service collects, tests, processes and supplies blood components to hospitals in the South, West and Mid Wales areas. North Wales collection and supply is undertaken by our colleagues at NHSBT who are a Special Health Authority that provide services to both England and Wales. The ministerial announcement signalled a significant change in service provision and this required the Welsh Blood Service (WBS) to develop plans for logistics and

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infrastructure that would support the effective collection, transportation and processing of blood components within Wales. A critical part of these plans is the development of a Welsh Blood Service site in North Wales ahead of 2016.

In summary the creation of the AWBS is as a result of a ministerial announcement / intent. The service transition (from NHSBT to WBS) is fully supported by the Welsh Government (WG) and has required the development of a formal business case which has been subject to the relevant WG scrutiny processes. The creation of the AWBS also features in Velindre NHS Trust's medium term planning arrangements which have also been approved by WG.

3.0 INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Regulation

The blood services throughout Europe and the Western world are some of the most highly regulated organisations. In the UK the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) are legally empowered to regulate blood establishments and issue licenses to operate. The MHRA regularly inspect blood establishments to ensure that they are adhering to the stringent guidance on the collection and processing of blood and blood components. This guidance, and the need to protect both donors and recipients by ensuring the highest possible standards dictates the infrastructure requirements, policies and logistical requirements essential to providing a high quality blood establishment.

The regulatory aspect influences how the WBS has designed its services in North Wales and has driven many of the decisions relating to the identification of the preferred site. Important aspects are described below.

3.1.1 Cold Chain requirements

Blood is collected from donation clinics in the community and once it has left the donor there is a requirement that this blood is entered into a controlled temperature environment within 8 hours. The WBS will be processing all collected blood at its South Wales Headquarters in Talbot Green. This means that collected blood will be required to be effectively stored in North Wales in a temperature controlled environment. This temperature controlled environment maintained by the use of refrigerated vehicles to Talbot Green where collected blood will be tested and processed into therapeutic blood components which will be reissued to hospitals for the treatment of patients. This means that Pembroke House is an essential site of geographic importance required to store both collected and processed blood components in a strict temperature controlled and regulated environment.

3.1.2 Logistics

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Pembroke House has been identified as being in the right location to support the logistical arrangements for the AWBS. It will also provide a resilient a stock of blood components (approx 500 red cells) in North Wales that can be quickly made available to the North Wales hospitals on a 24/7 basis.

The benefits of Pembroke house with regards to its logistical importance are:

- Meets driving hours regulations for the daily transit of processed and unprocessed blood between the site and Talbot Green.
- Has good access onto the A483 and A55 of which all acute North Wales Hospital sites are linked
- Is close to Wrexham General which is the first delivery site
- Can accommodate deliveries which are required to be protected from the elements (canopy).

3.1.3 Team Base Element

a) There is a requirement to provide collection team staff with suitable facilities for them to congregate prior to going out to donation sessions. The current site at a shared facility in Wrexham is space constrained and currently not fit for future use.

b) In addition to the collections team requirement there is the need to provide a training function and also the need to accommodate the Donor Relations Management team. This team is responsible for maintaining relations with donors to ensure that altruistic donations of blood are effectively planned and continue to meet the clinical demands placed upon the service.

This paper therefore sets out the Policy requirement for the new service and also the practical use of Pembroke House. In addition to this paper the AWBS Vision Document is also attached.



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