



APPENDIX A – Context Report

Meeting: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 7th July 2014.

Subject: Finchley Memorial Hospital – Transport Survey.

Report of: The Finchley Society and The Friends of Finchley Memorial Hospital.

Summary: This report together with Appendix B and Appendix C advises the Committee of the results of a transport survey carried out at the Finchley Memorial Hospital on 1st and 2nd April 2014.

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1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee are requested:

- 1.1 To note the results of the Finchley Memorial Hospital Transport Survey contained in this Appendix, Appendix B and Appendix C to the Officers' report.
- 1.2 To encourage the Community Health Partnerships to implement their own proposed transport survey at the Finchley Memorial Hospital once the relocation of local Doctors' Surgeries into the hospital has been completed.
- 1.3 To refer the officers' report and these Finchley Society reports on the Finchley Memorial Hospital Transport Survey to the Council's Environment Committee.
- 1.4 To request the Environment Committee to consider the reports in the context of the Mayor of London and Barnet Council's Transport policies and the Council's ongoing negotiations with Transport for London over bus service provision in the Borough.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- 2.1 The Friends of Finchley Memorial Hospital and the Finchley Society are amongst a number of local people and local organisations concerned about the lack of a bus service to the hospital entrance and have been supported by a local press campaign. The issue having also featured prominently at a Finchley Society meeting on "The Future of Transport in Finchley" in March 2013.
- 2.2 The Friends and the Finchley Society are also supportive of policies of The Mayor of London and the Council to facilitate the use of public transport, cycling and walking in place of car journeys.
- 2.3 The new Finchley Memorial Hospital has been a very welcome and appreciated facility for local people.

The amount of car parking presently allows excellent access to those with car transport. However, those without access to a car face a long walk from the nearest bus stops that is especially unpleasant in inclement weather or the need to pay for more expensive taxis.

- 2.4 The Survey undertaken on 1st and 2nd April 2014, suggests that there is considerable potential for hospital users who currently drive or are driven to the hospital to switch to a bus service if it went to the hospital door.

Encouraging such a switch would meet the Borough's transport policy objectives. It may also help ensure that the existing car park remains adequate to serve the increased number of hospital users expected over future months and years, as additional clinics are established and especially when GP surgeries move to the building.

- 2.5 There is a road and a space available for a smaller bus to stop at the hospital entrance, whilst the diversion of an existing bus route appears unlikely to be viable.

However, a circular "hoppa" bus route that included the North Finchley Bus Station could serve the needs of both hospital users and local residents and allow relatively easy onward travel. An extended route might include locations where some of the patients of the existing Doctor's Surgeries live and also Finchley Central Station and possibly Woodside Park Station.

In this respect, we are encouraged by the response of Finchley Community Transport and their proposition for the provision of such a "hoppa" bus service.

- 2.6 It is considered that the prospective move of local Doctors' Surgeries to the hospital is key to the viability of a new bus service. We hope that the Community Health Partnership proceeds with their own proposed transport survey once the relocation is complete.
- 2.7 Finally, the data behind our transport survey is available for Transport for London and the hospital management. It might be used to inform planning and as a baseline against which to carry out any future surveys, for example, to look at variations in usage following changes in hospital services.