

Next Steps Info



Following Department of Health and HM Treasury approval in July 2009, NHS East of England has been working with NHS Cambridgeshire and Hinchingsbrooke Health Care NHS Trust to find an operating franchisee to manage the hospital. Managed by the Strategic Projects Team, this first open public procurement for an acute NHS hospital has involved a robust process, involving six key stages.

Stage 1 Expression of interest

- Advert issued 26 October 2009 and placed in Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), Supply 2 Health and NHS Confederation
- Nineteen expressions of interest were received including NHS and independent sector providers

Stage 2 Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) and Memorandum of Information (MOI)

- PQQ and MOI issued on 26 October 2009
- Deadline for receipt of PQQ, 16 November 2009
- Eleven PQQ responses received
- 17 October 2009 – 30 November 2009, evaluation of submissions
- 18 December 2009 – six organisations approved to proceed to next stage

The PQQ acted as a written reassurance to commissioners that an applicant could provide the advertised service adequately. The PQQ followed standard procurement criteria and involved robust scrutiny by legal and financial advisors.

The MOI provided an overview of the project and detailed:

- the procurement and its objectives
- commissioner service requirements

Stage 3 – Invitation to Participate in Dialogue 1 (ITPD1)

- ITPD1 issued on 21 December 2009
- Deadline for receipt of ITPD1, 15 February 2010
- Five ITPD1 responses received
- 16 February 2010 – 24 March 2010, evaluation of submissions
- Three bidders shortlisted

The ITPD1 invited bidders to participate in a two way dialogue with the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps Project Team. During the dialogue, various aspects of the project were discussed and potential solutions to the operation of Hinchingsbrooke developed. ITPD1 required bidders to demonstrate how they would use their skills and experience to manage activities at Hinchingsbrooke.

Stage 4 - Invitation to Participate in Dialogue 2 (ITPD2)

- ITPD2 issued on 12 April 2010
- Deadline for receipt of ITPD2, 26 July 2010
- Three ITPD2 responses received
- 27 July 2010 – 22 September 2010, evaluation of submissions, involving 54 evaluators
- 29 September 2010 – Two organisations approved to proceed to next stage

ITPD2 required bidders to:

- provide more detail about their proposals
- demonstrate their experience of offering similar services
- show how their skills could be transferred to running Hinchingsbrooke
- undertake interviews with the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps Project Board, Stakeholder Sub Group and GPs, as part of the evaluation process

Stage 5 – Invitation to Tender (ITT)

- ITT to be issued on 6 October 2010
- Deadline for receipt of ITT, 20 October 2010
- 15 November 2010, identification of preferred bidder
- The preferred franchisee will be announced in November, once project board recommendation has been noted by Hinchingsbrooke's Board and NHS Cambridgeshire, and approved by NHS East of England's Board on 25 November 2010.

ITT requires bidders to provide their final commercial and financial offer.

Stage 6 - Approvals

- Full business case, to be issued to Department of Health and HM Treasury on 30 November 2010
- Contract award and signature, subject to approval, 1 February 2011
- Service commencement, 1 June 2011
- Staff and public participation, throughout.

During the approvals process, the recommendation of the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps project board as to the preferred bidder is scrutinised by the Department of Health, HM Treasury and other regulators.

These organisations check that the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps project has achieved its original objectives, before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State.