MEMORANDUM; RED HOUSE FORUM MEETING 4 JUNE 2014

1. On this occasion David Law and Mark Carman were accompanied by Diane Brent, HCT Estates Strategy and Contract Manager, who has been conducting a Herts-wide survey of buildings, population characteristics and needs with a view to providing an overall and rational service for the whole area.

2. The Gateway Review recommendations had included, as well as questions about how the process would be managed, this question as to how a refurbished Red House site would fit into the wider picture. A county-wide four-part pattern of provision was emerging of the sizeable community hub or facility; the large satellite (of which the Harpenden model was an example); the satellite; and the rental of premises to serve small settlements.

3. As part of the ongoing process the consultation range would have to be widened beyond the medical field to encompass, for example, police and fire service - as well as identifying freehold desirable land for multi-purpose usage and the continuing search for shared costs at a time of retrenchment in available funds and an increase of pressure on services.

4. In short, it was not feasible to see the Red House scheme as other than part of the whole. Thus activity over the next six months would involve:
a. work on the estate strategy.
b. work on the important needs assessment in terms of current and projected provision.
c. building up a project team of relevant experience.
d. finding a vehicle for procurement and advancing the sale of land for development.

5. Other partners such as the CCG and the Herts Health and Wellbeing Board would have to have given approval to the scheme before turning for consent to the Secretary of State but the overall framework of the Red House plan remained the same.

6. It was hoped that the proposal would be ready for presentation to the Secretary of State in late October or early November of this year. It was agreed accordingly that the Forum would reconvene at 9.30 on Friday 10 October 2014

Eric Midwinter