

Progress in Practice

Great Western Hospital

Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) development, with Carillion, incorporated sustainable development thinking throughout the construction process



Summary

The Great Western Hospital is a new £100 million building which opened in December 2002 to replace Swindon's Princess Margaret hospital. Sustainable development was taken seriously throughout the PFI process, and some of the examples are set out below.

The main contractor, Carillion, used sustainable development as a unique selling point when bidding for the work, and sustainability was incorporated throughout the construction process.

In order for the Trust to understand the long term savings involved in using sustainable materials, environmental life cycle assessments were carried out on most construction materials, alongside life cycle costing for the duration of the PFI contract. Transport impact assessments were carried out for all major deliveries of materials and a new bus stop established for the site, to help reduce traffic – and of course emissions. Given that half of all UK waste is construction waste, the minimisation of site waste was given much attention. As an example, using prefabricated components, like plasterboard walls, produced less waste and minimised delivery journeys, and was also safer and faster.

Attention was given to protecting biodiversity. Trees from the original farm were incorporated in the site design, which included new natural habitat for local wildlife. Badgers, living on the site were carefully moved and a pond was specifically created to lessen the effect of surface water run off to a nearby watercourse.

The development also helped boost the local economy and community. Carillion set up a job centre on the site to promote local employment during the construction, and offered training opportunities, and work placements. More than 150 jobs were created locally.

The Building Research Establishment said:

"The adoption of Sustainability Action Plans by Carillion demonstrates a joined up approach to sustainability rare in construction generally and possibly unique in the construction of NHS buildings."

Trevor Payne, Director of Estates & Facilities at Great Western Hospital, said:

"The Great Western Hospital is a landmark NHS Building - providing an excellent and well planned patient environment. The challenge for us and our private sector partners - The Hospital Company (THC) - is to ensure that a sustainable approach is taken to service provision and operational activities now that the new hospital is open."

Links and organisations involved: Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust (www.swindon-marlborough.nhs.uk) worked with PFI partner Carillion (www.carillionplc.com).

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