



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving
the nation's health

May 2016 | issue 1

PHE Harlow The Hub

Welcome from Public Health England

Welcome to The Hub, our first newsletter about our plans to create a state-of-the-art centre for public health science in Harlow.

We want to keep you informed about our plans to invest in new laboratories and research facilities and relocate our headquarters to Harlow and encourage you to get involved.

We are holding a series of events starting with a three-day exhibition at Science Alive at the Leisurezone.

Your involvement will help us to shape the final design (more details on page 4). If you would like us to talk to your organisation, group or business, please use the form on the back page.

We look forward to not only seeing and speaking to you soon but also to working with you to create a facility of which Harlow can be truly proud.

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A digital visualisation of the planned Science Hub

We want to make Harlow our home

The government has supported plans by Public Health England to create a £400million Science Hub campus at the vacant GSK site in Harlow.

The world-leading centre for public health science will see us relocate a major part of our scientific facilities and our headquarters to the New Frontiers Science Park. Up to 2,750 staff will initially work at the campus, which will be one of the most significant developments in public health research and practice this generation.

Duncan Selbie, our Chief Executive, said: "We want to make Harlow our home and ensure that the town benefits from having PHE as a neighbour.

"We hope the Science Hub will have a positive impact on the town, providing jobs, training and

education opportunities."

The Science Hub will bring together experts in cancer, mental health, diet and nutrition, smoking, alcohol, diabetes, dementia, infectious disease and other long-term illnesses along with environmental hazards and climate change.

During the next stage of the project the initial designs and proposals are being worked up and PHE will then be applying to Harlow Council for planning permission.

As part of that process we are determined to consult as widely as possible by giving people the opportunity to send in comments and ideas to help shape the Science Hub plans.

We value your opinion so please get in touch – see page 4 for details.



Introducing Public Health England

Public Health England is the expert national body set up by government to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce inequalities.

Our first duty is to protect people from infectious diseases and other environmental hazards, including chemical and radiological threats. We tackle some of the major challenges of the 21st century. For example, we were part of the international effort to control Ebola in Africa. Staff were on the frontline in Sierra Leone, providing screening at UK ports and undertake vital laboratory research.

To improve health, we provide evidence-based advice about how people can live healthier and longer lives. We work with local authorities and the NHS to prevent long-term illnesses and to make greater progress in tackling our most pressing public health issues. Reducing childhood and adult obesity, preventing type 2 diabetes, helping people make healthy choices, reducing the risk of dementia, ensuring all children get a good start in life and tackling tuberculosis and antimicrobial resistance are priorities.

World-class science underpins all of our work. We use research to find new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat disease, and to respond more effectively when emergencies occur. Our knowledge and intelligence shapes the advice we provide to government and partner organisations as well as the specialist public health services that are delivered by our staff.

We are planning the Science Hub to replace existing laboratories which will become unfit for purpose so we need to replace them before this happens. The new site at Harlow will keep the country at the forefront of public health science.

We expect the Science Hub to take eight years to complete. Our first step is to consult with the Harlow community to help us draw up detailed designs for a new building at the former GSK site. The provisional timetable is:



Consultation and initial design design of the Science Hub



Tender for main contractor(s) to refurbish existing buildings and construct new one



Apply to Harlow Council for planning consent

PHE submits full business case to government

Contractor(s) starts preliminary works to prepare site and install utilities

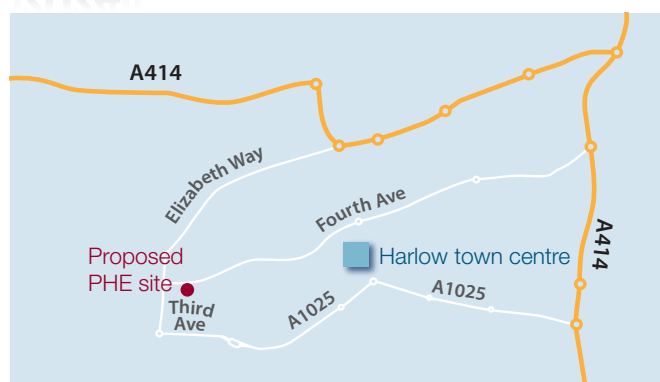
Onwards: Major building works and refurbishment of main building



First building work planned to start



Science Hub due to be fully operational



What will the Science Hub mean for Harlow?

The Science Hub will be a world-class centre of excellence for health protection and improvement. It will combine functions from our existing sites, including our headquarters, and mean we have the latest equipment and technologies. We will work with Harlow Council and other organisations to maximise the benefits from our presence and add to the town's status as a place for cutting-edge science and research.



Education and training

Schools and colleges will be encouraged to visit the campus. Scientists will use a teaching space-**the Eureka Lab**-to give students an insight into their work. We also plan to develop a programme of apprenticeships. Our plans include a large public auditorium for talks, demonstrations and events. We will stage exhibitions for the public throughout the year.



Jobs and investment

Developing the site will inject more than **£400m into the economy**. **Up to 2,750 staff** are initially expected to work at the Harlow site, some of whom will be recruited locally. As the **headquarters for PHE**, the campus will attract visitors from across the world and the UK. The project will boost the local economy, providing extra custom for shops, restaurants and small businesses in the town.



Skilled workforce

We will require a variety of skills to operate a campus on the scale envisaged, including people working in finance, communications, administration, security and other areas. Staff at the campus will include the **best young scientists** and **global experts**. We will provide training and development opportunities so that all our staff can further their careers.



Why Harlow?

Harlow's location in a major life sciences corridor will give our staff **access to some of the UK's best academic, research and commercial expertise**. We work with many partners, including the NHS, local government, charities and voluntary organisations, universities, government and industry. The town's transport links and central location mean the campus will be easily accessible.



Ground-breaking science

The Science Hub will have the **latest equipment and facilities** so we can lead on modern technologies such as genomics and bioinformatics. Open-plan meeting areas will allow scientists to exchange knowledge and ideas.



Government backs PHE's £400m move

The Chancellor George Osborne confirmed in November 2015 that more than £400 million would be invested over an eight-year period to develop world-class facilities for PHE in Harlow.

During the Chancellor's visit to the former GSK site, he said the integrated Science Hub would strengthen the UK's protection against health threats such as Ebola and pandemic flu and keep us at the forefront of public health research.

Under the plans, we will build new facilities to replace the ones we have in Salisbury and North London. The Harlow campus will also act as our headquarters. It is hoped that the campus will be fully operational by 2024 and the first building work will start in 2019.

Harlow MP Robert Halfon described the relocation plans as "the most exciting thing to happen to Harlow in a generation", bringing an initial 2,750 jobs and £400m worth of investment to the town.



PHE Harlow site

Our Chief Executive Duncan Selbie said: "Our PHE vision is for a world-class public health science hub where academia, public health services, research and commercial activities can interact and deliver cutting-edge results."

Find out more at our first public exhibition at Harlow Leisurezone in May



Find out more at our three-day exhibition at Science Alive at the **Harlow Leisurezone** on **May 12, 13 and 14**. Experts will be on hand to explain our work and the reasons why we want to relocate to Harlow.

If you can't attend, please pass on any comments using this slip and post it to the address below. You can also email at pheharlow@phe.gov.uk or phone 0800 228 9100.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone number:

Comments:

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Post to: Freepost PHE HARLOW CONSULTATION

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