



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving
the nation's health

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PHE Harlow The Hub

Welcome from Public Health England (PHE)

Welcome to the fifth issue of The Hub. First and foremost, we hope you and your family are managing to stay safe and well during this period of uncertainty.

The purpose of this newsletter is to update you about PHE Harlow, the new campus we are building in the town.

PHE Harlow represents a once in a lifetime opportunity to bring together key public health functions for England on one site and to create a centre of excellence unique in Europe.

Since our last newsletter, significant progress has been made and we're almost ready to submit the final detailed planning application to Harlow Council.

You're invited to our **virtual public exhibition** in June. Find out more information in the newsletter...



Indicative image of PHE Harlow looking north-east

A world-leading campus for Harlow

In 2016, PHE began engaging with the local community and developing plans for PHE Harlow. The creation of this new centre of national and international scientific expertise is critical to ensuring we continue protecting and improving the nation's health. This is of particular significance at the present time as we face the global COVID-19 outbreak.

Four years on, PHE Harlow has outline planning permission, demolition is underway and we're on the verge of submitting the final detailed application.

The 40-acre campus is large enough to co-locate most of PHE's services from Porton, all of those from Colindale, as well as the headquarters in central London. A site of this size will allow PHE to bring together a critical mass of scientists and knowledge that will strengthen research potential and the ability to improve and protect public health.

Whilst PHE Harlow will contribute to protecting public health on a global scale, it will also deliver benefits at a local level and put Harlow on the map for our world-leading public health science.

Before we submit the application, we are keen to share our latest plans with you, as well as the benefits the new campus will offer to Harlow.

We encourage you to help shape the campus by joining us in June at our virtual public exhibition. Details can be found overleaf.

For the latest information about our plans visit:

www.gov.uk/phe/harlow

Look inside

Introducing PHE Harlow

PHE is the expert national public health agency that fulfils the Secretary of State's statutory duties in relation to the public's health. PHE's remit is:

- Fulfilling the Secretary of State's duty to protect the public's health from infectious diseases and other hazards to health, working with the NHS, local government and other key partners.
- Securing improvements to the public's health, through its own actions and by supporting government, local authorities and the NHS to secure the greatest gains in health through evidence-based interventions.
- Supporting the development and delivery of efficient, effective and affordable health and care services.
- Ensuring the public health system maintains the capability and capacity to tackle today's public health challenges and is prepared for the emerging challenges of the future.

Four years ago, we announced our intention to relocate our two main laboratories and headquarters to Harlow.

Since then, a huge amount of work has been carried out to make that happen. The next major milestone is on the horizon with the submission of our final planning application for consideration in July.

Throughout those four years, we have worked hard to establish strong and lasting links across Harlow. Today, thanks to an extensive range of engagement and outreach activities, those connections are stronger than ever.

We are committed to providing jobs, training and apprenticeship opportunities for local people to take advantage of.

To that end we have signed memorandums with the Anglia Ruskin, Hertfordshire and Essex universities as well as Harlow College and provided work experience and introductions to science activities for hundreds of school children.



Benefiting Harlow and beyond

PHE Harlow will be a world-class centre of health excellence. We also want to be a big part of Harlow's future and create a campus we can all be proud of.

PHE is working with Harlow Council and many other partners to ensure the benefits from our presence are maximised 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 **community and teaching laboratory** 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 campus will make a significant contribution to the economy. **Up to 2,750 roles** will be provided at the Harlow site, many of which will be recruited locally. As the **headquarters for PHE**, it will attract visitors from across the world and the UK. It will also 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 the campus on the scale envisaged, including people working in finance, communications, administration, security and many other areas. Staff will include the **best young scientists** and **global experts**. We will provide training and development opportunities so everyone can further their careers.



Indicative image of the Arrivals and Education Centre



Indicative image of the main entrance to PHE Harlow

Co-location of many of PHE's different scientific capabilities and disciplines is a principal driver for the creation of the PHE Harlow campus.

The modern and flexible facilities will enable easier knowledge sharing and collaboration and, therefore, faster development of innovative science and application to real life health system issues. For example, it allows faster intervention and an increase in productivity to respond to known and novel diseases.

PHE Harlow has been designed with the threat of a novel and pandemic infection in mind. Early learnings from COVID-19 clearly show the importance of an

integrated public health response and the need for rapid sharing of data, information, new laboratory tests and other innovations, co-ordinated and led from centres like Harlow.

These learnings have strengthened the case for the campus which will place Harlow as one part of the public health system for the development and application of a range of public health interventions. These can then be adopted across the country and globally.

The development of PHE Harlow will provide a unique opportunity to deliver a step change in public health capabilities.



Have your say on the latest plans

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and in line with PHE and Government advice, we are not able to hold engagement events in person as we normally would.

However, your views are important to us. That's why we are continuing to engage across the local community through a virtual public exhibition.

From 5 - 19 June, we'll be sharing our latest plans and designs and the benefits for Harlow's local community.

We will also be showing a selection of new images and giving you the chance to experience a virtual fly-through video of the campus.

Over two weeks you'll have the opportunity to take a tour of the virtual exhibition and provide feedback.

On Friday 5 and Saturday 6 June we have set aside two sessions when you can speak to the team on a live chat function. If we're unable to answer your question immediately we'll get back to you within 72 hours.

You're invited to attend our virtual public exhibition



The two live sessions will be held on:

Friday 5 June | 2pm - 7pm
Saturday 6 June | 10am - 2pm

To access the exhibition please visit: www.PHEHarlow.com

You can access the virtual exhibition by any web browser on laptop, computer, phone or tablet until Friday 19 June.



We want to be accessible to all. If you do not have access to the internet, or would like to access in a different language or format please get in contact with us on 0800 228 9100 or email pheharlow@phe.gov.uk

“ *We have carried out an extensive programme of engagement activities to involve the local community in our plans to create the new science campus.*

As we are about to submit our final detailed planning application to Harlow Council, I hope this newsletter helps to bring you up to date with progress and how the design is taking shape.

I also want to take this opportunity to involve you further by encouraging you to attend the virtual exhibition we are holding from 5 - 19 June, with two live chat sessions on Friday 5 June and Saturday 6 June.

This will give you the chance to see our latest designs using computer generated images and a virtual video showing the overall site and a taste of how the public arrivals area and education centre may look.

The exhibition will also be a chance to share your thoughts with the team. Your feedback will help us to take the next steps to creating what we hope will be one of the best of its kind in the world.

I look forward to welcoming you to the exhibition. **”**



Martin John
Director, PHE Science Hub Programme

Keep in touch

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