



Public Health  
England

# The London-Stansted-Cambridge Consortium Science Hub Programme – Why Harlow?

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# Public Health England

PHE was created in 2013 and is the expert national public health agency which fulfils the Secretary of State's statutory duties in relation to the public's health – we have four key functions that were set out in our Remit Letter



# The Remit Letter sets out the role of PHE

**PHE is the expert national body that fulfils the Secretary of State's statutory duty to protect health and address health inequalities and exercises the Secretary of State's power to promote the health and wellbeing of the nation**

Function 1: To protect the public's health from infectious disease and other hazards

Function 2: To secure improvements to the public's health

Function 3: To improve the population's health through safe and sustainable healthcare services

Function 4: To maintain the capability and capacity to respond to current and future threats to the public's health



# A few of PHE's recent achievements

- Extended flu vaccinations to all children aged 2-4
- Offered NHS health checks to more than 3 million people
- Stop smoking programme, supported 778,000 quit attempts
- Provided the scientific basis for the sugary drink levy
- Deployed more than 1,650 staff in response to the Ebola crisis in Africa





# PHE Harlow Programme

- **The PHE Harlow Programme** is one of the designated programmes by the Major Programme Authority with an initial capital investment of £400 million
- It aims to create a **centre** of national and international **importance** in protecting and improving the **public's health**. This centre would work within a wider network of facilities, some run by PHE and some run by partners





# The vision for the Programme

The Science Hub is more than a project to co-locate specialist microbiology laboratories – it aims to create

- **A national resource for “public health science”** supporting the network of facilities across England and the UK– both health protection and health improvement
- **A campus where national specialist public health services, translational research and commercial activities** can interact and thrive
- **Unified national microbiological reference laboratories** for England, the UK and internationally through the WHO Collaborating Centres
- **The national emergency response centre** for protecting the public’s health
- **An international resource** supporting action to prevent global threats to the public’s health



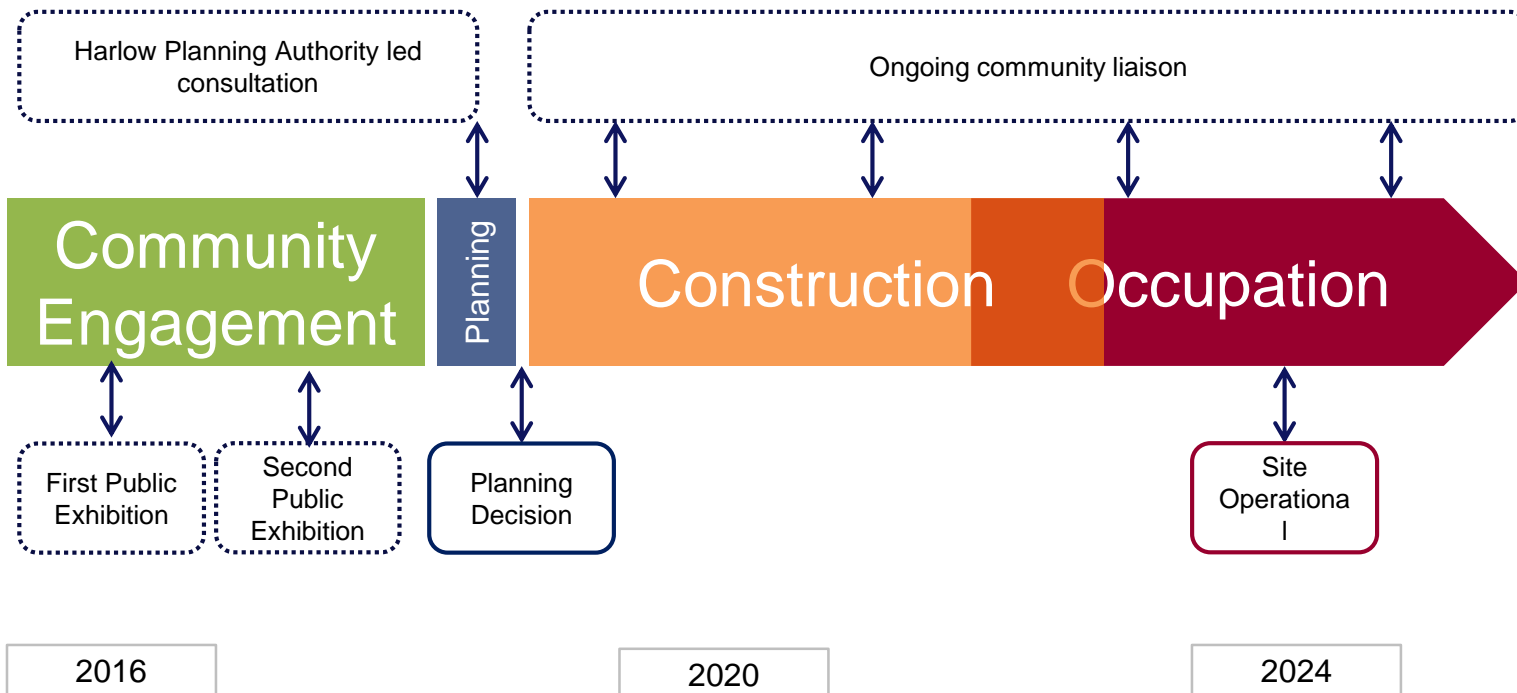
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# Proposed Site





# Timeline of Engagement







# The investment objectives

Ref	Investment Objective	Weighting	HMT Measure
1	To maximise the contribution of PHE's national public health science to the UK and globally.	15%	Effectiveness
2	To maintain the continuity of and to maximise PHE's ability to deliver the control of infectious diseases and environmental hazards and to prepare and respond to emergencies.	15%	Effectiveness
3	To facilitate the creation of a more cohesive and productive national public health science function, that adds more value and better supports PHE to deliver its mission.	15%	Effectiveness
4	To maximise the translation of public health research for the benefit of the public and UK economy, in partnership with academia and industry.	15%	Effectiveness
5	To provide facilities that are fit for purpose from which the critical national public health functions currently based at Porton, Colindale and other smaller sites can be sustained for a further 60 years.	15%	Replacement
6	To retain, attract, and further develop the excellence of public health science experts.	15%	Effectiveness
7	To provide facilities that meet or exceed government targets for sustainability, energy and the environment.	5%	Effectiveness
8	To provide facilities that promote the wellbeing of staff and visitors.	5%	Effectiveness



# The strengths and weaknesses of the options

Ref	Option	Strengths and weaknesses
0	<b>Do Nothing</b>	No national capability available as Porton will have to close
1	<b>Outsourcing</b>	Not possible as facilities are high national security
2	<b>Do Minimum</b>	Minimal capital investment required to maintain statutory functions on current locations but rising revenue costs and PHE will have serious limitations on its delivery of its functions. Two versions with different levels of sharing CL4 facilities with DSTL
3	<b>Hub at Colindale</b>	Only main PHE national functions combined but many services in sub-optimal facilities
4	<b>Hub at Porton</b>	Can be all PHE national functions combined but concerns that this is remote being in middle of Salisbury Plain
5	<b>Hub at Harlow</b>	Co-location on the GSK Harlow site, to create a national hub on one site in an area of key life sciences development
6	<b>Rebuild Porton</b>	Similar to do minimum option but with all CL4 in PHE facilities with greater capital costs



# The case for Harlow

- **A flexible modern laboratory** building that can be easily and relatively cheaply adapted for PHE's needs and for future technological changes
- **Sufficient space** to bring together a range of **PHE's national functions**
- Space in H35 for **new commercial and academic partnerships**
- **A location that is equidistant between London and Cambridge** and next to the **Harlow Enterprise Zone**, which has focus on life science
- **Recruitment** – access to pool of scientific and technical staff
- **International Links** – ease of access



# The mutual benefits for Harlow

- 2,000-2,750 jobs anticipated to come to Harlow
- Mixture of relocation and local employment
- Broader economic impact on local area.
- Additional momentum to Enterprise zone
- Potential future growth through campus partnership/cross government initiatives
- Links with local education providers – University Technical College, Anglia Ruskin University and Cambridge University
- Links with local specialist companies such as the data centre



# Workforce improvements

Partnerships key for PHE

Corridor offers large spread of scientific expertise – opportunity to recruit but risk of losing staff

Links with educational establishments for internal and external training – symbiotic relationship

Also links with biotech and commercial partners

Well educated and trained resource pool



# Workforce Profiling and Planning

1. **OBC includes assumptions about future staffing requirements and costs**
2. **Post OBC there needs to be a focus on ratifying numbers; identifying and mitigating risk and agreeing relocation package for staff**
3. **Key aspects to be undertaken in more detail are:**
  - Staff grade and **skill set** requirements now
  - Assumptions regarding **working practices** following transition and projected profile for staffing in light of **new technology and facilities**
  - Identify **training requirements** for workforce to be effective at Harlow
  - Series of undertakings to ensure that programme is **inclusive**
  - Identification of **skills gaps and shortages**
  - Workforce **risk identification and mitigation regarding retention** - specific measures to be considered for the programme to protect business continuity and to prevent 'brain drain'
  - HR Workstream to work alongside others to roll out **manager toolkit** to engage and enfranchise staff



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# Location improvements

Transport within Harlow community

Links to London, North and Midlands

Crossrail 2

Transport collaborations – may exist but could they be strengthened

Reputation of location