

Department of Health and Social Care

Strategic Asset Management Plan 2017/18
Executive Summary

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Corporate Report

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DHSC Property Asset Management (PAM) Board

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DHSC Department of Health and Social Care

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Introduction

As the Department of Health and Social Care, we support ministers in leading the nation's health and care to help people live healthier lives for longer.

Our role is to:

- support and advise our ministers: we help them shape and deliver policy that delivers the government's objectives
- set direction: we anticipate the future and lead debate ensuring we protect and improve global and domestic health
- be accountable: we make sure the department and our arm's length bodies deliver on our agreed plans and commitments
- act as guardians of the health and care framework: we make sure the legislative, financial, administrative, and policy frameworks are fit for purpose and work together, and
- be trouble-shooters: in the last resort, the public and parliament expect us to take the action needed to resolve crucial and complex issues.

The impact of the Spending Review 2015 settlement has meant a reduction in running costs expenditure of around 30% over the period. Transforming our workplace is a key enabler to support delivery of our plan for change and the Department's vision to become a great Department of State.

In becoming a great Department of State we are investing in:

Improved outcomes – delivering on the strategic objectives of keeping people healthy, transforming out of hospital care, helping the NHS to deliver high-quality hospital care, securing the right workforce, research and innovation, and ensuring accountability of the health and care system to parliament and the taxpayer

Effective leaders – building and improving our leadership capability

Skilled people – improving our capability and professional expertise, and attracting, retaining and developing a high performing and engaged workforce, and

A great place to work – improving our working environment and IT with better quality workspaces and flexible solutions that help us do our jobs better, as well as improving the DH offer to staff.

The Department will shortly complete its move into its new London headquarters at 39 Victoria Street (39VS), delivering a modern, smarter working environment and significantly reducing our property costs. As part of this work the Department has introduced modern technology and infrastructure; all staff are now equipped with laptops to support smarter working in the office, on the move and at home. We are also progressing work to modernise our space in Quarry House, Leeds. This will enable the department to reduce its space in London and Leeds, achieving significant cost savings, and provide a great place to work. It will also support meeting the Government space target of 8 sqm per full-time equivalent member of staff by March 2018.

Space vacated in London will enable our Arms' Length Bodies (ALBs) to consolidate into fewer, less expensive buildings.

The Department's wider property portfolio is largely made up of ALB properties, which account for around 85% of the Department family estate. The ALB estate is diverse and consists of offices, laboratories, warehouses, blood centres, storage facilities and hybrids of these, with varying tenure type. Our main property conurbations are London, Leeds, Newcastle and Manchester but we have in many cities around the country.

The Department manages and oversees the implementation of the government estates strategy through our Property Asset Management Board (PAMB). Members of the PAMB provide representation on all the various Cabinet Office (Government Property Unit) programmes. We are actively engaged in the Hubs Programme with two of our ALBs involved in the early Hubs: the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) will be relocating to the East London Hub in the summer 2018; and NHS Digital will be relocating to the new Leeds Hub in 2021. We continue to work closely with the Cabinet Office on future opportunities in other Hubs and for relocating work from London and the South East as lease events allow as part of the Public Sector Bodies Relocation (PSBR) programme. Public Health England (PHE) is actively involved in the One Public Sector estate programme and already has co-located a number of their local public health teams with local authority public health teams.

The Department and its ALBs are also supporting the land for housing initiative. The vast majority of the health target is to be met from NHS Property Services and NHS land which is outside the scope of this SAMP. Within scope, the Department and its ALBs currently have 20 sites identified for disposal and report quarterly on these to Government Property Unit. Once sold, we estimate they will generate over 500 Housing Units towards the overall health target.

The Department has worked closely with the Government Property Unit (GPU) to create a governance structure within which to deliver its property objectives, whilst providing oversight and challenge to its ALBs on property matters, to ensure consistency of approach. We will ensure that we continue to develop our Professional Estates Capability through development of staff and recruitment within the Department and across its ALBs.

Our ambition is to provide a cost effective, efficient and sustainable estate that supports the Department and its ALB's business. Working alongside the Government Hubs programme will help us deliver these aims over the coming years.

We have begun to transform the Department of Health and Social Care by introducing a much smarter way of working through rationalisation, colocation and the introduction of new technology. This Strategic Asset Management Plan notes the positive progress we have made and sets the direction for that continuing programme of change. It sets out how the Department and its ALBs will continue to deliver a modernised and flexible working environment to support the delivery of the Government's health and social care objectives.