



06.03.2025

Communications Department

Royal United Hospital
Combe Park
Bath
BA1 3NG

Tel: 01225 826230 / 821459
Mobile: 07557 756658 (office hours)

ruh-tr.communicationteam@nhs.net
www.ruh.nhs.uk

Media Release

Powering through energy-efficiency improvements at the RUH

The Royal United Hospitals (RUH) NHS Foundation Trust has submitted a second planning permission application as part of its plans to become a more sustainable and energy-efficient organisation by improving its heating system and reducing carbon emissions.

The application compliments a previous application to install Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) on the roof of the hospital's Energy Centre, which the RUH was pleased to receive approval for in February.

As with the previous application, this second application was submitted to Bath and North East Somerset Council by Veolia, the contractor carrying out the decarbonisation building work for the RUH. It seeks permission to install a new route of buried high voltage cabling between a new intake substation near the hospital's main car park and the Energy Centre. These buried cables will supply power to the ASHPs and a Water Source Heat Pump.

As the cabling will be underground, this work, if approved, will not result in any noticeable long-term changes to the RUH site. Plans will be in place to minimise disruption to local residents, patients and staff while installation work is undertaken, for example by ensuring it takes place during daytime hours.

These improvements are part of a project to de-steam much of the RUH's 52-acre estate by replacing some of the hospital's ageing heating systems with these newer, greener and more energy-efficient sources of energy.

The changes are being funded by a £21.6million-grant from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, administered by Salix. On completion, the proposed works – which the RUH developed with the support of the Carbon and Energy Fund (CEF) – will see the hospital reduce the emissions over which it has direct control by 19% initially and 25% by 2030.

Toni Lynch, Chief Nursing Officer, said: "We are very pleased to have received planning permission to install Air Source Heat Pumps, which will make our energy supply greener and

help the RUH move towards our vision of making Bath one of the healthiest places to live and work. We are grateful for the support of our staff, patients and community with this project, and for the partners who have supported us to make this work happen. We look forward to keeping you updated on this second application and as the project progresses.”

If this application is successful, the work to install the cabling is expected to take place later in 2025, and advance notice would be given to staff, patients and the local community.

Ends

Notes to Editor:

At the RUH we're proud to put people at the heart of what we do, striving to create an environment where everyone matters. Everyone means the people we care for, the people we work with and the people in our community.

We provide a wide range of services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

We also provide specialist services for rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME via the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases which we acquired in 2015.

In 2021, we acquired Sulis Hospital Bath, an independent hospital that provides care for both private and NHS patients. This has enabled us to provide more care for NHS patients, as well as continuing to provide private care to those who choose it. Any additional income earned through private care is reinvested in services for the benefit of the people we care for at both Sulis and the RUH.

Our new Dyson Cancer Centre brings together many of the RUH's cancer services under one roof to provide a cancer services hub for over 500,000 people in the South West. The centre includes the RUH's oncology, chemotherapy and radiotherapy services, a 22-bed inpatient ward, a dedicated pharmacy, research team and nuclear medicine and physics teams.

A key feature of the new centre is the Macmillan Wellbeing Hub. The three-storey hub provides a welcoming, non-clinical space designed around the needs of patients and their families. It also includes comfortable accommodation where relatives and loved ones can stay overnight.

We work closely with other health and care organisations as members of the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board. We strive to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in our community by working together build one of the healthiest places to live and work.

We are rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk