Agenda Item: 9b

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn
NHS Foundation Trust

Committee Chair's Assurance Report

Report to:	Board of Directors (in Public)
Date of meeting:	2 August 2022
Title of Report:	Assurance Report from the Finance and Activity Committee
Recommendation:	For assurance
Chair:	Alan Brown, Non-Executive Director
Purpose:	The report summarises the assurances received, approvals, recommendations and decisions made at the Trust's Finance and Activity Committee meeting on **20 July 2022.**
Background:	The Committee meets monthly and provides assurance on scheduled reports from all Trust operational committees with a finance and activity (including commissioning) brief.
Item for Assurance	**Five Year Finance Strategy Update** The Committee acknowledged that the Trust's Finance Strategy must follow that of the pending ICS, which is not due to be complete until Q3. It was noted that the development of the ICS Financial Strategy is a potential risk to QEH, and it was stressed that we should be clear about the Trust's priorities in discussions with the ICS.
Item for Assurance	**Modernising our Hospital and Multi-Story Car Park Feasibility Study** The Committee supports this initiative and whilst acknowledging risks associated with PFI style funding arrangements, it was felt that no options should be off the table as this project is a key enabler that unlocks the potential to develop the site.
Item for Assurance	**RAAC Years 2-4 and Lessons Learnt from RAAC Year 1** The Committee thanked the Acting Director of Estates & Facilities and her team for the excellent work they have done in achieving Year One and for the lessons learned, which will increase stakeholder confidence for Years 2-4.
Item for Assurance	**Modernising the Estate Programme Quarterly Update** The Committee noted the report.
Item for Assurance	**Digital Directorate Improvement Plan (including Digital & Information)** The Committee welcomed the visibility that this plan gives and acknowledged the challenges that remain. It was felt that this plan will enable ongoing scrutiny of these challenges as we progress. The Committee also thanked the Chief Digital & Information Officer for his contribution to the Trust over the last two years.

Item for Escalation	**Access Standards Report** The Committee raised concerns about Stroke performance and the need to gain some assurance that plans to rectify this are working. It was agreed that this Committee will perform a deep dive into Stroke performance in September 2022. It was also acknowledged that achieving the Access Standards in many areas remains fragile and we need to see robust plans.
Item for Assurance	**UEC Improvement Plan** It was acknowledged that the embedding of plans remains a challenge and noted that leadership and ownership of initiatives to improve performance is critical.
Item for Assurance	**Elective Care Improvement Plan** It was noted that progress is being made. Diagnostics is behind plan due to staff sickness, but this is now getting back on plan. There are risks to the plan, but mitigations are in place. It was noted that there is large variation in KPIs across the three Norfolk hospitals and that this has the potential to impact availability of ERF funding in the future.
Item for Assurance	**Monthly Finance and Activity Report Month 3 (including Finance Improvement Plan and Cost Improvement Plan)** The Committee was assured that the Quarter 1 plan was achieved. There was some questioning over differences in establishment numbers reported at this Committee compared to those reported at People Committee. This will be investigated by the Director of Finance and reported back to this Committee's Chair. CIP performance is good at Quarter 1, but a deep dive will be conducted in September 2022 to ensure that we are on track to maximise cash releasing savings in the financial year.
Item for Assurance	**Q1 Corporate Strategy KPI monitoring Quarterly Report** The Committee noted the report and welcomed the new format which reports by exception only.
Item for Assurance	**Significant Risk and BAF Report** The Committee noted the new risk in relation to the breakeven plan containing unmitigated risks. Only one item was behind plan and this related to system wide work being done to address Urgent and Emergency Care.
Risks to refer to risk register:	None

Attendees:
A Brown – Non-Executive Director and Committee Chair
I Mack – Non-Executive Director
D Dickinson – Non-Executive Director
C Shaw – Chief Executive Officer
C Benham – Director of Finance
D Smith – Chief Operating Officer
C West-Burnham – Director of Strategy and Integration
N Hunter – Director of Estates & Facilities
G Ward – Acting Trust Chairman

	R Andrews – Deputy Director of Finance N Hall – Chief Digital and Information Officer (item 10) T Allen – Head of Digital (item 10) S Jones – Deputy Chief Operating Officer (items 11 to 13) K Broome – Deputy Chief Operating Officer (items 11 to 13) S Elvin – Project Manager (item 15) L Preston – Board/Committee Administrator (minutes)
Apologies:	L Lippmann – Deputy Director of Finance L Skaife-Knight – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Observers:	Governors – A Walder and Esmé Corner L Notley – Director of Patient Safety