



Astley Ainslie Feasibility Study - Foreword

This Feasibility Study is the latest stage in a process that started in 2019 with a community vision for the Astley Ainslie site after its expected eventual disposal by the NHS. That vision has been developed into an evaluation of the site, feasibility study and business plan by a talented multi-disciplinary team led by Oliver Chapman. We would like to thank them on behalf of the AACT for the huge amount of work and innovative thinking they have put into the reports.

Report 4 provides a summary of the work. More detail can be found in the constituent parts which include a whole site evaluation (Report 1), a feasibility study of the Northwest part of the site (Report 2), and a business plan (Report 3).

Just as we received the final report, the NHS announced that the site would continue to be used as a hospital in the short and medium term. This is a very positive development for the site, which is uniquely suited to rehabilitation, and continues the legacy of David Ainslie. It also means that the site can continue to be used as valuable greenspace by the community.

The NHS announcement is positive news for the AACT itself. The study highlights the need for the AACT to develop capabilities and partnerships to succeed. We now have more time to develop those capabilities and partnerships.

The study itself is still highly relevant. The NHS announcement does not mean the long-term future of the site is now secure. The NHS continues to centralise services and their clinical and financial priorities will inevitably change.

As well as a concrete proposal for community ownership in the future, the study provides a catalogue of ideas that could be delivered in the meantime. This would involve partnering with the NHS and other providers to build that key capacity and expertise within the organization.

We are excited to publish this report to our members and the wider community. We look forward to engaging with the community to help develop both short-term projects and the long-term future for the site.

Stuart Buchanan

Convener, Astley Ainslie Community Trust