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£22m hospital expansion vision unveiled

Maria Zaccaro



PLANS for a £22 million expansion at a Hampshire hospital have been revealed.

New outpatient facilities could be created at Southampton General Hospital, while the existing 25-bed general intensive care unit (GICU) is set to be expanded, increasing its capacity by seven beds.

It comes as University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust has unveiled plans for a 6,886sqm four-storey building which would tie into the existing hospital floor levels.

According to the proposal, the ground floor would be the entrance to the existing MRI facilities together with a new floor area to accommodate an additional outpatient area.

The expanded and refurbished GICU would be on the first floor, while the second and third floors could include operating theatres and pre and post-operation accommodation, which may be provided later in development.

The GICU looks after around 1,800 people every year.

In an official document the trust said: "The project would

allow for a reconfiguration and enhancement of the current layout but also provides an extra seven bed spaces.

"The development would therefore improve services provided to the community and the south coast as the region's major trauma centre."

The building would be situated around 100m away from the nearest residential properties on Tremona Road.

The trust also said that a site-wide travel plan has been updated to encourage walking, cycling and bus use while new outdoor meeting zones are set to be created near the main entrance.

Cllr Dave Shields, cabinet member for health and community safety at Southampton City Council, said: "These are further initiatives that keep our general hospital to the fore as one of the biggest and best facilities in the south of England outside London."

MP Royston Smith also welcomed the news, saying: "Southampton General Hospital is recognised as one of the country's finest.

"This expansion will allow our doctors and nurses to provide even better state-of-the-art care for more people and is a very welcome addition to

their excellent facilities."

A planning application is due to be submitted to the city council this summer. If approved, construction could start in November.

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An artist's impression of the £22 million building that could be built at Southampton General Hospital. Inset, Royston Smith.