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***Public Board Meeting, 22 January 2009***

**Decontamination Project – Update Briefing Paper**  
**January 2009**

Presented by: **Graham Ramsay**

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## **1. Purpose**

This paper provides an update for the Board on the current position with the project to develop, on a consortium basis with some North London Trusts, out-sourced surgical instrumentation decontamination services that will ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and guidance.

## **2. Background**

The Trust Board has previously considered and agreed to enter into a consortium arrangement with a number of other Trust in North London to work together to commission decontamination services for surgical instruments following a formal tendering process.

West Herts Trust is working with Barnet and Chase Farm, RNOH, and North Middlesex NHS Trusts to specify and procure appropriate services. A project board consisting of representatives from each Trust has been established and has been meeting regularly to progress the detail of the project. This solution is considered essential for West Herts Trust in order to achieve compliance in respect of all legislation and national guidance. The Trust has consistently declared non-compliance against Duty 4 of the Hygiene Code in relation to decontamination. This service will enable this to be rectified in relation to surgical instruments.

## **3. Current Position**

Following a tendering process the Project Board has been in discussion with a provider organisation, undertaking detailed assessment of the technical, HR and financial issues and has reached the stage of issuing a Preferred Bidder letter. Issuing this letter will mean that, should an individual consortium member, or the consortium collectively, decide not to proceed with procuring the service from the Preferred Bidder, Trusts would be liable for the costs incurred by the Preferred Bidder in taking forward the proposal. Unless this situation were to arise it is not possible to determine the level of financial exposure on individual Trusts.

In March Trust Boards will be asked to consider a recommendation from the Project Board in relation to the FBC. Should the Board approve the FBC and financial close be achieved in June this year, it is anticipated that the service would begin operation in June 2010.

## **4. Recommendation**

The Board is asked to note the current position.

**Graham Ramsay**  
**Medical Director/ Director of Patient Safety**

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