

Borders NHS Board



Meeting Date: 3 December 2020

Approved by:	Nicky Berry, Director of Nursing / June Smyth, Director of Strategic Planning
Author:	Jackie Stephen Head of IM&T
LABORATORY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LIMS) NATIONAL OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE	
Purpose of Report:	
<p>The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on progress with LIMS replacement as part of a national consortium and to seek approval on our continued involvement as part of the business case development process.</p>	
Recommendations:	
<p>The Board is asked to ratify the recommendation from the Resources and Performance Committee to approve NHS Borders continued participation and commitment to the national Outline Business Case for a LIMS as a committed partner in the procurement and development of the Final Business case.</p>	
Approval Pathways:	
<p>IM&T and clinical staff from NHS Borders have been involved in the development of the Outline Business Case. The Outline Business Case has been reviewed and endorsed by the Acute Services Clinical Board and reviewed by the Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Acute Care, the Director of Finance, Estates & Procurement and the Director of Strategic Change & Performance.</p> <p>The Resources & Performance Committee received the outline business case at its meeting held on 3 September 2020.</p>	
Executive Summary:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Laboratory Information Management System is a critical part of a diagnostic service to enable tests and results to be reviewed and acted on, informing treatment for patients. • It is now 26 years old and the supplier has signalled that this software is going to be end of life. • It must be replaced with a supported product that enables laboratory services to improve and sustain their service. • The risk of disruption to service delivery is high and it is possible we are unable to recover/ prolonged disruption if we run with an unsupported product. • The East region had this as a priority project, agreeing a joint way forward and single regional instance was a preferred way forward. 	

- The Head of IM&T reached out to NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and the east region Labs groups agreed to join with them to form a national consortium of Boards to procure a new LIMS.
- Work has been underway to develop an Outline Business case to make the case for a consistent LIMS across Scotland to deliver significant benefits to diagnostic services.
- Deloitte were commissioned to develop the OBC and the work has been funded by the ehealth teams in local boards as part of the consortium.
- There has been extremely good collaborative working across labs and eHealth teams in all the consortium boards and following a market testing and scoring of options the Outline Business case is presented for approval to each participating NHS Board.
- The preferred option is to procure a new LIMS which includes genetics and blood transfusion functionality.
- At this stage it is unclear whether the solution will be cloud hosted software as a service solution or a more traditional on premise solution. This will depend on the market and outcome of procurement and may impact the financial model.
- The cost to NHS Borders is shown as £4.89m over 10 years.
- There is a 30% optimism bias of £1.31m built in which is generous.
- It is anticipated that as the procurement progresses and final supplier is known cost will be driven down significantly. The highest costs from market sounding have been used as worst case.
- The internal resource costs are expected to be lower but are factored in as if they are additional resources, again to present the worst case.

Impact of item/issues on:	
Strategic Context	This is a key component of the strategic direction for laboratories in Scotland to enable sustainable services.
Patient Safety/Clinical Impact	A new LIMS offers additional functionality to integrate to other systems, reduce duplication and enhance safety
Staffing/Workforce	Integration and improved functionality could offer opportunities for efficiencies within the laboratory. There will need to be additional staffing to implement the product.
Finance/Resources	It is likely that there will be increased annual expenditure to for a new modern LIMS. This may be offset by the benefits but this detailed work will be completed during final business case stage.
Risk Implications	There is a significant risk of disruption to diagnostics and therefore treatment for patients if the LIMS fails once unsupported. There is a risk that any new requirement for Scotland cannot be met due to the age of the software. There is a risk that we are unable to take advantage of any opportunities across the country or regionally to help sustain services.
Equality and Diversity	Any impact will be assessed as part of the project proposal and project plans.
Consultation	The laboratory teams have participated in the work of the consortium and contributed to the overall case. The acute services board are supportive of progressing to

	procurement. The East region laboratories Management oversight board is supportive of the case. The national Laboratories Oversight Board is supportive of the case. The Corporate Finance group has been consulted. The national ehealth Leads group has advised the work.
Glossary	LIMS – Laboratory Information Management System OBC – Outline Business case