

### Representation from Rachel Beck

The proposals state that a stand-alone midwife led birth centre, “needs to be located in a place that ensures fair access for all women regardless of where they live in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.”

According to my research, the change in location from Melton Mowbray to the LGH gives women in labour coming from Hinkley or Lutterworth (in non-peak times) a 10 minute decrease in journey time. At peak travel times this decrease in journey time narrows to 6 minutes from Hinkley to LGH and 7 minutes for women traveling from Lutterworth to LGH. At peak times especially, that saving in journey times from Hinkley and Lutterworth could potentially disappear in city centre traffic jams and by having to locate a parking space on arrival. Most labouring women do not wish to be dropped at a “drop off point” by their partners or for their partners to need to leave them during labour to move their car.

A change in location for the MLU from Melton Mowbray to LGH is also negligible for women in areas such as Coalville or Uppingham, where the travel time in peak hours to Melton Mowbray and LGH is a difference of between one and two minutes.

However, according to my research, that change in location from Melton Mowbray to LGH would add 13 minutes of journey time for women coming from Oakham, and at least 30 minutes for those in Melton Mowbray (who would currently access St. Marys.)

For the 17 locations used in my research there is a net saving of 14 minutes when travelling to Melton Mowbray. These figures show that changing the location of a MLU to LGH is not significant for some women and at a great cost to others.

1. In what ways have proposals to centralise services taken into consideration journey times in city centre traffic, and the length of time it then takes to park once at a larger hospital, when concluding the location of a stand-alone midwife led unit should be the LGH rather than St. Mary’s in Melton Mowbray?
2. Why does it appear that the women in the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland are in fact not being given equity of access to a stand-alone midwife led unit, compared with women in Leicester city, signifying a LEVELLING DOWN for these areas?
3. What support will be offered to women outside of Leicester City who do not have access to their own transport? (in case of labour or an emergency involving their pregnancy or new-born?)
4. Can you explain why, if fair access is the goal, there can’t be two stand-alone midwife led birth centres - St Mary’s in Melton Mowbray and one at the LGH as proposed?

I have attached the graphs I created when looking into travel times.

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