

# Luton & Dunstable Hospital's travel hub opens

Multi-storey provides both parking and secure cycle spaces

A multi-storey car park providing 278 spaces for patients and visitors has opened at the Luton & Dunstable (L&D) Hospital in Bedfordshire. The car park will also serve as a travel hub, providing secure cycle storage and showers to help encourage L&D staff to run and cycle to, from and during work

The development is the first phase of a £150m redevelopment plan which will see hospital transformed over next five years.

David Carter, chief executive of the L&D hospital, said: "The improvements to our Emergency Department are already underway, due for completion next year, and in the next year we will be starting building our new acute services block. This will transform our maternity, theatres, critical care and neonatal services. Our new facilities will be cutting edge – and an inspiring place for colleagues to deliver



**The car park was opened by the leader of Luton Council, Hazel Simmons, and Simon Linnett and David Carter, the chair and chief executive of Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

outstanding care to patients."

The entire project cost a total of £5m, and was delivered by specialist firm HUBER Car Park Systems. The main car park superstructure uses a modular steel-frame construction, meaning the project took just six months to complete.

A new road layout leading to

the car park is expected improve access and reduce congestion on Lewsey Road.

Simon Linnett, the hospital's chair, said: "We are delighted to provide such a convenient facility – right opposite the main entrance, which we know will make life easier for patients, carers and relatives. I am also

particularly pleased about the facilities for staff.

"I am passionate about how we can improve our sustainability, so facilities which help colleagues to walk, run or cycle to work are greatly welcome. It's also great for their mental health and wellbeing to help build more activity into their lives, so that's positive too."

David Hartshorne, director of redevelopment, added: "Our redevelopment project will see much of the site transformed over the next few years, for the huge benefit of patients and staff. But, it will take time and sometimes, inconvenience, while we get there. We hope our patients and visitors will bear with us."

Hazel Simmons, leader of Luton Borough Council, was given the duty of formally cutting the ribbon at the official opening. She said: "I am delighted to be able to formally open this facility. I know it will hugely benefit patients, carers and relatives, as well as the staff working here at the L&D."