

3. OPTION APPRAISAL

3.1 Introduction

In considering the following Options it is essential to consider the following aspects in particular detail as they have a vital bearing on decision making.

- 3.1.1 Equipment requirements. Two types of catheterisation room must be provided. In paediatric cases it is necessary to obtain the maximum X-Ray image information whilst minimising the dose of potentially toxic contrast medium ("dye") that is injected. This is achieved by using biplane apparatus which allows filming in two directions simultaneously. (Approximate basic Capital cost £500,000). Adult investigations can almost always be accomplished using modern single plane equipment. (Approximate basic Capital cost £340,000).
- 3.1.2 A satisfactory balance between the adult and the paediatric cases must always be maintained.
- 3.1.3 In the event of equipment failure, satisfactory backup must always be available. Absence of satisfactory backup will risk complete failure of all or part of this Regional service.
- 3.1.4 The transportation of critically ill infants must be avoided. This current practice has given considerable concern to the Paediatric Cardiologists for some time.
- 3.1.5 New equipment will have a potential life of 10 years. The investigational capacity must be capable of handling the full projected increase in catheter investigations.
- 3.1.6 Pacemaker insertion is a therapeutic procedure that has been performed and will continue to be performed in the catheterisation rooms. Pacemaker insertion is not directly related to the increase in cardiac surgical operations. A constant figure of 200 pacemakers per year has been allowed for and the projections of capacity has taken this into account in all cases.

3.2 Options Appraised

These can be summarised as follows:-

- OPTION 1 - No change Option.
- OPTION 2 - Replace old equipment in the 2 existing Rooms at BRI with modern replacements.
- OPTION 3 - Re-equipping 1 Room at BRI and providing a new Room at BCH.
- OPTION 4 - Re-equipping 2 Rooms at BRI and providing a new Room at BCH.