‘ALL-SINGING AND ALL-DANCING’ NHS APP SCAPPED

May 2019

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* App to be scaled back under NHSX
* Long-term plan included commitment to significantly expand NHS App
* Suppliers had considered legal action against NHS

 NHSX’s new Chief Executive has scrapped plans for an “all-singing and all-dancing” NHS App, despite the long-term plan saying the app would be the NHS’ digital “front door”.

In his first comments in the role, NHSX chief executive Matthew Gould said he would probably not be adding “many more” features to the NHS App.

In a blog, published on Friday afternoon, Mr Gould said: “I don’t want us to make the NHS App all-singing and all-dancing. In fact, I’m not sure I want to add many more features than it already has.”

He praised the “good work” on the NHS App to date but said it needed to remain “thin” rather than being the one place for NHS digital patient services.

It comes after several digital health suppliers   were considering taking legal action over plans for the NHS App, over what they considered an anti-competitive policy that unfairly disadvantaged their existing and future business in the NHS.

Mr Gould’s announcement is a sharp departure from the policy under NHS England, which handed control of NHS IT strategy over to the new central tech unit earlier this year.