MIDLOTHIAN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL PLANS MOVE FORWARD

NHS Lothian has selected the contractor for the new £18 million Midlothian Community Hospital in an announcement made today (28 August). Robertson Capital Projects has been chosen to provide the new community hospital which will be situated at Mayshade South, near Bonnyrigg. It is anticipated that planning permission and the contract will be concluded by the end of the year.

The new community hospital will provide 88 beds - 40 frail elderly continuing care beds and 48 frail elderly mental health beds. These will include 24 assessment beds for older people with mental health problems and 24 continuing care beds for older people with mental health problems.

The new community hospital will also include a day hospital for older people with mental health problems, a dedicated physiotherapy and occupational therapy service, an out-patient department, including x-ray service, child health clinics, and a range of other health services. Lothian’s out-of-hours service for Midlothian will relocate to the new hospital which currently operates from the former Bonnyrigg Health Centre.

Dr Charles Winstanley, Chair at NHS Lothian said: “We are delighted to have reached another significant milestone in the development of this new hospital. This is a significant investment for the local community not just for older people but people of all ages in Midlothian. This new hospital is another example of our commitment to deliver services more locally. It will also deliver a range of services not currently available in Midlothian including a range of out-patient clinics, diagnostic and x-ray services.”

Eddie Egan, Chair of Midlothian Community Health Partnership said: “This is excellent news that I know the people of Midlothian will welcome. The new hospital will provide first class, modern and appropriate facilities for patients while providing the best possible working conditions to enable staff to function at the highest level.”
Gerry Power, General Manager, Midlothian Community Health Partnership said: “We are delighted to confirm that the day hospital will also be supporting both Midlothian and East Lothian communities, with a number of beds being made available to East Lothian patients currently at Edenhall Hospital.”

Councillor Jack Aitchison, Cabinet Spokesperson for Health, Midlothian Council said: “I am delighted that we have reached this stage in the process which will provide Midlothian residents with the type of healthcare they deserve. The new hospital will replace Rosslynlee and Loanhead hospitals and will be designed to meet the demands of 21st century medicine.”

Robertson executive chairman, Bill Robertson, said: “Robertson has a strong history of delivering healthcare facilities in partnership with the NHS, and this latest community hospital will provide modern and appropriate facilities. We have been involved with this planned development since its inception and are very excited by the prospect of working in partnership with NHS Lothian to deliver the purpose-built facility.”

Discussions with the public, through the Midlothian Public Partnership Forum, has contributed to the final overall design of the hospital. They will continue to be involved in future discussions for the interior design and external landscape design features.

The next stage is for Robertson Capital Projects’ to secure detailed planning permission from Midlothian Council Planning Department, complete the design process and produce a full business case for approval by the Board of NHS Lothian and the Scottish Government. An agreement between NHS Lothian and Robertson Capital Projects can then be concluded.

Ends
Notes to editors

Subject to the satisfactory conclusion of the remaining work the hospital is anticipated to be completed in 2010.

Outline planning permission was granted in February 2008.

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