GROUND BREAKING MOMENT FOR MIDLOTHIAN HOSPITAL

The breaking of ground to mark the start of construction of the new Midlothian Community Hospital takes place today (Wednesday 11 March). Work can now begin on the new hospital following the completion of all necessary stages prior to the beginning of building work.

Dr Charles Winstanley, Chair of NHS Lothian and Cllr Derek Milligan, Leader of Midlothian Council will carry out the ground-breaking proceedings to celebrate the landmark event.

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, NHS Lothian said: “This is a momentous day and one I know the people of Midlothian will welcome. This significant development shows our commitment to providing high quality healthcare services within local communities.”
Eddie Egan, Chair of Midlothian Community Health Partnership said: “A great deal of work has gone into reaching this point and I am delighted that work is now starting on the site. The development will bring wide ranging healthcare benefits for the local population.”

Cllr Derek Milligan, Leader of Midlothian Council said: “I am delighted that construction work is now starting on the new Midlothian Community Hospital. This will be an excellent healthcare facility for the area and the central situation of the site will make the hospital easily accessible to Midlothian residents. I look forward to the day when the hospital opens and local people will be able to access improved healthcare provision such as a dedicated physiotherapy and occupational therapy service, an out-patient department, including x-ray service, child health clinics, specialised services for older people with health problems from within their own community.”

Robertson executive chairman, Bill Robertson, said: “The new Midlothian Community Hospital is the latest partnership between Robertson and the NHS in Scotland. 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.”

Lorraine Robertson, regional director at HLM Architects, said: “We are delighted that the new Midlothian Community Hospital is underway. We have worked very hard with NHS Lothian and Robertson Capital Projects to ensure that the new hospital will provide an excellent quality healthcare facility for the local community.

“The design, in terms of both the architecture and layout of the building and the interior design, will help aid healing, promote well being, provide a positive and welcoming environment for patients and visitors, and ensure a good working environment for staff.”
The estimated completion date for the hospital is 2010.

ENDS

Notes to editors
The breaking of ground takes place Wednesday 11 March 2009, at 2pm, Mayshade South, Eskbank Road, Bonnyrigg.

The project will be delivered by three Robertson's businesses – Robertson Capital Projects as overall project manager and investor, Robertson Lothians which will undertake the design and build contract and Robertson Facilities Management which will provide a range of management services throughout the project’s 30 year duration.

Issued: 11 March 2009
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