

1st February 2008**Western Trust announces a short-list of Bidders for the new Omagh Hospital Complex**

The Western Health and Social Care Trust today announced the short-list of firms who will be compete to build the Omagh Hospital Complex. Four consortia are now in the running to secure the £190 million contract with its target completion date of 2012/13. The short-listed bidders are Consort Healthcare, DirectHealth, John Laing FGA and Northern Ireland Health Group. These consortia consist of partnerships of both international and local construction firms and investment companies. This investment in local healthcare facilities is part of the £450million capital programme that will be delivered in the southwest region over the next 5 years.

Making today's announcement, Trust Chief Executive Elaine Way outlined the impact that the project will have for the Omagh area. She stated, 'This is an exciting time for us all. This project will offer many new opportunities for improving how healthcare is delivered in Omagh. Not only will this project provide the best in new hospital buildings, but the investment itself will have a significant economic impact in the area. We in the Western Trust are working closely with our colleagues in the Department of Health and in the Strategic Investment Board to ensure the local community gets the maximum benefit from this investment in every way possible.'

Commenting on the short-listed bidders, she continued, "We are delighted to have secured the interest of these leading international contracting firms, and to have reached this significant stage in the project. Looking at their track record, I am confident that any one could deliver our requirement for excellence. We look forward to working with each bidder over the coming months and to involving the local community in the development of the new facilities".

Speaking on the announcement, Director of Infrastructure Investment at the Department of Health (DHSSPS), Dr. Jim Livingstone said 'The Department is delighted to see this progress in what is one of the key capital investment schemes in the strategic investment programme designed to reform and modernise our hospital services across Northern Ireland. To have attracted this exciting range of international investors with contactors of such high calibre is a commendable achievement and all concerned in the project team and in the Western Trust, are to be congratulated. They have formed an experienced team, dedicated to getting the most from this investment for the people of Omagh and the surrounding communities'.

ENDS....

For additional information please contact Anita McConnell, New Hospitals for the South West, Western Health & Social Care Trust on 028 8283 5891 or 078 414 69476 or anita.mcconnell@westerntrust.hscni.net

Notes to the Editor

1. This project is part of the first of the wave of hospital projects to come forward from the Investment Strategy for NI, led by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), and supported by the Strategic Investment Board Ltd. For more information on the SIB including the latest Annual Review and Accounts visit: www.sibni.org

2. Details of Short-listed Bidders

2.1: Consort Healthcare is an experienced consortium that includes the Shareholding Companies of Balfour Beatty Capital Ltd and John Graham (Dromore) Ltd. The construction joint venture includes: Balfour Beatty Construction Northern Ltd, Haden Young Ltd and John Graham (Dromore) Limited. The former two companies are part of the Balfour Beatty Group, the UK's largest construction company.

Consort Healthcare in Northern Ireland is a joint venture between Balfour Beatty Capital Limited and John Graham (Dromore) Limited. Consort Healthcare is the leading PFI healthcare provider in the UK whose portfolio comprises 9 hospitals and 3 mental health units. Consort's projects include the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, University College Hospital London and the £523m Birmingham New Hospitals Project, currently under construction.

The partnership with Graham, one of Northern Ireland's leading contractors, brings crucial local experience to the team. Graham, recently completed two landmark hospital developments at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast and the new Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital. Consort Healthcare opened its Belfast office in October 2006.

2.2 DirectHealth includes the Shareholding Companies of Skanska Infrastructure Investment UK Limited, Innisfree Limited, Lagan Holdings Limited and John Sisk & Son. Construction Contractors are: Skanska Construction UK, John Sisk & Son and Lagan Construction.

The *DirectHealth* Consortium is a new organisation that brings together a number of companies which have worked together successfully in previous ventures. These companies each have a demonstrable track record of success. The consortium's Chairman is Gerry Cawley, from the Lagan Construction Group, which is based in Northern Ireland. The other companies include John Sisk & Son, Skanska UK, Lagan Construction, and Innisfree. In addition, a number of local companies are supporting the consortium's bid including Design Partner Robinson McIlwaine, and Mechanical and Engineering Design Company Delap and Waller.

The *DirectHealth* Consortium provides a wide range, scope and experience of project delivery across the U.K. and Ireland. Its consortium members have a wide range of healthcare and hospital building experience with a number of operational hospitals and hospitals under construction at the present time.

The *DirectHealth* Consortium will be a long term partnership between the four main parties, with each company acting as a shareholder and investing in the Project Companies established.

2.3 John Laing FGA has been formed specifically to bid for the Omagh Hospital Complex. It is made up of John Laing Investments, a leading international investment company, two of the leading construction contractors in Northern Ireland, Farrans and Gilbert Ash and Serco, one of the worlds leading FM service companies.

John Laing Investments is at the forefront of delivering major hospital schemes and primary care facilities, with 10 major hospital schemes, two of which are mental health facilities. In addition, via the NHS LIFT initiative, we are also delivering over 50 Primary Care centres in England.

In 1998, Farrans Limited and Gilbert-Ash established a joint venture company under the name FGA; this was a direct response to the increasing size and complexity of building project being procured within Northern Ireland. Farrans and Gilbert Ash have a strong track record together delivering capital schemes in excess of £150m and successfully building high quality healthcare facilities. Combining this with John Laing and

Serco's knowledge of healthcare PFI will give our team the strength and skills to meet the Trust's needs and develop strong regional PFI expertise.

2.4: Northern Ireland Health Group which includes the Shareholding Companies of FCC Construction S.A., Interserve Investments Ltd, Allied Irish Bank and P Elliott & Co.

Construction Contractors : The Construction Joint Venture company is FCC Elliott. This is an arrangement between FCC Construction S.A. who are one of the largest construction companies in Spain who have successfully delivered 46 large Healthcare Projects over the last 10 years and P Elliott & Co who are the largest construction contractor in Ulster. Supporting the Joint venture company are Mercury Engineering and a supply chain of local sub contractors.

The Northern Ireland Health Group members were brought together to combine the strengths and experience of Healthcare PFI projects specifically for to, build, finance and operate new modern hospital facilities in Northern Ireland.. The Group has been working in partnership with the local health economies and their stakeholders to deliver excellent healthcare to the people of Northern Ireland.

The consortium has 4 stakeholders: FCC Construcción SA, Allied Irish Bank, Interserve Investments & P Elliott & Co. each who has a proven record of success in delivering large acute hospitals and the Private Finance Initiative. Our consortium approach will combine the best of local skills, international experience and industry-leading innovative practices.

Facilities Management services will be provided by Interserve FM, a well-established provider of Healthcare support services and who currently operates in Northern Ireland.

Our design team is led by Anshen + Allen Architects who are a leading Healthcare practice with a proven track record of innovative and clinically effective design. They are supported by Isherwood and Ellis, from Belfast, DSSR (Engineering) and RPS (Structural) combining the International experience with local knowledge.

Our Consortium has retained the legal (Osborne Clarke and Tughan's) and Financial advisors (Grant Thornton) from the Acute Hospital project to ensure we have a consistent approach on the Omagh Hospital Complex project.

- **Model of Care: Omagh Hospital Complex** presents an innovative model for local healthcare provision that involves primary, community and intermediate care services together on one site with networks to acute services. Developed using a concept similar to a 'Health Campus', the project will bring together members of the health care family, moving towards one-stop services while offering the patient a wider range of services as locally as possible.
- 3. The advertisement in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) was issued on 23/03/07. This announcement marks the beginning of the Competitive Dialogue phase of the Omagh project.
- 4. The Omagh Hospital Complex is being procured under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and in accordance with the UK Treasury guidelines for all major capital projects, including those within the health sector.
- 5. Outline planning approval for the Hospital Complex is pending and expected in the Spring of 2008.