

New Acute Hospital for the South West (NI) Construction Update: 30th August 2009

The New Acute Hospital for the South West project reached Financial Close on 20th May 2009 with the signing of the contract with the Northern Ireland Health Group consortium. The project is now within the construction phase and the site, situated on the main A32 Irvinestown Road, will be the hive of much activity over the coming months. The timetable below highlights the key milestones throughout the construction period:

| Activity | Detail | Target Date |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| On Site StartUp: Site Establishment | <p>Northern Ireland Health Group took possession of the Wolf Lough site for the New Acute Hospital on 21st May 2009 and immediately set to work on the construction programme. The consortium is focused on delivering the new hospital within a 3 year timeframe. Site establishment that includes providing amenities and services such as site management offices, canteen, telephone lines and internet access is now complete.</p> <p>Site security and access protocols are in place to enforce the strict Health & Safety procedures required for a working construction site of this nature which will see some 650 workers on-site at peak times. Site inductions and training has been delivered to construction workers supported by the Construction Industry Training Board.</p> | Complete |
| Sub-structure | <p>Piling; Main Block, Energy Centre, Bridge, Carparks.</p> <p>The general construction programme is progressing to schedule and work is focusing on sub-structure works and piling. Piling works started on the 24th June 2009 and this work is now almost 50% complete. Sub-structure works are in progress and the contractor has also begun the pouring of transfer slabs. The structural steel for the first stage of the construction is currently in fabrication.</p> | Spring – Winter 2009 |
| Room Mock-ups | Northern Ireland Health Group are currently finalising plans to build a series of 'mock-up' rooms at the site of the new hospital for staff to view. These rooms will include a typical patient single room with en-suite, as well as a children's bedroom. | Winter 2009 |
| Main Building Super Structure | This relates to the concrete frame and steel work for the completion of Super Structure. | Winter 2009 |
| Weather Tight | Building sealed from the elements; windows, doors roof fitted | Winter 2010 |
| Internal Finishes | - Fixtures & Fittings, Lift Installations, Quality Inspections | Spring 2010 - Spring 2012 |
| Beneficial Access | 5 month period prior to hand over where Trust can receive deliveries, install and commission equipment with the aim of preparing hospital for formal operation. | Winter 2011 – Spring 2012 |
| External Finishes | - External Lighting, Landscaping and Walkways, Signage & Wayfinding | Spring 2009 – Spring 2012 |
| Practical Completion | Construction Complete; ready for formal handover | Spring 2012 |
| Formal Handover | Commissioning of Hospital Services | Spring 2012 |
| Fully Operational | Hospital opens its doors to Patients, Staff and Visitors | Summer 2012 |

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Supporting the Construction Programme

Northern Ireland Health Group is currently implementing a Social and Economic Regeneration Plan to support the effective delivery of the project. The plan, which was developed in partnership with the Western Trust, aims to bring the maximum benefit to the local economy from the £270 million investment in the new hospital. The construction of the New Acute Hospital will require a workforce of approximately 850 (Full Time Equivalents) and it is expected that as many as 200 new jobs could be created.

An Employment & Training Working Group has been established to help deliver the Social and Economic Regeneration Plan. This Group includes representatives from Department of Employment and Learning (DEL), South West College and Invest Northern Ireland through the NI Supplier Model, who are working in partnership with the Trust and Northern Ireland Health Group's Construction Joint Venture, FCC Elliott Healthcare.

FCC Elliott Healthcare launched the first phase of their Sub-Contractor Tender packages in the Spring 2009. Through the Employment & Training Working Group, a series of 'Meet the Buyer' events were held which has resulted in the award of approximately ten contracts, many of which were to locally based firms. The next phase of tender packages will be released in the Autumn and Meet the Buyer events are planned for October 2009.

Design Development: Finalising the Design

Northern Ireland Health Group is working closely with the Western Trust to finalise the design of the new facilities. This includes the Architectural, Mechanical and Electrical aspects, as well as the essential Clinical Design development. This part of the project has progressed through a series of stages and has now reached a detailed planning stage which involves a room by room review of the location of each fixture, fitting and key pieces of equipment. The Clinical Review Programme, which involves approximately 40 staff groups, is due to be completed in the Spring 2010.