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New Omagh Hospital Developments

The Western Health and Social Care Trust today announced that the project to provide the New Omagh Hospital Complex has taken another step forward. Approval has been secured from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to move to the next stage in the search for a contractor. The Western Trust now hopes to announce the short list of bidders competing for the contract early in the New Year.

The new Complex will see an investment of £190 million in the new enhanced local hospital for Omagh, the Centre for Mental Health and the Health & Care Centre that will be built at the site of the existing Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital on the outskirts of Omagh town.

Speaking about the significance of the announcement, Trust's Chief Executive Elaine Way explained, 'We are delighted to move forward with plans for a new improved health infrastructure for Omagh that will provide a modern and safe environment for patients and staff. This investment is a key part of the Trust's reform and modernisation programme that will also bring the benefits of new technology, new improved methods for delivering our hospital services and new models for patient care. A lot of work has taken place and we have already generated substantial interest in the project from a number of leading contractors. We now look forward to working with short listed contractors as we move to the next phase and strive to open the new premises in 2012'.

Approval has also been secured to commence site preparation works at the Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital site. The preparation works include establishing major service connections for the new Hospital Complex, graveyard protection and some building demolitions and are set to begin in the New Year.

In a further development, the Western Trust is currently preparing a planning application for a new road to create a direct link between the New Hospital Complex and the town's major road infrastructure. The new road is planned to link with the Ballygawley Road and Omagh through-pass and is one of a number of initiatives that will increase access to the site. In developing these plans, the team is working closely with Roads Service and acting to complement and improve the roads infrastructure in the Omagh area.

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Notes to the Editor

1. 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. The proposed portfolio of Hospital services includes;
 - **Omagh Hospital:** Urgent Care and Treatment Centre (24-hour service), Clinical Decisions Service, Inpatient care including intermediate, intensive rehabilitation and palliative care, Day Surgery Unit, Imaging and Diagnostics, Clinical Investigations, General Outpatients, Children's Centre, Women's Health Unit, Renal Dialysis Unit, Allied Health Professionals (Includes Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Speech and Language Therapy and Podiatry), Long Term Condition Ambulatory Unit, Education Suite.
 - **Centre For Mental Health including;** Acute Adult Mental Health, Psychiatric Intensive Care, Acute Mental Health Ward for Older People, Challenging Behaviour Under 65, Challenging Behaviour Over 65, Addiction Treatment Unit, Psychosexual Services, Mental Health Day Hospital
 - **Health & Care Centre including;** District Nursing Services, Health Visiting Services, School Nurses, Community Dental Services, Health & Disability Teams, Allied Health Professionals, Family & Child Care Social Work Teams, Older People Care Teams, Community Mental Health
 - **Also on site:** Ambulance Base, Omagh Centre for Learning Disabilities, Family Centre, Central Sterile Services Department
2. The advertisement in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) was issued on 23/03/07. Expressions of interest were received from 4 bidders and the Trust is currently finalising the short listing procedure and will announce short listed bidders early in the New Year. This announcement will mark the beginning of the Competitive Dialogue phase of the Omagh project.
3. 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.
4. A planning application for the proposed new link road will be lodged with planning service in the coming weeks and will be subject to the normal public consultation. Outline planning approval for the Hospital Complex is pending and expected in the Spring of 2008.
5. 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