

**Issued on behalf of Developing Better Services Project  
Sperrin Lakeland Trust**

**February 2006**

**NEW OMAGH HOSPITAL PLANS OPEN FOR VIEWING**

Outline Planning Application details for the new Omagh Hospital have gone on public view for the first time this week. The plans are accompanied by an environmental impact statement.

The new Hospital complex is to include a main hospital building, a health and care centre and mental health facilities, as well as community services, administration and maintenance buildings.

The project is likely to cost a minimum of £95million and will be one of the largest building development projects that Omagh has seen.

As this is an outline planning application, the final details of design and layout will not be developed until plans are approved. The project will also be the subject of a European public tendering process later in the year.

The outline planning application is for a 150-160 bedded hospital complex, with around 90 beds in the hospital building itself, and approximately 1000 car parking spaces.

The range of services planned for the new hospital will include;

- Emergency Assessment Unit open 24 hrs
- Minor Injuries Unit and Treatment Centre,
- Clinical Decision Unit
- Inpatient Medical Ward
- Rehabilitation Ward
- Day Surgery Unit
- Renal Unit
- Imaging & Diagnostics including CT scanning
- Physiotherapy & Occupational Treatment Area
- Outpatient services including a dedicated children's day centre and women's outpatients
- Health & Care Centre
- Ambulance Base

Another important part of the plans is the provision of a dedicated Acute Mental Health inpatient and outpatient facility.

The plans for the construction of the new Omagh Hospital are part of the Department of Health's Developing Better Services strategy. This strategy is

part of the Government's healthcare modernisation agenda that will see the number of acute hospitals in Northern Ireland reduced from 15 sites to nine. These would be supported by a network of six local hospitals to include Tyrone County, South Tyrone, Mid Ulster, Downe in Downpatrick, Lagan Valley in Lisburn, and Whiteabbey situated north of Belfast.

Acute hospitals would comprise The Royal Group of Hospitals, Altnagelvin, Antrim, Belfast City, Causeway in Coleraine, Craigavon, Daisy Hill in Newry, Ulster in Belfast and South West Hospital north of Enniskillen. The Mater in Belfast will also be part of the plan.

The key aim of the strategy is to give patients better access to specialist health services, bring facilities up to date with the latest cutting edge technologies, reduce patient waiting times and make hospital environments better for patients, staff and visitors.

Mary Maguire, Project Director for Developing Better Services in the Sperrin Lakeland Trust area, welcomed this opportunity for the local community to see how the plans for the new Omagh hospital are taking shape.

Commenting on the application she said, "The Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital site provides a unique and historic setting for the new hospital. There is much scope within the site that will allow the development of a significant 21<sup>st</sup> century healthcare facility for the area."

The plans will be available to view at a number of locations across West Tyrone including the Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh Library, Sperrin Family Practice in Plumbridge, Newtownstewart Library, Castlederg Library, Strabane Library, Owenkillew Centre in Gortin, Fintona Library, Dromore Surgery, The Milestone Centre in Carrickmore and the DBS Project Office Headquarters at the Tyrone & Fermanagh Hospital Site.

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