

Royal Edinburgh Hospital plans moving ahead



Development of a major site in Edinburgh may be about to move forward with the news that NHS Lothian has now received approval of the Outline Business Case (OBC) from the Scottish Government for the £48-million first phase of the development.

Phase one will include a new state-of-the-art facility providing services for the adult acute mental health inpatient service, older people's mental health assessment unit, Intensive Psychiatric Care Service (IPCU) and new Robert Fergusson national brain injury unit.

David Small, Chair of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital Project Board, NHS Lothian, said: "This is a very exciting step in the development of this project and we are now within sight of construction beginning later this year.

"The next step in the process is the development of the Full Business Case which we anticipate submitting for Scottish Government approval in September this year.

"We have listened to what matters to people and are confident that the plans will deliver an excellent mental health facility that will open a new chapter in the hospital's proud 200 year history."

Meanwhile works to prepare the REH Campus site for the new facility will begin this week. Amongst the works taking place include the removal of shrubbery, a small number of trees and other debris, the demolition of the recently vacated Scottish Ambulance Service building, as well as the development of a therapeutic garden activity area.



An artists impression of phase one of the REH campus development with work set to start later this year.

Health Secretary Alex Neil said: "I am pleased that plans for this modern mental health care facility have received outline business case approval.

"Plans for the new facility reflects the fact that mental health services should not exist in silos but be fully embedded into community care to deliver better outcomes and joined up care for patients.

"The new campus, which is part of the Scottish Government's £750-million investment in health infrastructure across Scotland, will also see efficient use of energy, water and waste management to reduce costs and carbon emissions.

The redevelopment of the hospital site will be undertaken in partnership with Hub South East Scotland who have appointed Morrison Construction as the preferred phase one contractor.

Paul McGirk, Chief Executive of Hub South East Scotland, said: "Formal approval of the Business Case is a positive milestone and we are delighted with the progress being made on this project. We look forward to continuing our successful partnership with NHS Lothian to ensure that patients will benefit from modern, fit for purpose facilities and the community will benefit from investment in the local area."

The redevelopment is planned to be undertaken in phased stages, beginning with phase one after planning consent is received. The projected timescale for completion of phase one is 2016. The whole project may take up to ten years.