



News Release: Issued on behalf of Sperrin Lakeland Trust  
Developing Better Services Project

**EMBARGO: 1PM, 16 March 2006**

## **SPERRIN LAKELAND TRUST APPROVES BUSINESS CASE FOR NEW ACUTE HOSPITAL**

The Outline Business Case for the new Acute Hospital for the South West was approved at the March Board meeting of Sperrin Lakeland Trust. The Business Case presents plans for the reform and modernisation of health care facilities within the Trust area, and contains full capital and running costs.

The draft plan will now be presented to the Department of Health for consideration before going to the Department of Finance and Personnel for final approval.

Expected to cost around £200 million the new hospital is to be located at the Wolfe Lough site, just off the Irvinstown Road on the Omagh side of Enniskillen.

The hospital will provide a wide range of modern acute services, including Accident & Emergency, Critical Care and Acute Surgery. The outline plan is for 12 wards, providing up to 300 in-patient and day case beds served by approximately 1100 staff who will be based on the hospital site.

Set within the new health care delivery model, the Acute facility will connect into the area's clinical networks, working together with Altnagelvin, Regional Centres, the Omagh Hospital and local Health & Care Centres.

Director of this Developing Better Services Project, Mary Maguire highlighted the significance of the developments saying, "Approval from the Department of Finance & Personnel and outline planning permission will allow us to move ahead into the construction phase of the project this summer.



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“However this is just the first part of our task. We are continuing to work on the outline business case for the new Omagh Hospital, which is an equally complex and detailed process. This will be presented to the Trust Board in May” she said.

Speaking on behalf of the Trust Board, the Chairman, Gillian Shaw said they were delighted with the progress on the development of the new acute hospital and commended the Project Team for delivering a well-presented and detailed proposal within the scheduled timeline.

“It is absolutely critical that we ensure the local community and the staff providing such an excellent service, are provided with the most up to date facilities available.

“Fast moving developments in standards and services mean that we have to make a significant investment to ensure that we are meeting the kind of standards the public deserve to receive. The developments will also be crucial in attracting new medical staff and addressing the current shortages.

“This has to be done in the context of the wider specialist facilities available in Northern Ireland and we will play our part in providing state of the art facilities in our region,” she promised.

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**Notes to Editor**

- 1 Staff News Letter attached containing details of proposed clinical facilities
- 2 Information Paper on Developing Better Services Project