



Trust Board Briefing Paper

From: Roy Hamill, Director of Community Care

To: Trust Board Members

Date: 27th May 2021

Subject: Business Case for the Refurbishment of Robinson Memorial Community Hospital

Action Required: Consideration of Business Case at Trust Board for Approval

Purpose:

The aim of the investment is to use the available Robinson Hospital Charitable Trust Funding to refurbish the Robinson Community Hospital and bring it up to modern standards. The project will aim to improve the hospital environment and provide a modern and fit for purpose community hospital. This would provide a 16 bedded unit with the following composition:

- 6 single rooms with ensuite facilities
- One 2 bedded ward with ensuite facilities
- Two 4 bedded wards with ensuite facilities

Background:

The Robinson Hospital is almost 90 years old and whilst the building is in very good condition many of the systems and facilities are now outdated. The existing hospital layout has only 2 single rooms that have ensuite bathrooms which make it difficult to ensure patient privacy and maintain patient dignity. The storage of essential hospital aids and equipment is also an issue due to a lack of appropriate storage space which results in some equipment being kept in corridors and other bedrooms.

The existing layout makes it difficult to assist patients with their personal needs and to manoeuvre larger items of equipment essential for patient care. Furthermore, the existing room which is used for multi-disciplinary (MD) meetings is not fit purpose and staff are forced to meet separately in smaller individual rooms – not conducive to MD working. The room that is used for visiting families at present is small, uncomfortable and requires updating.

In order to provide the highest standards of environmental cleanliness the hospital must be reconfigured to increase the ensuite facilities for patients as well as the space and handwashing facilities for staff. The lack of appropriate facilities for

patients results in the use of commodes in communal spaces which is not good practice.

The Robinson Hospital has amassed Charitable Trust funding in the region of £2.25m which it would like to see used to enhance the site for the benefit of the local community and service users within the Northern Trust area.

Progress to date:

A Project Team has been assembled with representation from the Robinson Trust Board, General Practice, Community Care, Finance, Central Procurement Division, Estates, Equality and Planning. A business case and outline plans have been prepared by the project team and these have been approved by the Robinson Trust Board and Community Care Division. Anticipated renovation costs of £2.21m. It is anticipated that the redevelopment will be an 18 month programme which will involve closure of the hospital for a 6 month period. As a result of the closure, an Equality Screening and Rural Impact Assessment have also been completed. The impact of the closure will be mitigated by re-providing services in part across the other 3 community hospitals and through the use of additional nursing home beds in the Causeway area. It is expected that the works will be commence in May 2022 and complete in October 2022.

Conclusion:

If the business case receives Trust Board approval, it will undergo an 12 week public consultation to ensure that the proposal meets all required equality standards. Following consultation a design team will be appointed to develop the plan for the hospital and tenders for the development will then be sought. The construction phase is expected to last 6 months.