

Northern Health and Social Care Trust Board Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

Subject:	Birch Hill Centre for Mental Health Capital Scheme		Date of Meeting: 22 January 2026	
Prepared By:	Judith Cleland, Senior Project Manager, Capital Development			
Approved By:	Alison Renfrew, Assistant Director of Capital Development			
Presented By:	Petra Corr, Director of MHLDPs			
Purpose				
To provide an update on progress with the Birch Hill Centre for Mental Health project, for noting.			Approval	
			Assurance	
			Update	
			Noting	✓
Strategic Objectives				
Build Northern Partnerships and Integrate Care	Continue to improve Outcomes & Experience	Deliver value by optimising Resources	Nurture our People, Enable our Talent & Build Our Teams	Improve population Health & address health & social care inequalities
•	•		•	•
Risk – please note if links to any principal, corporate or divisional risk				
Corporate Risks	A new build will reduce the ligature related issues and incidents of violence and aggression to a rating of 12 on the Trust Risk Register. Not compliant at present, high rating of 20. A new build may reduce the current inability to secure acute psychiatric beds to a rating of 12 on Trust Risk Register. Not compliant at present, high rating of 25.			
Committees/groups where this item has been presented before				
Executive Team				
Acronyms				
Executive Summary				
Regional Position: The revised Addendum for the Mental Health Inpatient Service / Birch Hill Business Case and associated query responses was submitted to the DoH and SPPG on 21 October 2025. The DoH have classified Birch Hill Mental Health Project as one of the 12 Partially Committed Projects (PCPs), most of which have been subject to delay, including Birch Hill. Their hope is that sufficient funding will be available to allow these schemes to progress but this will depend on the outcome of the NI Executive Budget 2026 process. The DoH shared with the Trust in December 2025 the latest version of its timeline for the development of the DoH 3-year Capital Investment Plan. In summary the following key dates are applicable to Birch Hill Mental Health Project as follows:- - December 2025 - NI Executive agrees draft DoH Capital Budget for 2026-27 to 2029-30 - December 2025 - January 2026 - DoH commissions additional inputs for Capital Plan if required				

We provide compassionate care with our community, in our community

Trust Board Reference Number:

- January 2026 - projects profiled within the available budget as part of draft Capital Investment Plan
- February to March 2026 - Consultation with DoH ALBs on the draft Capital Investment Plan
- February to April 2026 - NI Executive agrees final DoH Capital Budget for 2026-27 to 2029-30
- March 2026 - Ministerial approval sought for DoH Capital Investment Plan 2026-36 which will then be published

When the DOH capital budget is confirmed the Addendum to the OBC for the proposed new Mental Health Inpatient Hospital at NHSCT will then be formally reviewed by DoH Economic Analysis & Business Case Unit and other Departmental officials.

Stormont Adjournment Debate: MLA Declan Kearney (Sinn Féin) had last month promoted and raised the issue of the Birch Hill project in the adjournment debate at Stormont. At this he requested that Holywell Hospital is “beyond physical redemption” and called on the Minister for Health to expedite approval of the funding required to complete the design and deliver the Birch Hill Centre for Mental Health build.