

Media Release



To: Local Media
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Release: Health services in Clackmannanshire

Health services in Clackmannanshire will benefit from a £20 million boost.

NHS Forth Valley today announced the successful partners joining them to create a new Community Hospital for Clackmannanshire and a replacement for the existing Alloa Health Centre.

Scottish Company, Robertson Group will design, build and maintain the new hospital and health centre and the NHS Forth Valley In-House staff team will provide the support services.

A thorough and robust evaluation process assessed the bids from companies who had been short listed to design, build and maintain the new facilities and to provide the soft facilities management services such as cleaning and housekeeping. Once completed this process was approved by the Scottish Executive.

“By the end of 2007, the people of Clackmannanshire will have a new, state-of-the-art community hospital and a replacement for the existing Alloa Health centre. The process of selecting our partners in this exciting project has been an exacting one, and I would commend the efforts of both the bidders and the NHS Forth Valley project team who were involved in this work. Community hospitals like this are absolutely critical to the success of the Forth Valley healthcare strategy and will help us to achieve our aim of providing more care closer to people’s homes,” said Ian Mullen OBE, Chairman of NHS Forth Valley.

“Now the detailed work with our partners will begin to produce a Full Business Case, and work will start on site later this year.” Added Ian Mullen OBE.

Designed by Glasgow based HLM Architects, the new Community Hospital and replacement Alloa Health centre will be built on the site of Sauchie Hospital in Alloa.

The replacement Health centre will see approximately 800 patients each day and provide a range of primary care service to the 25,000 people of Alloa. Services will include:

- Three GP practices (16 GPs)
- Community nursing services
- Treatment room services
- Chiropody, dental, physiotherapy
- Out-patient clinics and
- Pharmacy services.

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Forth Valley NHS Board is the common name for Forth Valley Health Board

The Community Hospital will provide a range of services to the wider population of Clackmannanshire (47,000) and will include:

- 45 in-patient beds for physically frail older people, mentally frail older people, including provision for intermediate care and rehabilitation, palliative care and continuing care of those with complex needs.
- 40 day services places for older people and people with mental health problems.
- A base for the community mental health teams and other community services.
- A base for Social work teams

Robertson Group Executive Chairman, Bill Robertson, commented:

“Robertson Group is delighted to have been appointed as Preferred Bidder to deliver this significant new community healthcare initiative, providing a range of easy accessible patient services in a high quality, fully maintained health campus environment.

“This is the latest in a series of major partnerships with the NHS in Scotland for Robertson Group. We look forward to working with NHS Forth Valley and to the conclusion of formal contractual arrangements later in the year”.

The design of the new building is based on a campus style, where there are a number of linked buildings on the upper part of the site providing ground floor access to buildings.

The bid to provide support services to the new building from the NHS Forth Valley In-House staff team impressed the NHS Board.

“The In-House Bid Team is delighted with the success of our bid. The team was a partnership with UNISON, GMB and operational staff from NHS Forth Valley. The Team utilised their wide experience of delivering soft facilities management services, combined with knowledge gained of the PFI Environment to produce the submission.

The In-house Team and soft facilities staff look forward to working in partnership with the Preferred Bidder in delivering a high quality service for the Clackmannan Community Health Service Project” said Kenneth Birrell, In-House Team Project Manager.

Robert G Stewart the Director of Property and Primary Care for NHS Forth Valley commented: “The Project Team and I would like to offer our congratulations to the Robertson Group for being selected as the NHS Board’s Preferred Bidder. We believe that the Robertson proposal offers an innovative healthcare design within a facility that is adaptable to future changes in health needs. We look forward to working closely with Robertson Group to turn these designs and the aspirations of our clinical staff into a reality”.

We would also wish to congratulate the Board’s In-house Team for being successful in their bid to provide cleaning, housekeeping and waste services within the new facility. Their bid was successful in the face of very strong private sector competition and it is particularly satisfying that they are able to share in the success of this project.

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Notes to Editors

The new development is being procured with a private finance initiative partner. The length of the contract is 30 years and the project will be financed with a £20 million funding package.

Robertson Group's involvement in the project comprises a fully integrated whole life solution delivered from three of its businesses – Robertson Capital Projects as overall project manager and investor; Robertson Construction undertaking the design and build contract; and Robertson Facilities Management which will provide a range of facilities management services throughout the project's 30 year duration.