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## Press Release

### Transforming the RUH

**The RUH is looking forward to the commencement of a £40 million, five-year development programme to replace outdated buildings with new facilities which patients will help design.**

Plans are in place to build a new Pathology laboratory and create a new cancer centre to bring cancer services under one roof, transform parking, and create more green spaces at the hospital, which serves a catchment area of around 500,000 people.

Redevelopment of the 52-acre hospital site has been approved by the Board, and managers are awaiting confirmation of a £10 million grant from the Department of Health to get the ball rolling.

Future investment will be timed to coincide with the last loan repayment in 2012/13 – fourteen years ahead of the original schedule - thus allowing us to borrow money prudently over a number of years in order to complete this strategy.

The Trust is working with architects Nightingale Associates on an intricate sequence of stages to ensure the 565-bed hospital can continue operating normally throughout the project.

Estates and Facilities Director for the RUH, Howard Jones, says: “This project is a huge, logistical undertaking, given the complexity of the current site, and the fact that the construction programme has to be undertaken in a hospital that never closes.

“The first phase of the Estates Strategy will see the demolition of existing buildings to build a new Pathology Laboratory, and the second phase will see the creation of a new cancer centre at the front entrance of the hospital, bringing cancer services together in one place.

“Waiting facilities in the cancer centre will be designed using input from patients, as was the case with the neo-natal intensive care unit. Part of the success of the new NICU was that we had mums and dads in there influencing the design.

“We’ll be ensuring we construct new facilities that deliver an efficient and productive environment, which helps us to achieve savings targets, whilst also creating a comfortable environment for patients. Maintaining continuity of service for the hospital will be critical. It’s a difficult road to travel but once we get there, the benefit to patients and staff will be phenomenal.”

**Ends**