Update to Trust Board on major capital projects

Public Trust Board

3 July 2025

1.0 BACKGROUND

This paper is provided to Public Trust Board to update on the progress and issues on the Trust's major capital projects.

2.0 NEW CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PROJECT

Since works commenced on site, progress has generally been very good. The piling to the Falls Road boundary has been completed and the ground excavations have maintained steady progress in line with the project schedule. The Project Team are reporting that the contractor is nearing the point in the excavations where they are excavating previously unbroken ground. This means that we are generally clear of any unknown cables, services and ducts below the ground. While there remains risk of unforeseen ground conditions below ground (particularly rock), this marks the closure of a risk to programme.

There has been positive collaboration with all stakeholders to support effective traffic management around the site and minimise disruption to existing services. The safe delivery of care remains the top priority and all stakeholders are engaged on this commitment.

3.0 ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH INPATIENT CENTRE (AMHIC) – REFURBISHMENT WORKS DUE TO WATER INGRESS

Consultants employed by Belfast Trust have carried out further survey works throughout the AMHIC building in recent months to provide further detail on the extent of damp throughout the building. Based on these surveys, the works in the two pilot rooms and previous moisture mapping, the consultants are developing a high level cost estimate and programme for the remediation works required in the building.

The high level programme and cost estimate for the works are due to be presented to confidential Trust Board next month. Subject to the approval of Trust Board, this programme and costs will subsequently be reported to the Minister for Health and the Assembly Health Committee.

4.0 NEW MATERNITY HOSPITAL

The report detailing the Trust's recommended option for progressing the remediation works on the water systems within the new Maternity has been issued to the Minister for Health. The Minister has stated that he will be requesting DoH officials to source an external expert to independently review the same. The details of the terms of reference for this review and the party/ parties to undertake it are not yet known by the Trust.

The Trust are also currently assessing clinical activity data, patient flows and staffing requirements to determine if any services could safely be moved into the new Maternity while the neo-natal works are ongoing. The Minister has asked that this be undertaken as quickly as possible.