

# Capital Investment & Improvements

The year involved the largest ever Capital Programme. Overall expenditure was £36,476,000 being made up of £34,557,000 from exchequer sources and £1,919,000 from charitable grants including significant commitments from the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Charity and the Newcastle Healthcare Charity.

In previous years total capital expenditure across the Newcastle Hospitals was £26,746,000 in 2001-2002; £16,032,000 in 2000-2001; £6,287,000 in 1999-2000; £7,550,000 in 1998-1999 and £10,271,000 in 1997-1998.

The first major step in the Newcastle Strategic Review saw investments that enabled a commencement of schemes at the Royal Victoria Infirmary. These included the provision of a Pharmacy Manufacturing Unit; the reprovision and expansion of the Ante Natal Clinic linked to a redevelopment of Maternity services and the relocation of the Haematology, Biochemistry and Microbiology Laboratories in conjunction with the Medical School. These are outlined further under Redevelopment of Newcastle's Hospitals (Newcastle Strategic Review).

Other schemes of interest are also highlighted:

## Freeman Hospital

### Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit (Ward 26)

A scheme to provide two additional beds making a total of twelve overall was led by the in-house Estates Project Team. Following consultation with the users on their specific requirements, a new layout for the Unit was designed and the Freeman Estates Maintenance Department supplemented with specialist contractors demolished and rebuilt the interior of the Unit within a demanding nine week programme.

The high specification required for the scheme led to over 1400 metres of medical gas pipe work, thousands of metres of electrical and IT cabling together with plumbing services, new nurses station, ventilation and extraction systems matched with high quality furnishings at a cost of £299,306.

### New Critical Care Unit

A new Critical Care Unit has been developed at the Freeman Hospital by utilising the Podium Block, level 3 roofscape, adjoining the existing six bed General ITU and ENT Out Patient Department.

The new building was constructed along the main frontage and provides an elevation infill between the ENT Department and the Regional Cardiothoracic Centre. An additional 1200m<sup>2</sup> of clinical and support accommodation has provided capacity for seventeen beds including four isolation cubicles. The Unit was designed to current Health Building Note standards thus providing increased space and services provision. Each bed place has a floor to ceiling services pendant offering a flexible arrangement for the delivery of medical gases, general power, lighting and monitoring equipment.

In addition, a further 450m<sup>2</sup> of 'shell space' accommodation was constructed for future fit-out.

A high standard of finish has been incorporated into the design whilst utilising natural daylight to enhance the working space. A landscaped courtyard is an integral feature of the scheme.

All design and construction work was undertaken by North-Eastern based companies. Work commenced on site in February 2002 and completed in July 2003 at a cost of £4,500,000.

## Royal Victoria Infirmary

### Dermatology

Upgraded facilities for Dermatology were provided from national 'Action on Dermatology' funding and 'Nightingale Ward' funding. The facilities included a newly refurbished ward together with out patient and treatment area.



Refurbishment of the RVI lantern tower



New Critical Care Unit at the Freeman Hospital



Jim Cousins MP, at the Royal Victoria Infirmary opening the new Laboratories



Ward 19 was fully upgraded to provide a 16 bed cubicalised ward. This was opened in September 2002 and replaced the previous inpatient facility on Ward 19A.

Ward 15A (Care of the Elderly) was also upgraded to improve privacy and dignity together with elimination of large open bedded areas.

Ward 19A was then refurbished in two phases to provide new treatment facilities (sunlight/PUVA Phase 1), and additional out patient consulting rooms. The total cost of the project was £1,200,000.

### Cleft Lip and Palate Service

As part of a national initiative, a number of major cities including London, Leeds, Birmingham and Newcastle received investment to improve Cleft Lip and Palate Services. The Service is delivered as part of a twin centre arrangement with Leeds.

As part of a national initiative, the Trust undertook to provide accommodation and facilities at the Royal Victoria Infirmary including:

- Refurbishment of ward accommodation to provide an additional 15 beds
- Construction, in a constrained site within the existing Childrens Out Patients Department, to provide an additional five consultation rooms and dental facilities.
- Upgrading of vacant accommodation located on four floors within the former nurses home provide support accommodation including offices.

Total cost of the project was £1,142,000.

### Peacock Hall Refurbishments

The Statue of Queen Victoria, located outside of Peacock Hall is a Grade II listed building of "Special Architectural or Historical Importance". The statue was unveiled in 1906 by Edward VII as a memorial to his late mother and to celebrate the formal opening of the Infirmary. Atmospheric pollution over the years had led to environmental erosion that necessitated specialist repairs and renovation. As part of the refurbishment scheme,

the surrounding landscaping was improved in keeping with the original specifications as well as introducing seating and lighting. The total cost of the scheme was met by The Heritage Lottery Fund with a grant of £50,000. In addition the NHS funded adjacent roadworks and landscaping at a cost of £12,500.

Approaching one hundred years old, the maximum life expectancy of the traditional graduated Westmorland slate hung tile roof of the Peacock Hall building was being realised. Typically, with this type of roof slate the copper fixing nails corrode, slip and owing to the acidic effects of rainwater the leadwork splits. Rainwater penetration then occurs, with inevitable consequences to the underlying roof structure and the building fabric. All repairs to the building were undertaken in accordance with the requirements of The Listed Buildings & Conservation Act, 1990. The total cost of the scheme was £319,520.

## Newcastle General Hospital

### Regional Neurosciences Centre

Much needed improvements and upgradings were undertaken. The works included the construction of a new laminar flow operating theatre. Upgraded anaesthetic, recovery, scrub, disposal facilities and operating theatre stores were also provided as part of the improved operating theatre suite.

A new build extension to the existing Neuroscience Out Patients Department further enabled the formation of new reception and consulting rooms.

Other works included the upgrade and refurbishment of the Neurophysiology Department. Works in Neurophysiology allowed for establishing a new patient reception and waiting area. Refurbishment of existing EEG rooms and the provision of new office areas and improved lighting and decoration in circulation areas was also carried out.

The works commenced in July 2002 and were completed in May 2003 at a total cost of £1,240,000.