

15 March 2010

## **NHS Borders Makes Major Investment in Health Care**

NHS Borders has given a major boost to health care in the region with the approval to spend over £7m on three new health centres.

Borders NHS Board approved a business case for new health centres in Galashiels, Jedburgh and Lauder.

It is proposed that the Roxburgh Street Medical Practice in Galashiels will move to a new health centre on a nearby brownfield site.

Jedburgh Health Centre will be substantially re-developed on the current site and include expanded dental facilities.

In Lauder, the two Medical Practices in the town will move to a new purpose-built health centre.

Mary Wilson, Chair of NHS Borders said: "This is a major boost for local health services. The plans re-affirm our commitment to delivering first-class health care, as close to home as possible, in modern facilities. Whilst more detail will be confirmed in the coming few months, these plans mark an important step forward in improving health care for these communities".

Councillor David Parker, Leader of Scottish Borders Council said, "I am delighted that NHS Borders have been able to announce their commitment to new Health Centres in Galashiels, Jedburgh and Lauder. The NHS have been working very hard to make these projects a reality and all of the Health Centres will provide improved medical facilities for the Borders public once they are developed.

"I am particularly pleased about the Lauder development which will also see the creation of a new play area and sports changing rooms as part of the partnership work that Scottish Borders Council have been involved with alongside NHS Borders."

**ends**

### **Notes for Editors**

The GP Surgery in Roxburgh Street in Galashiels will be replaced by a new build on a brownfield site as a Community Health Centre offering improved clinical areas, patient facilities and administrative space for the enlarged practice staff and the rest of the attached Primary Healthcare Team as well as some visiting services.

The Health Centre in Jedburgh will be significantly extended and improved. As well as housing the existing practice in improved surroundings, it will accommodate an enlarged Primary Healthcare Team, including the existing orthodontic surgery, a salaried GDP and accommodation for a further GDP.

In Lauder, the two existing medical practice premises in Memorial Medical Centre and Factors Park will be housed in a new Health Centre being developed in co-operation with Scottish Borders Council. The Council are renewing the Children's playground and sports changing facilities in Crofts Road. Again, this new building will offer much improved facilities for staff and patients and health services for the community.

All three projects will now enter the detailed design stage prior to tendering and build. It is anticipated that all three will be open by early 2012. The total Capital expenditure on the 3 schemes will be over £7m.

**For further information, contact Public Involvement & Communications NHS Borders, telephone 01896 825589**