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**Leeds architects firm celebrates 50 years in business & being behind design of £21m worth of Hull's health estate, all completed in 2009**

A Leeds-based firm of architects is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year, as well as the achievement of a significant milestone for its healthcare division this year.

Thomson Spencer Architects (TSA) – which is based in Tower House, Merrion Way, Leeds city centre – is renowned for its design of pioneering developments in the health, commercial, education and residential sectors and has designed 46 schemes in Leeds city centre alone, including West Riding House and Lisbon House office developments.

Now, as the company celebrates its fiftieth year in business, managing director David Robinson is also celebrating another milestone – the fact that the firm is behind the design of three groundbreaking health centres in Hull for the city's Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) company and developer Citycare.

Citycare is the Public Private Partnership (PPP) delivering LIFT in Hull, it is one of 48 LIFT companies in the UK, and Mr Robinson is proud that his firm has designed its latest three schemes which represent an overall investment value of £21m. The Orchard Centre, a £14m health and community centre in north Hull, is due for completion this month and opens to the public in December.



Meanwhile Kingswood Health Centre, a £2.5m health centre also in north Hull, and Bilton Grange Health Centre, a £4.5m scheme in east Hull, became operational in October, taking the overall number of completed LIFT buildings developed in Hull to nine so far. TSA was commissioned to design the nine health centres of the first phase and has now commenced on schemes for the second phase of the LIFT programme.

“We were commissioned to do much more than just design health centres,” explained Mr Robinson. “The work we have done with Citycare for NHS Hull, the Primary Care Trust, is designed to change the way communities access health, social and community services under one roof – this is particularly evident with The Orchard Centre, which is Citycare’s flagship LIFT scheme in Hull to date, where so many different public services have been brought together into one building in a cohesive way.

“We are now delighted to be working with Citycare on the design of a £15m Integrated Care Centre in Kingswood, north Hull, which has been submitted to Hull City Council for planning consent, as part of the second phase of the LIFT programme in Hull.

“Over the last 50 years, TSA has developed some real landmarks across the Yorkshire region and beyond. Our work in the health sector is just a small element of our portfolio of schemes which include office and retail



developments in York and Scarborough, a hotel and residential development in Cornwall and 1,100 homes at Staynor Hall, Selby for Persimmon Homes”

Jo Barnes, chief executive of Citycare, said: “TSA has designed buildings that will make a huge impact on the communities they serve and improve patient experience. All three of our latest facilities are a real showcase of design excellence.

“The design of the buildings is key to meeting the requirements of our client, NHS Hull, and ensuring the buildings are sustainable for years to come. I am delighted that The Orchard Centre is nearing completion – as our ninth and final scheme in the first phase of the LIFT programme, it really is a development to be proud of.”