

FIFE COUNCIL

SCHOOL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

1.0 Purpose of the briefing note

- 1.1 This briefing note provides information on the work of the School Estate Development Programme. It outlines the work which has been undertaken to date and proposals for the development of the Programme

2.0 Background

- 2.1 As part of the updated School Estate Management Plan, the Education and Children's Services Committee approved the following proposals in May 2008

- A new primary school serving eastern Dunfermline
- A replacement for Madras College, St Andrews
- A replacement for Dunfermline High School
- A new secondary school for Kirkcaldy
- Refurbishment or replacement for Auchmuty High School
- A replacement for Burntisland Primary School

- 2.2 These proposals were agreed by PFAM Committee , June 2008

- 2.3 Executive responsibility for delivery of the Programme is the responsibility of the School Estate Development Board.

- 2.4 Membership of the Board

Ken Greer, Executive Director, Education (Chair)
Ken Gourlay ,Acting Head of Asset and Facilities Management
James McKinstry, Senior Manager (Resources)
Joe Fitzpatrick, Senior Manager, Community Learning and Development
Brian Livingston, Financial Services Manager
Robin Presswood, Development Manager, Planning and Development Services
Colin McCredie, Service Manager(Property Services)
Morag Wallace , Partnerships Manager, Corporate Asset Management

- 2.5 The Board is supported by a programme team and multi-disciplinary project teams drawn from across Council.

- 2.6 It is envisaged that the School Estate Development Programme will be delivered over a 10-year period. At current prices the cost of the programme is estimated at £126 million .
- 2.7 The guiding service principle to be adopted for the work of the School Estate Development Programme is the development of schools that support excellence in education.
- 2.8 The overall vision of the Programme is to “create safe, sustainable, learning environments which are inclusive and support the delivery of the transformational change envisaged by Curriculum for Excellence and better public services for the communities they serve”

3.0 Update

- 3.1 New primary school serving eastern Dunfermline
- a) The proposed site for the new primary school serving eastern Dunfermline has been taken to public consultation and discounted.
 - b) Identification of a new site is underway.
 - c) Proposals for interim arrangements until the new school is ready are being discussed with Parent Councils.
- 3.2 The Design Brief for the buildings will be paramount in order to achieve the vision outlined above. The planned programme of engaging with stakeholders to inform the Design Brief is now at implementation stage.
- 3.3 The on - line questionnaires for staff and pupils went live on 1st October 2008 and ran until 15th November 2008.
- 3.4 The initial impression is of a good response from both staff and pupils from most of the schools involved in the project.
- 3.5 A report is being prepared which will be published in January 2009. This will form the basis for further engagement with stakeholders.
- 3.6 A conference entitled Designs for Learning took place 18th November. Keynote speakers were Les Watson-a freelance education adviser, who addressed the Building Excellence Conference organised by the Scottish Government, and Studio E architects –winners of the BCSE Best School Architects award.
- 3.8 The aims of the conference were:
- To challenge traditional school design

- To initiate reflection and promote discussion on the design of learning spaces in the light of changing pedagogies and the way young people learn, especially in this rich age of technology.
- To learn lessons from one firm's approach to design development through case studies.
- To highlight the issue of sustainability and explore how it can be addressed in the design of school buildings.

3.9 Seventy five delegates from a range of services across the Council as well as elected members and colleagues from Duncan of Jordanstone School of Architecture and local colleges attended the event.

3.10 As a follow on from this, a Master Class on Transformational Learning Environments took place 1st December. The keynote speaker was Dr Kenn Fisher who is recognised as one of the leading learning environment specialists practising internationally.

3.11 The aims of this Master Class were

- To initiate discussion of the learning environment and how the Curriculum for Excellence will impact on the design of learning spaces
- To challenge traditional school design
- To reflect on international examples of interesting practice
- To identify and explore some of the key issues raised
- To have an opportunity to work with colleagues in looking at the implications for planning internal and external learning and social spaces

3.12 A Design Festival for 120 young people representing the proposed new secondary schools is proposed to be held on 23rd February. This Festival is still in the early planning stages but the aim of the day is to produce ideas boards which will act as design catalysts for "Building Fife's Future." Design issues to be addressed will be those highlighted as a result of the questionnaire feedback.

3.13 Further follow up workshops and meetings will be programmed for stakeholders as necessary, to inform the detailed requirements for the completion of the Design Brief.

3.14 Business cases for replacement of Madras College and Dunfermline High School are currently being prepared and will be presented for consideration in due course.

4.0 Communication

4.1 Key to the success of the programme will be effective communication with all stakeholders and the wider community.

- 4.2 A communication plan to achieve the above is outlined in Appendix 1
- 4.3 Stakeholder groups will be established as the programme progresses.
- 4.4 A logo for “Building Fife’s Future” is being designed.
- 4.5 A site is being designed for Fish and Fife Direct where all information regarding the programme will be able to be accessed. This will eventually be linked into the school sites.

Kenneth Greer
Executive Director (Education)
December 2008