

FIFE COUNCIL – EDUCATION SERVICES

SCHOOL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Briefing Note no 3 – March 2009

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 Update

- 2.1 An indicative 10 year School Estate Development Delivery Programme was submitted to Education and Children's Services Committee on 8th January 2009 (copy attached). The Committee approved the first three projects of the programme, namely, a new primary school for Dunfermline East, Dunfermline High School and Madras College. However, concern was expressed about the timescales for the start of the remaining projects in the programme and these have been referred to the School Estate Development Group for further consideration at its meeting to be held on 16th March.
- 2.2 Sites option appraisal for the new Dunfermline East Primary School has been carried out and a report will be submitted to the Education and Children's Services Committee on 3rd April 2009.
- 2.3 Public meetings will be held in Madras College on 26th March and in Dunfermline High School on 31st March to give information on progress to date, to explain the business case process and to set up a local development group for each school.
- 2.3.1 Each local development group will:-
- Be a forum for discussing the benefit outcomes and design development of specific school estate projects
 - Provide good communication links amongst Fife Council Services, the design team, construction contractor, school and community representatives, parents pupils and other users of the facilities
 - Cascade information to stakeholders represented by members of the Group
 - Participate in surveys and workshops and other feed back sessions on specific school estate related projects
 - Receive reports on the progress of specific school estate related projects

2.3.2 Each local development group will have the following membership

Education Officer	1
Head Teacher	1
Teaching staff	1
Non Teaching Staff	1
Community Services Staff	1
Pupils	2
Parent Council	1
Feeder Primary School parent Councils	2
Community Council / Other Organisation	2

2.4 A draft strategic design brief for secondary schools is to be prepared by the end of March 2009.

2.5 Data gathering for business cases for Dunfermline High School and Madras College is underway. Options appraisal and preparation of those business cases are to be completed by the end of June 2009.

3.0 Communication

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

3.2 As part of the process of developing the Design Brief for each of the secondary schools, the Programme Team is engaging with potential users of these buildings. Initially this has involved a questionnaire approach for both staff and pupils. This on-line questionnaire ran from 1st October to 15th November. Over 3,000 pupils completed the questionnaire.

3.3 A Designs for Learning Conference was held on 18th November 2008. This was an opportunity for a range of services involved in the planning of new school buildings to come together to explore and share ideas on how our future schools should look, especially in this rich age of technology. Led by Les Watson a freelance education adviser and Studio E architects, delegates heard how our schools would need to prepare young people for jobs which did not currently exist, using technology which has not yet been invented, to solve problems that have not yet materialised.

3.4 As a follow up to the conference a Transformational Learning Environments Master Class was held on 1st December 2008. This master class explored the need to design learning environments to match changing teaching and learning styles and the speed of technological developments. Dr Kenn Fisher outlined the variety of learning spaces required and how flexibility was the key requisite. International examples of school design and case studies illustrated

his vision and delegates welcomed the opportunity to exchange ideas in follow on workshops.

3.5 A Design Festival was held on 23rd February. The aim of the festival was to engage with young people in a creative way to encourage them to express their ideas for designing a secondary school for the 21st century. Over 100 young people attended. The main ideas expressed by the young people for inclusion in the strategic design brief were:-

- lots of windows and natural light
- quiet 'chill out' spaces for reflection
- colour including coloured glass
- social spaces both inside and out
- interaction between the outside and inside both for socialising and learning
- trees, vines, flowers – closer to nature
- café type food outlets
- comfortable seating both in learning and social spaces
- smart boards
- water features throughout
- security
- comfortable surroundings so you do not feel like you are in school
- separate space for 6th years
- wall of fame for pupils
- rooftop garden for studying science
- open plan modern facilities
- modern toilets
- mechanics workshop

A pupils' newsletter is to be issued to the 5 secondary schools who participated in the design festival (Agenda Item 7(c))

3.6 A steering group for the new Dunfermline East Primary School has been set up. The group comprises parent representatives from Inverkeithing and the new school, education officers, resources officer, head teacher of Inverkeithing and the acting head teacher of the new school. Meetings have been held to discuss accommodation, transportation, dining, resources etc. Two open days have been held to let pupils/parents to see around the school. A parent evening has been held to discuss uniform, the name of the new school etc.

3.7 The next briefing note will be sent in June 2009.

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March 2009