

Date: February 2010

Building Fife's Future – Madras College Progress Update

1. Purpose

The proposed replacement of Madras College forms part of the first phase of investment agreed by the Council as part of the Building Fife's Future programme of work.

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on work that has been undertaken, since the last progress paper, highlighting key issues, decisions and next steps.

2. Update

It was previously reported, as part of the process in assessing the Madras College project's feasibility and viability, a business case must be approved by Fife Council.

In preparing the business case an assessment of possible development sites would be undertaken. Of the various sites considered three options were agreed to be taken forward.

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| Option 1 | Status Quo |
| Option 2 | Renewal of Kilrymont Campus |
| Option 3 | New Build School within the University of St Andrews campus, known as |

On 3rd December 2009 Fife Council's Policy, Finance & Asset Management Committee (PFAM) sanctioned and agreed that the Option 3, could be focused upon and carried forward to a detailed business case to be presented to the Education and Children's Services Committee (ECSC) on 8 April 2010.

The presentation of this document to Committee will provide final strategic confirmation of project affordability and demonstrate how the project, working extremely closely with the University, can be delivered.

3. Business Case

In support of the joint working relationship between the Council and University a joint Project Board has been established to oversee the development and ensure ownership and project objectives are achieved. The Board will be responsible for reviewing and approving the Business Case in advance of formal presentation to the ECSC in April.

A dedicated project manager, Andrew Clearie of Jacobs Consultancy, has been appointed to represent Fife Council and finalise the business case for the April Committee presentation.

The business case will identify and focus upon the construction of the new school with a capacity of 1700 pupils and will consider various factors affecting successful project delivery within the £40m allocated by the Council for the scheme.

'Proof of concept' layouts and designs will be included which will provide comfort that the new school can be located on the available land allocated.

The business case will be predicated on the assumption that there will be numerous and academic and economic advantages in co-locating the new school within the campus of the University of St Andrews.

The potential benefits of joint working and intellectual collaboration at various levels between the School and University is being addressed by key user groups. At present the following areas have been highlighted;

- Sports Provision – the existing and proposed University provision is being examined to house the delivery of the PE curriculum, extra-curricular sport and Community sport use. The University propose to build a new 12 court games hall and indoor/outdoor tennis facilities and to upgrade existing facilities.
- Music and Expressive Arts - initial discussions are taking place with the University to determine the extent to which university music teaching could be accommodated within the school either within the proposed or enhanced accommodation.
- Science - access by senior school pupils to specialist labs within the University would provide enhanced learning for both school staff and pupils.
- Conference/Catering - potential enhancements to the assembly hall could provide a conference facility within the school.
- A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed between Fife Council and the University of St Andrews.

4. Site Access Arrangements

Discussion with the Fife Council Transportation team has taken place, on the requirements for vehicular access to the proposed site. Having considered various options, the relevant factors of safety and best value a new access road from the A91 is considered most appropriate. The new school access road will be constructed on land currently owned by the University, together with associated bus and car parking for use by the school.

Work is currently ongoing, examining the best pedestrian and cycle access routes to the new school site.

5. Project Programme

The business case is predicated on the new school being programmed for an anticipated date of completion and occupation as August 2013.

6. Summary

The Council are undertaking ongoing works to develop the formal business case for submission to Committee on 8 April 2010 on the basis of a new build school on the St Andrew's University campus.

The business case will provide final strategic confirmation of project affordability and demonstrate how the project, working extremely closely with the University, can be delivered.

7. Open Meeting

A meeting has been arranged to provide up to date information on the New Madras Project and to answer questions. It will take place in the Hall, Madras College Kilrymont Campus at 7 pm on Monday 8 March 2010.