

THE FIFE COUNCIL – MADRAS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP- GLENROTHES.

6th May, 2009

6.00pm -7.35pm.

PRESENT: Ian Jones, Head Teacher Madras College, John McLaughlin, Education Officer, Diane McGhie, Wormit Primary School Parent Council, Jane Pettegree, Canongate Primary School Parent Council, Andy Herd, Head of Community Use, Madras College, Zoe Smith, Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council, Andy Primmer, Madras College Parent Council, Morag Wilson, Non teaching staff representative, Adam Smallwood, Teaching staff representative, Arlene Herzog, Lawhead Primary School Parent Council, Sally Walker, Tayport Community Council.

ATTENDING: Councillor Ron Caird, Bruce Kennedy, Lead Officer, Property Services, John Purves, Architect, Property Services, Ian Nicol, Operations Project Manager, Corporate Asset Management, Senga Hogg, Seconded Head Teacher, Corporate Asset Management and Morag Wallace, Partnerships Manager, Corporate Asset Management

APOLOGIES

FOR ABSENCE: Emily Foster and Annie Philpott, Pupil Representatives

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Ian Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting. He advised that pupil representatives had been appointed and would attend the next meeting

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Ian Jones asked for nominations for the chair of the Group.

Decision

It was unanimously agreed that Ian Jones be appointed as chair.

3 MEMBERSHIP, REMIT AND WORK PLAN

The Group considered a report by Morag Wallace on the remit and membership of the Group and a proposed work plan. The Group discussed arrangements for keeping Community Councils and Parent Councils of other schools not represented on the Group informed. It was noted that a web site for the school estate development programme under the "Building Fife's Future" banner is under development and that a site would be set up for each school. Andy Primmer advised that information could be placed on the Madras College Parent Council web site. In response to a question Morag Wallace advised that she had been in communication with the Quaestor's office concerning the appointment of a representative from the University but had not yet received a nomination. The Group also discussed whether or not representatives and their alternates could attend all meetings of the Group

Decision

The Group

- (a) noted the content of the report
- (b) approved the work plan detailed in the report;
- (c) agreed that all representatives including alternates could attend the meetings of the Group; and
- (d) agreed that Morag Wallace arrange for the circulation of the minutes of the Group's meetings to be circulated to all Community Councils and Parent Councils of schools not represented on the Group and that Greyfriars RC primary school be added to the circulation list.

4 COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

The Group considered a report by Morag Wallace which explained the cost benefit analysis tool which would be used to evaluate the various options for possible investment in the schools

forming part of the school estate development programme. It was noted that the options to be appraised in the Madras College Business case comprise status quo, refurbish and extend at Kilrymont, refurbish and extend at South Street, new build at Kilrymont and new build at another location. Morag Wallace explained how the cost benefit analysis spread sheet works. In response to a question about who calculates the opportunity costs the Group was advised that the District Valuer provided the values of the investment sites.

Decision

The Group noted the content of the report

5. BUSINESS CASE BENEFIT CRITERIA

The Group considered a report by Morag Wallace advising the benefit criteria, which will be included in the cost benefit analysis tool used to evaluate the various options for possible investment in the schools forming part of the school estate development programme. In response to a question about how generic guidance would apply to assessing the proposed school and university collaboration, it was explained there were already good links with the University which were not dependent on physical co-location. This matter had been factored into the consideration of possible sites for a new build and would be considered as part of the assessment of the facilities available to the school, e.g. sports facilities and the extent to which the requirements of the strategic brief for secondary school design were met.

An email from Scott Wilson on behalf of the parent council of Strathkinness Primary School was tabled. That email requested that consideration be given to a network of cycle paths connected to the new school, advised that if the new school were located on the North Haugh it would be possible for pupils to cycle from Strathkinness and that it would be good to have cycle tracks connecting through to the Canongate. This was noted by the Group.

The Group considered the status quo suitability score annexed to the report. Senga Hogg explained how the pre development suitability evaluation had been carried out. The Group was advised that the pre development suitability evaluation report and score required to be signed off by the Strategic Brief Group

Decision

The Group noted the content of the report and requested that the pre development suitability evaluation report be circulated to them.

6 DRAFT STRATEGIC BRIEF FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL DESIGN

The Group considered the draft Strategic Brief for Secondary School Design. Ian Nicol explained that final edits were to be made and that a schedule of accommodation for the school would sit behind the brief. It was noted that the brief was seeking to achieve a step change from status quo to reflect the changing world of education. Key messages were flexibility, adjacency to spaces to encourage collaborative working, transparency and multi uses of space. The Group discussed some of the features of the schools visited as part of the development of the brief including the media resource centre featured on page 5, the high level of ICT, the groupings of subjects together and circulation. The Group discussed the need for a library. The Group also discussed the extent to which the capacity of the school would meet future needs. In response to a question about whether the schedule of accommodation would include a swimming pool the Group was advised that the estimated cost of a 6 lane 25m swimming pool was £8 million with an estimated running cost of £500,000 per annum and these costs had not been included in the current budget. The Group was advised that the specific school requirements would be considered at the next meeting.

Decision

The Group noted the content of the Strategic Brief for Secondary School Design

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 28 May at 6:00pm in Madras College, Kilrymont Road, St Andrews