

*DUNOON PRIMARY CAMPUS UPDATE*

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress that is being achieved with respect to the development of the Outline Business Case for the Joint Primary Campus for Dunoon.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the terms of the update.

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 **Background:** Following the bid for resources submitted in October 2009, the Scottish Government has confirmed that it is prepared, in principle, to fund 50% of the approved costs relating to the provision of a new primary campus for the Dunoon area. This funding is to be allocated from the Schools Building Programme and could ultimately lead to the creation of a joint campus to replace the existing Dunoon, Kilm and St Muns Primary Schools.

- 3.2 Building on the Government's announcement, the Council has been required to engage with the Scottish Futures Trust who have been given the task of managing the Schools Building Programme on a national basis. Their involvement is also designed to ensure the delivery of best value in terms of both design and procurement. Subsequently, in March 2010 the Council agreed to allocate resources within the 2010/11 Capital Plan to enable the development of the Outline Business Case required under the approved Capital Planning Procedures. Assuming Members are prepared to accept the recommendations arising from this process, the development of the Final Business Case will follow in 2011/12.

- 3.3 **Funding:** Members are asked to note that the Government has confirmed that they will be prepared to contribute up to a maximum of £6,744,876 as their share of the cost with this

provision commencing in 2013/14. While helpful, this announcement has also set out a challenging timeline for the Council as all of the design work and formal and informal consultation processes associated with the project will require to be completed within the interim period.

3.4 **Work plan and initial project milestones:** Further meetings will be scheduled with the Scottish Futures Trust throughout the project. These will be used to ensure full compliance with the Government's conditions for draw down of the funding and with previously agreed project milestones. With respect to the latter, the Scottish Futures Trust have already been made aware of the following:

- Council consideration of the key recommendations arising from the Outline Business Case – March 2011
- On the assumption of a positive outcome to the above, development of the Full Business Case during 2011

3.5 **The Business Case Process:** An Outline Business Case is currently being prepared. This will assess the pros and cons associated with a range of potential development sites within the area. Ultimately, this Business Case will contain a suite of recommendations which will be made available for consideration by the Council in March 2011. If the recommendations are acceptable, the Council will then move forward to prepare designs as part of a Full Business Case during 2011/12.

3.6 **Development of the Design Brief:** With the support of the Scottish Futures Trust, the Council has managed to gain the services of **Architecture and Design Scotland** and when appropriate, **The Carbon Trust** to support the development of a Design Brief. To date, as part of this informal consultation process, Architecture and Design Scotland have facilitated a number of workshop sessions involving representatives of the Customer Services Design Team, the Head Teachers of the 3 affected primary schools, the link Quality Improvement Officer, Parent Council representatives and Pupils. A Champions for Change group made up of representatives from these interest groups has also been established to take forward the development of an Education Brief to inform the design of the campus.

3.7 Architecture and Design Scotland's input is being provided at no cost to the Council on the understanding that they will be using the process to promote the project on an exemplar basis. As a result of this, they have to demonstrate a classic approach to the informal participation/consultation associated with the

development of the brief. This is also desirable to optimise the design and ensure that the needs of all potential users are taken into account at the earliest possible stage of the design process.

3.8 In addition to the foregoing, the Council proposes to establish a **Master Planning Group** to ensure that the wider benefits of the new campus will not be missed. It is envisaged that this group will comprise of senior officials drawn from Customer Services, Community Services, Development and Infrastructure as well as from key Community Planning Partners.

3.9 **Governance:** The early stages of the workplan have been managed within the Customer Services Design Team via monthly project co-ordination meetings. These arrangements have ensured that the initial stages of the project remain on the targeted timescale. However, in view of the scale of the project, with an indicative budget of £13m together with the task of amalgamating 3 primary schools into a new campus, a Project Board has now been established under the chairmanship of the Executive Director of Customer Services to ensure rigorous management of the development process.

3.10 **Consultation:** If the Council decides, after considering the Outline Business Case, that it wishes to take the proposal forward, the scheme will be developed further to Full Business Case stage and a Planning Application shall be submitted for the preferred site. At this stage, in addition to formal, statutory consultation there will be a range of actions that the Council will have to comply with in relation to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This will include:

- Publishing a proposal paper together with the assessments the Council has made incorporating an educational benefit statement and the identified implications of the proposal.
- Consulting on the above for 6 weeks of term time.
- Advising parents and Parent Councils of this consultation and invite responses.
- Consulting the pupils of each school to ensure that they have an opportunity to have a say in the process.
- Consulting with staff members.
- Convening a public meeting where all stakeholders can provide comments.
- Inviting Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) to comment on the proposals.

At the end of this process, the Council would be obliged to publish a consultation report prior to taking final decisions.

## 4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Development of the Primary Campus for Dunoon is moving forward to the planned timescale wherein the Council is scheduled to consider recommendations arising from the Outline Business Case in March 2011.
- 4.2 Arrangements have been made for the formation of a Project Board to ensure appropriate levels of governance and the Council is continuing to liaise with the Scottish Futures Trust as required.
- 4.3 Assuming the project progresses as planned the Government has indicated that their funding is likely to become available in 2013/14. The Council is working to this timeline and is currently undertaking informal consultation to inform the development of the Education Brief for the project. Formal consultation as required under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 will follow at an appropriate time.

## 5. IMPLICATIONS

*Policy: The development of the Primary Campus reflects national objectives for Education together with the Council's School Estate Strategy.*

*Finance: The Government will fund 50% of approved costs of the project but the Council will have to plan to address the balance at appropriate times within its Capital Plan.*

*Personnel: Major changes will have to be managed as staff move into the new campus.*

*Legal: The Council may have the decision to proceed called in by the Scottish Government if there are concerns the processes required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 have not been followed.*

*Equal Opportunities: Nil*

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