

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 17 MAY 2016**

**BRECHIN COMMUNITY CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTRE**

**REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND LEARNING**

**ABSTRACT**

The Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) initiative has a key emphasis on creating and sustaining effective partnerships with employers and business. With the opening of the new Brechin Community Campus, there is an opportunity to develop a new relationship with local employers through the building of a construction training centre to be accessed by all stakeholders. Forster Group of Brechin is committed to supporting this proposal and to work in partnership with Angus Council.

**1. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Supports the development and sustainability of the Construction Training Centre in partnership with Forster Group;
- (ii) Agree to the development of a new Construction Training Centre on the Brechin Community Campus;
- (iii) Agree that the capital construction costs be provided by the Scottish Futures Trust 'Inspiring Learning Fund'.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN**

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- We have a sustainable economy with good employment opportunities;
- Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit;
- Our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens.

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Brechin High School is a six-year, non-denominational, comprehensive secondary school serving Brechin and the surrounding rural district. The school has a full range of facilities for all subjects. The current roll is around 500 pupils and 50 teaching staff. The school also has an Integrated Special Unit supporting young people with additional support needs who require individualised or small group specialised teaching.

3.2 On 17 February 2016 Brechin High School moved into the new Brechin Community Campus. The campus was developed as part of the Scotland's Future Schools initiative and was part funded by Angus Council and the Scottish Government.

3.3 Brechin Community Campus has been designed to provide an environment which encourages multifunctional learning and community engagement. Therefore, Brechin Community Campus is not simply a replacement for Brechin High School it is a community resource integrating education (for young and old), community groups and leisure facilities.

- 3.4 There is a strong culture of partnership working between Brechin High School and Forster Group which has developed over a number of years. An opportunity has now arisen to further develop this partnership to build on the good practice in DYW that is emerging. This initial partnership could then provide a basis for the development of further relationships with other local partners.

#### **4. CURRENT POSITION**

##### **4.1 Delivering 21<sup>st</sup> Century Training**

- 4.1.1 The proposal is to create a Construction Training Skills Programme which includes the creation of a new construction training centre building to provide the primary hub on the Brechin Community Campus site.
- 4.1.2 The aim of the training programme is to deliver high quality vocational education providing better connectivity and cooperation between education and the world of work through a real partnership between Forster Group, Brechin High School and Angus Council.
- 4.1.3 The Construction Centre project aims to:-
- Introduce young people to construction industry and potential careers – for those interested in trades, and also associated employment such as quantity surveying, architecture, etc.;
  - Support the curriculum by putting academic courses into practical use within training programmes;
  - Deliver a recognised end product / qualification / certification;
  - Further improve good links between Brechin High School and Forster Group, together with extending opportunities to pupils beyond Brechin.

##### **4.2 Proposed New Building**

- 4.2.1 In order to deliver the aims and objectives of this proposal, a new building is proposed to deliver training in a variety of construction skills. The building will be designed to complement and not replicate the wide range of facilities already available at the new Brechin Community Campus.

##### **4.3 Location and Accessibility**

- 4.3.1 The proposed new building is to be located to the West of the new Brechin Community Campus Building.
- 4.3.2 The final site location will take account of access for both school pupils and outside users. It is expected that the facility could provide training for all ages, with course and training delivery adapted to suit.

##### **4.4 Planning Constraints / Design Issues**

- 4.4.1 The new facility will be designed in such a way as to complement the existing building. The council will be required to obtain full Planning Permission for the proposals.
- 4.4.2 Whilst the new building is being constructed disruption will be minimised and the operation of the main building, routes for users, deliveries, etc. will not to be affected. Full consideration will have to be given to health & safety relating to access, car parking and emergency procedure.
- 4.4.3 When planning the new build, consideration will be taken of the existing building and how best this can be incorporated with the new facility to provide suitable accommodation. It is not a requirement to physically link the buildings.
- 4.4.4 The new facility should be designed to a minimum of the current Technical Standards and comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

## **4.5 Management Operations**

- 4.5.1 The facility will be managed and operated by Angus Council through Brechin Community Campus.
- 4.5.2 Forster Group will be the primary partner in delivering programmes and training. It is expected and intended to investigate support from other local construction contractors.

## **4.6 Facility Provision**

- 4.6.1 The Brechin Community Campus Construction Centre will consist of a single storey building with the following facilities:
- Practical training area;
  - Theoretical teaching area;
  - Material and general storage area;
  - Kitchen;
  - Toilet provision;
  - Links with existing facilities;
  - External goods deliveries;
  - External access.

## **5. PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Children and Learning Committee support the development of a new Construction Training Centre on the Brechin Community Campus.
- 5.2 It is proposed that the new Construction Centre will open in August 2017.
- 5.3 It is proposed that the Construction Centre will be managed by Angus Council and run in partnership with Forster Group.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Capital Costs and Funding Profile**

- 6.1.1 The 'Inspiring Learning Fund', provided by Scottish Futures Trust, will contribute the capital building costs. Angus Council have successfully been awarded £300,000 for this proposal. It is anticipated that this finance will meet costs. All requirements of the funding offer will be met by the Council. We are awaiting the final grant letter from the Scottish Government. Appropriate reports in relation to this project will be provided following confirmation of project funds.
- 6.1.2 Forster Group have confirmed they are to 'fit-out' the facility for use.
- 6.1.3 The grant award of £300,000 will cover the full capital costs of the overall project. Partners may contribute additional funds but this would only be used to enhance the provision.
- 6.1.4 Energy and heating costs will be subsumed into the existing community campus budget. Solar panels will be installed to increase the building efficiency and provide a teaching aid. It is expected that there would be no material changes to the building over 5 years.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

None