

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 13 JUNE 2017**

**UPDATE ON ARBROATH SCHOOLS PROJECT (PHASES 2 AND 3A)**

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of Phases 2 and 3a of the Arbroath Schools Project. On 17 May 2016, the Children and Learning Committee authorised officers to take forward new build replacements of Hayshead, Ladyloan and Muirfield Primary schools in Arbroath. The new buildings are to be procured by Hub East Central (Hubco) and are being partially funded by the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT).
- 1.2 On 20 September 2016 the Children and Learning Committee authorised officers to undertake a formal consultation in relation to developing a shared campus for Hayshead and St Thomas primary schools.

**2. PROGRESS UPDATE**

**2.1 Ladyloan and Muirfield Primary Schools**

- 2.1.1 Ladyloan and Muirfield Primary Schools have been progressed together as there is no requirement to carry out statutory consultation.
- 2.1.2 Design Progress – The designs of the new buildings have progressed well to allow submissions of planning applications for both schools. The design team are now progressing detailed drawings and specifications to allow detailed costs to be prepared.
- 2.1.3 Consultation Progress – As part of the design stage a variety of consultation events have taken place with children, staff and the communities of both schools. These consultations have been positive and have significantly influenced the current designs.
- 2.1.4 Programme Update – Following detailed review by Hubco and Scottish Futures Trust a delivery programme with a December 2018 completion has been agreed. The contractor's original intention was to construct the buildings to allow occupancy in summer 2018. An earlier occupation would have required a reduced amount of competitive tendering, increasing the financial risk to the project.
- 2.1.4 Financial Update – The initial cost estimates provided by hubco remain within the total project cost of £17.5million previously indicated. This relates to all project costs including the construction, decant, IT installation, etc.

## **2.2 Hayshead and St Thomas RC Primary Schools**

- 2.2.1 The proposal to develop Hayshead and St Thomas RC Primary School as a shared campus requires statutory consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act (2010).
- 2.2.2 Design Progress – The design of a shared campus has been developed for consultation purposes only. It is not intended to progress the design further until the consultation process has been concluded.
- 2.2.3 Consultation Progress – The statutory consultation needed to develop a shared campus requires us to follow all elements, including time periods, of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act (2010). The consultation process began on 10 May 2017 and runs until 23 June 2017. After this period the council must provide a report to Education Scotland who will review the consultation and provide the council with its own report. The council will then publish a final consultation report, including the proposed outcome, at least 3 weeks prior to any committee seeking to gain approval. After this statutory consultation period there will be a variety of further consultations including pre-planning and agreement on key design decisions.
- 2.2.4 If the outcome of the consultation is to not progress with a shared campus then the project would be developed as a Hayshead only replacement.
- 2.2.5 Programme Update – The programme is currently later than was originally intended. This is primarily due to the preparation required to complete the consultation document and ancillary information to support the process. A finalised programme for the actual construction and occupation of the new building will only be known when the outcome of the consultation has been finalised.
- 2.2.6 Financial Update – The initial cost estimates provided to date by hubco remain within the total project cost of £15.1million previously indicated. This relates to all project costs including the construction, decant, IT installation, etc.

## **3 Next Steps**

- 3.1 The tendering period for Ladyloan and Muirfield Primary Schools is about to commence. Following completion and agreement to designs and costs a report will be prepared for final consideration by committee. This will allow the contract documentation to be completed prior to construction.
- 3.2 The consultation period for Hayshead and St Thomas RC Primary Schools will not be concluded until September 2017. Education Scotland require to meet with consultees, therefore require time outwith the school summer holidays. Following completion of the statutory consultation a report will be prepared for final consideration by committee to allow the proposal to be implemented.

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