

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
ALNESS ACADEMY REPLACEMENT - STAKEHOLDER GROUP
Minute of Meeting No. 1 held on Wednesday 24 August 2016 at 7 PM
In Alness Academy

Attendees:	<p><u>Highland Council - Members</u> Chair: Martin Rattray</p> <p><u>Highland Council - Officials</u> Brian Porter, Head of Resources Robert Campbell, Estates Strategy Manager Susannah Irvine, Estate Officer Philip Shannon, Consultancy Manager Derek Martin, Care and Learning Manager (Mid)</p> <p><u>Highland Council - Schools</u> Laura Gordon, Head Teacher, Alness Academy Ewan Scott, Bridgend Primary Gemma Dunnett, Ardross / Newmore Primary Morag Wright, Head Teacher Coulhill Primary</p> <p><u>High Life Highland</u> Graeme Ross, Area Facilities Officer</p> <p><u>Community Representatives</u> Mary MacDonald, Alness Community Council Angela Macky, Coulhill Primary Parent Council Gilliam Winter, Alness Academy Parent Council</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>BP RC SI PS DM</p> <p>LG ES GD MW</p> <p>GR</p> <p>MM AM GW</p>
Apologies:		
Minute:	Susannah Irvine	
ITEM	DISCUSSION/COMMENT	ACTION
1	APPOINT A CHAIR	
1.1	Martin Rattray was appointed as Chair.	Note
2	INTRODUCTION	
2.1	MR welcomed everyone to the meeting.	Note
3	REMIT AND MEMBERSHIP OF GROUP	

3.1	BP gave a brief summary of the Stakeholder Group Remit a copy of which was circulated with the invites.	Note
4	PROJECT OVERVIEW	
4.1	BP gave a summary of the project Scope, programme and delivery.	Note
4.2	Scottish Government announced funding for a replacement Alness Academy in early 2016, to be open by the Scottish Government target of March 2020.	Note
4.3	Scottish Government Funding will be based on the projected roll, possible expansion of the Academy will be considered as part of a future proofing strategy.	Note
4.4	The delivery model is yet to be decided, a DBFM (Design, Build, Finance, Maintain) model is being considered which would see the project being part funded with delivery and running of the school being managed by the private sector for 25 years. The Council is working with Moray and Aberdeenshire Councils which would see the school being procured as part of the 3 school procurement package. The project budget and funding plan will be confirmed at the October Committee.	Note
4.5	PS presented the stakeholder presentation to the group which is now available on the council website: http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/893/schools_-_general_information/25/modern_school_buildings_programme/2 Which described the Council process for developing the project brief, the design, and taking the project through to procurement and construction phases. The presentation also provided some visuals of other Secondary projects being delivered across the UK.	Note
5	COMMUNITY AND SPORTS FACILITIES	
5.1	A discussion took place on possible integration of existing community facilities into the new academy development. It was stressed that at this stage no decisions were being reached, but it was important to be clear at an early stage on the project scope, and ruling aspects in or out of scope as appropriate.	Note
5.2	<u>Positives of integration discussed:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of the buildings could encourage integration of the community. • Including community facilities could encourage disengaged parents to feel comfortable when entering the school. • A new facility would mean enhanced quality as existing facilities. 	Note

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating the library would ease concerns over the possible loss of the community library in the future, if merged with the school library. The pool is currently on site, would be good for all sports facilities to be co-located. Would increase the opportunity for enhanced performance space in the new school if the sports facilities were to merge. Could provide a space for touring arts performances, which isn't provided elsewhere in the area. Possibility of increased hours of operation due to potential saving through the running of one facility rather than two. The football club could potentially integrate into the school as hours of use are different and they currently share the pitch with the school. Family teams currently using the former janitors house, could potentially integrate if a comfortable, relaxed space was provided. However they would require to use / access the space throughout the school day. 	
5.3	<p><u>Negatives of integration discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Losing presence on the High Street by moving to School site. Accessibility of the school site by public transport is currently limited. Concerns were raised over elderly members of the community losing access. The service point would have to remain on the High Street for accessibility. Possible loss of facilities / hours accessible if shared with school. Could mean the current building was left empty on the High Street. Additional funding would be required. Tight timescale in order to deliver the Academy by March 2020, is there time to integrate additional facilities? 	Note
5.4	The Stakeholder group agreed further work should be carried out in order for an informed decision to be made on which if any facilities should be integrated into the new academy building.	Design Team
6	EXISTING BUILDING	
6.1	Ongoing maintenance and works to the existing building were discussed and it was confirmed these would be minimal but ongoing through the remaining life of the existing building.	Note
6.2	The impact of the building works on the operation of the existing building was discussed. It was noted a piece of work	Design Team

	needs to take place in order for the design team to have a preferred location for the new building. It was noted this would likely iron itself out during further detailed site analysis. Once this decision has been made a strategy to avoid disruption can be worked on.	
6.3	A liaison officer should be appointed as a main point of contact in the school during the design and build of the project.	LG/ BP
7	COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT	
7.1	An opportunity will be made available for the Stakeholder group to visit the new Wick and IRA schools.	SI
7.2	It was agreed student representatives should be invited to future stakeholder meetings. LG to suggest names for inclusion in invite.	LG
7.3	Anyone missing from the invite list, details should be forwarded to SI for inclusion. In particular it was considered that further community representatives could be considered.	Note
8	AOB	
8.1	No flat roofs, no green roofs. It was noted by a number of stakeholders that they did not wish to see another flat roof following their experience with the existing building.	Note
9	DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING	
9.1	The next meeting will be held at 7PM on Wednesday 28 th September 2016 in Alness Academy.	Note