

## The Highland Council

### Tain 3-18 Campus - Stakeholder Group

Minute of meeting No. 8 held on Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 7 pm

Via Microsoft Teams

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Initials</b>
<b>Highland Council - Members</b>	
Fiona Robertson, Chair	FR
Derek Louden	DL
Alasdair Rhind	AR
<b>School Representatives</b>	
Eileen Henderson, Head Teacher, Craighill	EH
Mark Jones, Head Teacher, Tain RA	MJ
Jane MacKay, Head Teacher, Knockbreck	JM
Clare Whiteford, Head Teacher, St Duthus	CW
Helen Gordon, Pupil, Tain Royal Academy	HG
<b>Parent Council Representatives</b>	
Morven Fioretti	MF
Lorna Maclver	LM
Chris Ross	CR
Karin Wood	KW
<b>Community Representatives</b>	
George Amos, Tain Community Council	GA
Graham Nutt, Tain Youth Café	GN
<b>Highland Council - Officials</b>	
Donna Manson, Chief Executive	DM
Liz Denovan, Executive Chief Officer, Resources & Finance	LD
Robert Campbell, Estate Strategy Manager	RC
Finlay MacDonald, Head of Property & Facilities Management	FM
Derek Martin, Area Education Manager	DM2
Steven Maclver, Education Support Officer	SM
Callum Sinclair, Estates Officer	CS
Gordon Stewart, Education Advisor	GS
<b>High Life Highland</b>	
Rob Parkes, Youth Development Officer	
Simon Swanson, Head of Investment	SS
<b>Kier Construction</b>	
Neil Armstrong, Pre-Construction Manager	NA
Michael Robertson, Keir Programme Manager	MR
Jeff Hedley, Kier Site Manager	JF
<b>Stallan-Brand</b>	
Paul Stallan, Director	PS
<b>WSP</b>	
Mark Boyle, Project Manager	MB

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Initials</b>
<b>Apologies</b> Susannah Holmes, Kirsteen Reekie and Susan Weir	
<b>Minute</b> Callum Sinclair	

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion and comment</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	Fiona Robertson welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	JH to take forward the request to involve Gaelic and ASN pupils in educational links to the project.	<b>JH</b>
<b>2.2</b>	FR asked about the possibility of adding an after-school room. RC responded there should be sufficient flexibility in how the space in the building is used without having to add a room.	
<b>2.3</b>	RC will send CR the contact details for the project team for Parent Council meetings.	<b>RC</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Project update</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	RC: The planning application is progressing with ongoing discussions with colleagues in Planning and Roads. The application will be considered at the Committee meeting on 26th April. The market testing stage is well underway but Kier have reported that the tendering of individual work packages is taken longer than planned due to the pressures currently facing the construction market.	
<b>3.2</b>	MR: Confirmed that tender returns for some work packages have been delayed, and fewer responses than anticipated had been received for some packages, but that the process should be complete later this month.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Swimming pool</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	RC shared a presentation outlining the background to the campus project being included in the Council's capital programme, the inclusion of a zone in the masterplan for a swimming pool to be added at some point in the future, the relative capital costs of a new pool and upgrading the existing facility, and that a business case for a new pool would be prepared.	
<b>4.2</b>	FR repeated that Members had been disappointed at the time that a new swimming pool was not included in the capital budget approved in January 2021, but they had recognised that the opportunity to secure funding for the replacement of the school buildings had to be taken. However, there were clearly issues relating to the condition of the existing facilities and the cost of maintaining and upgrading them.	
<b>4.3</b>	DL explained that the journey of the new campus has been a long one and outlined the challenges that the Council faced in maintaining and improving the school estate and community facilities. The Council needs to explore the "art of the possible" and work with communities to pursue potential external funding opportunities. With more housing developments planned for Tain, a modern, fit-for-purpose swimming pool was essential to support the competitive swimming team, other users, and staff.	
<b>4.4</b>	LD advised that the business case would demonstrate if a new facility would be better value in the long term than retaining the existing.	

Item	Discussion and comment	Action
	It will set out the whole life costs of both options, revenue and capital costs, income opportunities, potential external funding opportunities (such as SportsScotland). It would also identify links to the Council's strategic priorities, such as the preventative agenda.	
4.5	DL said it was good to see things moving forward and asked to for a timeline for the business case. DM advised that the new Council Administration would be formed in the weeks following the election. The business case would need to be considered after that and then included in any assessment of capital priorities that may take place.	
4.6	MF asked if the new pool could be built at the same time as the new campus. DM replied that the business case would need to be considered by the new Administration first and then funding secured. RC advised that even if funding was identified, the pool would require to be designed and planning approval obtained. The new campus build was programmed to start later this year so it would not be possible to carry out the pool out the same time.	
4.7	SG: As a GP who's been in Tain for 3 decades, he believed that a pool is important for the area to help with people's mental health, fitness and wellbeing. Having two sites (one for the pool and one for sport pitches) wouldn't be an attractive proposition and could inhibit social interaction.	
4.8	RP could provide evidence of increased footfall in new facilities. FR responded by saying a list will be created of people who will contribute to the business case.	
4.9	AR welcomed the positive news of a business case being prepared and that a new pool would give the community of Tain a massive boost.	
4.10	RP asked if there would be an extra cost for building the pool later instead of at the same time. RC replied that the cost to build the pool when the school is complete is £6-8M, while building it at the same time would cost £5-7M.	
4.11	DM would be keen to have a discussion with key stakeholders and other agencies, such as NHS Highland. It was important that we consider criteria such as the importance of community facilities for future generations, the impact on health and wellbeing, the rural community and access for families.	
4.12	SS: HLH currently has several initiatives already in place with the NHS for delivering recovery and rehabilitation, would be happy to be part of any discussions, and have a part funded member of staff specifically tasked with developing these programmes.	
4.13	FR thanked everyone for their efforts in moving this forward.	
5.	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
5.1	Date provisionally set for Wednesday 30 March – to be confirmed.	
6.	<b>AOCB</b>	
6.1	N/A	