

The Wick Schools Project

The Wick Schools Project includes the Wick Campus (incorporating the 'South of the River' Primary School, High School and East Caithness Community Facilities) on the Wick High/Pulteneytown Academy Primary School site, and the new 'North of the River' Primary School to be built on the current North Primary School site.

This Newsletter brings everybody up to date with progress on the whole project in Wick.

On the Web

This newsletter, together with newsletters 1 to 5, minutes of Stakeholder Meetings, together with plans of the new facilities are available at <http://www.highland.gov.uk/learninghere/schools/schoolbuildingsprogramme/The+Wick+Project.htm>

The Wick Campus

The next major step in the process is the submission to the Council of the Stage 2 report, which will provide the school construction costs. This cost will have to be approved by both the Council and the Scottish Futures Trust (acting on behalf of the Scottish Government, who are part funding the project).

There is close collaboration with Miller Construction Limited and Hub North Scotland Limited to ensure that the Stage 2 report is submitted to the Council in early March.

Project Dates

As reported at recent Stakeholder Meetings, dates have slipped since the last Newsletter (August 2013).

- Stage 2 submission – 07/03/14
- Financial close and contract agreement - 28/03/14
- Construction start on site – 31/03/14 with main works commencing 28/04/14
- Handover of schools and community facilities – 26/02/16
- Move in period – February to April 2016
- Completion of external works – August 2016

Wick North of the River Primary School

Planning

Planning Permission for the new school was granted in January 2014. Below is a visualisation of the west elevation and a courtyard in the new school.



External Courtyard with Amphitheatre

Progress

On the 4th February the Council signed an enabling works contract with Hub North Scotland Limited which means that preparatory work for the new school will begin on site week commencing 17th February. This will include formation of a new temporary playground for use during the construction of the new school and diversion of drainage that currently runs under the site of the new school. As a result when pupils return to school on 24th February there will be some activity on the North Primary School campus. The work has been planned in consultation with the Head Teacher and the contractor will work closely with the school to ensure that work does not affect school operations.

Project Dates

- Enabling Works – started 17 Feb 2014
- Main school Contract award - 11/04/14
- Main construction works commence – 28/04/14
- School handover – 10/07/15
- Completion of all external works – 26/02/16

Safe Routes to School

Both the Campus and North of the River groups have submitted proposals in the last week, which are currently being progressed within ECS.

Community Benefits

The Wick Schools Project will deliver significant benefits for the Caithness economy with a number of local companies being awarded contracts. In addition up to 8 apprentices from the local area are to be recruited by Miller Construction or their supply chain to work on the project. Interviews with 24 candidates have already been held in Wick and Thurso.