

INVERNESS ROYAL ACADEMY STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

Meeting No 4.

Note of meeting on the 8th January 2013:

Those present:

Ron MacKenzie (RM), Ken Allan (KA), Bill Allan (BA), Marlene Stewart (MS) ,
Alastair McKinlay (AM), Gordon Piper (GP) and Philip Shannon (PS)

Apologies – Alasdair Christie (AC), Fraser Parr (FP), Norrie Donald (ND), Clifford Cooke (CC), Janet Hackel (JH), Simon Swanson (SS), Emma Thomson (ET) and Kenny Murray (KM).

Actions agreed:

Apologies – RM expressed concerns that for the second Group meeting in a row there had been no representation from the Parent Council present. AM indicated that he would raise this issue with the Parent Council on the 14th January

Minute of previous meeting – the costs of upgrading the existing PE block to the required specification would be greater than the costs of a new build and therefore the Group agreed that there was no viable reason for retaining any of the existing campus within the new school campus

Minute agreed – the Minute of the previous meeting was agreed for factual accuracy. The only issue raised by AM related to the inclusion of a second all-weather pitch within the new school specification. It was confirmed that there would be 2 all-weather pitches within the new school specification

Roll Projections - KA circulated a note (attached) on Roll Projections, outlining published projections. Reference was made to amendments in the projections, in particular with reference to potential Ness Castle developments and the increase in Gaelic Medium pupil numbers in the future. The proposal is for the provision of a 1,400 pupil school, based on current capacity calculations.

Accommodation Schedule – KA circulated the current Schedule Rev 3 (attached), which outlines accommodation requirements in the new school. In addition to the core school, a doubling of provision for Assisted Support Needs, dedicated provision for Gaelic Medium, and increased sports provision to reflect SportsScotland Guidelines for School and Community use is envisaged. This schedule reflects school and pupil consultation.

New Project Request document – the related Committee report was discussed by the Group. The final version of that document, taking on board all comments received is appended. This version is likely to be the document that will be submitted to the Adult & Children Services Committee on the 23rd January where Members will be asked to formally approve the New Project Request document

Thanks – RM formally thanked the project team for the excellent progress made to date, both in terms of the quality of the specification produced and the relatively short period within which the work had been completed.

Project plan – the project plan would be overseen by a Strategy and Governance group chaired by the Project Sponsor (RM) and led by the Project Manager - Catherine Fenwick. The remit of that Group would ensure that the project was kept on track and would deliver the project within the very tight timescales required.

Collaboration with other local authorities – the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) is keen to promote collaborative working between the 6 local authorities in the Northern Territory who have new Secondary Schools included within the 3rd phase of Scotland's Schools for the Future programme. RM indicated that there are some merits in this approach, however it was critical that any collaborative arrangements did not result in the IRA project being delayed or compromised. The appropriate approvals in relation to collaboration with the other local authorities are included within the draft report attached to this Minute.

Community Council engagement – BA would take responsibility for arranging the briefing meeting with the Community Council representatives who would have a direct interest in this project. BA indicated that he intended arranging this meeting to take place during late February/early March and that he produce proposals for the content of that session for discussion and agreement at the next Stakeholders Group meeting on the 5th February.

Hubco attendance at next Group meeting – RM advised that Hubco representatives will be invited to attend the next Stakeholders Group meeting on the 5th February. This was on the basis that when the NPR was formally approved and submitted then Hubco would be assuming the lead on project delivery. For this reason it was essential that we attended future Group meetings in order to advise on progress and to discuss issues as they arose.

Any other competent business

Date of next meeting – 5th February 2013 at 18:00 in the school.

INVERNESS ROYAL ACADEMY – ROLL PROJECTIONS

The published Roll Projections for the IRA are as follows:

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Roll	935	925	944	965	1,004	1,036	1,098	1,140	1,195	1,257	1,278	1,312	1,311	1,319	1,313
New Houses	69	69	101	101	87	87	87	95	95	91	91	91	59	51	51

The capacity of the current school is 1153. The above takes no account of the **second** phase Ness Castle development (not dependent of the river crossing) nor of any potential increase in Gaelic Medium pupils from outwith the IRA catchment area. In addition, with a river crossing, Ness side developments could come on stream.

Cameron Thomas (Research Officer, Planning & Development Service) was asked to look at both the above issues to gauge the effect on the school roll over the next 15 years.

Placing Requests

Placing Requests in recent years have been negligible – a “-1 “ has been used in the published calculation of projected rolls. If reduced to 0, this would have the effect of adding 6 pupils to the rolls – so has been omitted. The question remains of whether the new IRA would become a magnet school. Given the neighbouring school from which possible Placing Requests may come (Millburn Academy) is also new, this is seen as unlikely. It is possible that with the distributor road complete, that parents from Charleston / Inverness High could request to attend the new IRA. Initially they could be accommodated, but the Council is able to manage this process should the new school near capacity.

Ness Castle Developments

CT indicated that the Council’s Housing Need and Demand Assessment calls for 700 houses across the Inverness Area (Beauly to Ardersier, Inverness to Fort Augustus), although he indicated that this number is driven by Government Guidelines rather than an actual requirement – he assessed housing requirement will be lower than this.

However, there is a chance that the second phase Ness Castle plus Ness side could come on stream from 2016/17 onwards at 50 houses per year, giving a projected roll as follows:

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Roll	935	925	944	965	1,007	1,046	1,116	1,167	1,230	1,301	1,332	1,377	1,385	1,400	1,402
New Houses	69	69	101	101	137	137	137	145	145	141	141	141	109	101	101

Gaelic Medium Provision

There are currently 167 pupils in Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis (BSGI), P1 - 28, P2 – 32, P3 – 30, P4-25, P5-21, P6 – 16 and P7 – 15. Currently 35% of the roll is from the IRA ASG (catchment area). The capacity of the school is being reached, and the Council is looking at how to accommodate the demand.

CT is his calculations included 130 S1 to S6 Gaelic Medium pupils in the above projections. It is likely this would increase in the medium to long term, but much depends on demand and capacity.

I propose therefore to allow capacity for an extra 70 GM pupils in the new build. This would reflect any increase in demand from **outwith** the IRA catchment area – any pupil within the IRA catchment area who opts for GM is already accounted for in the projections.

Proposed Projections

In the medium term (10 years ahead) therefore, the projected roll would be 1332 plus 70 = 1402. In the longer term (15 years), the projected roll would be 1470.

New IRA Calculated Capacity

Using the current formula (which is under review), the proposed Accommodation Schedule (Rev 3) gives a capacity of 1442. Any review would increase this number, as the larger a school becomes, efficiencies as regards Curriculum Choice and resulting class sizes, and Timetabling are possible. The calculations above assume a 65% efficiency, which is low for a school of this size. Elsewhere in Scotland, a school of this capacity ranges from 72% efficiency up to 80%. Assuming a 70% efficiency, the capacity of the new school as detailed in the Accommodation Schedule (Rev 3) would rise to 1552.

Ken Allan

8 Jan 2013