The Highland Council

Culloden Academy Stakeholder Group

Minutes of Meeting No.4

Monday 24th May 2021 at 7pm

Attendees	Initials
Highland Councillors	
Councillor Carolyn Caddick	CC
Councillor Glynis Campbell-Sinclair	GCS
Councillor Ken Gowans	KG
Councillor Trish Robertson	TR
Parent Council Representatives	
Jeni Alexander, Culloden Academy (Chair)	JA
Allyson Hill, Culloden Academy	AH
Graham Hopper, Culloden Academy	GH
Jason Hasson, Highland Parent Council Partnership	JH
Morven Reid, Balloch Primary	MR
Community Representatives	
Catherine Bunn, Culloden Community Council	CB
Gillian Spalding, Balloch Community Council	GS
Culloden Academy	
Dr James Vance, Head Teacher	JV
Alan Robertson, Principal Teacher	AR
Odette Gordon, Principal Teacher	OG
Highland Council Officials	
Robert Campbell, Estate Strategy Manager	RC
Jane Day, Estates Officer	JD
Laura Burns, Project Manager	LB
Alex Dickson, Graduate Architect	AD
Finlay MacDonald, Head of Property	FM
Mark Rodgers, Executive Chief Officer, Housing and Property	MR
Fiona Shearer, Area Education Manager	FS
High Life Highland Officials	
Craig Steedman	CS
Apologies	
Sarah Fraser, Richard Hanna, Philip Shannon and Emma Thompson.	
Minute:	
Jane Day	

Item	Discussion/Comment	Action
1.0	**Introduction**	
1.1	JA welcomed everyone to the meeting. There would not be a separate Design Update (Item 4 on the agenda) as this will be incorporated in Item 3.	

Item	Discussion/Comment	Action
2.0	**Minutes Of Previous Meeting**	
2.1	Item 2.3: AH asked again about the image of where the school sits in relation to dualling of the A96 would be produced? To be provided for next meeting	RC/JD
2.2	Item 2.4: Dashboard Report, Key Risks and Organogram – these will be covered under Item 3.	
2.3	Item 4.3: Parent Council would like to comment on any news release before it is issued.	
2.4	The approval of the minutes was proposed by AH and seconded by JV.	RC
3.0	**Project Update**	
3.1	RC shared a presentation updating on recent progress.	
3.2	Toilet Refurbishment: Start date now 14th June as agreed with JV to minimise disruption during assessments. S1/S2 and S3/S4 toilets to be complete for start of new session, S5/S6 likely to run on.	
3.3	Modular Classroom Units: On programme, start on 14th June and completion for start of new session.	
3.4	Extension Block: Morrison Construction have been appointed as the design and build contractor for the main project as well as the advance works. Working with JV on assessment of impact of increasing roll on individual subjects over the next 5 years.	
3.5	After completion of the Phase 1 Design Stage, the new build block that can be provided within the approved funding will not accommodate all the Science classrooms. To meet forecast roll pressures up to August 2025 would require all of Science and Art to be in the extension.	
3.6	TR: Under the impression that additional funding had been approved for the refurbishment of the toilets. RC: Only aware of additional funding for the modular units.	
3.7	KG: Received a response to question to Council meeting in December that confirmed that the extension would be complete by August 2023, and that modular units would not be funded from the budget allocation and the scale of the extension will not be compromised. Is this now not the case? RC: This was the position at that time. The extension is still on course to be completed by August 2023.	
3.8	CC: Would the funding for the modular units not be better used to increase the size of the extension? RC: The modular units are needed in August 2021 to address the current pressures for non-practical subjects and be retained beyond 2023. The extension block will accommodate practical subjects (with Science the priority) to provide additional capacity in the long term and also due to the relatively poor condition of the existing Science classrooms.	
3.9	GCS: Culloden is the fastest growing part of Inverness and we don't have enough funding for the school. GCS asked MR to comment on this.	

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	MR: Additional funding cannot be made available at this time unless there was a review of the programme – this would need to be approved by Council first.	
3.10	JA: Inverness High School was over budget, how was this funding allocated? MR: There is a fixed amount of funding in the capital programme at any one time. The programme was re-profiled in January to address various pressures, such as the impact of the pandemic.	
3.11	CB: What will a partial science block do in relation to the 2025 roll forecasts? Is the project still on programme? RC: Morrison's team are on board and can work on different design options at the same time to keep the programme on track. However, a decision on the final scheme will be needed prior to submitting a planning application. Floor plans will be presented at the next meeting.	
3.12	KG: Very disappointed about the budget that was allocated in 2018. Has the project been underestimated, or mismanaged? MR: This is a difficult situation with challenges across all the school estate, but the Stage 1 report highlights the lack of funding. Ultimately it would be for Council Members to decide to reallocate funding from other projects or review the capital programme.	
3.13	FS: At present, Culloden Academy is capped. If a parent puts in a placing request and it is declined then this can be challenged, especially if there are spare places in that year group.	
3.14	KG: Highlighted the pressures on schools and other infrastructure due to the phasing of housing developments and unplanned changes, and the amount of developer contributions.	
3.15	CC: The requirement for and level of developer contributions is based on the adopted Developer Contributions Supplementary Guidance and through consultation with the relevant infrastructure 'service' provider. Applicants may pay contributions prior to a release of a planning permission but typically, certainly for more complex proposals, contributions are set out within legal agreements that accompany a planning application. The legal agreement will set out the amounts payable, the terms of payment i.e. timing and any clawback arrangements. The legal agreement is concluded prior to the issue of planning permission but it may be some time following the grant of permission that payment, either in part or full, is required. This depends on the nature of the agreement. Once the permission is issued, any request for payment is coordinated by our Developer Contributions Officer and Finance colleagues. Dedicated project 'pots' are created, and the spending service can then request to draw down on this as and when required.	
3.16	There has not been a response to the e-mail from the Chair of the Parent Council to the Chief Executive in December. RC to check this.	RC

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3.17	GCS: Highlighted that £100K of developer contributions that were originally allocated to Culloden have been reallocated to the synthetic playing field at UHI.	
3.18	JH: Parents are interested in the school, quality of education and the teaching environment. There is a lot of frustration felt by the stakeholders about the lack of funding and longstanding issues, but this is not a personal attack on Council staff. Offer from the Highland Parent Council Partnership to help in any way.	
3.19	GCS and KG: Proposed that a motion should be put forward to the next Council meeting on the 24th June to seek additional funding and should have backing of all the Ward Members.	
3.20	JA: Agreed that stakeholders could speak with the press regarding tonight's meeting. KG: Agreed it would not harm or reflect badly on the school if the press was involved.	
4.0	**AOCB**	
4.1	The next meeting will be held at Thursday 24th June at 7pm via Microsoft Teams.	
4.2	Meeting was closed by JA at 21:05.	